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Thursday, 2 December 2004

Senior General Than Shwe sends message to Lao PDR

YANGON, 2 Dec— On the occasion of the 29th Anniversary of the founding of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, which falls on 2 December 2004, Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to Mr Khamtay Siphandone, President of the Lao People's Democratic Republic. — MNA



Senior General Than Shwe offers gold foils to Maha Muni Buddha Image in Kyauktaw, Rakhine State, on 30 November.— MNA

Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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

Senior General Than Shwe pays homage to Maha Muni Buddha Image in Kyauktaw

YANGON, 1 Dec— Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe and party, accompanied by Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Commander of Western Command Brig-Gen Min Aung Hlaing, flew to Kyauktaw, Rakhine State, by helicopter yesterday morning.

The Senior General and party were welcomed by Col Win Swe of Kyauktaw Station, Chairman of Kyauktaw Township Peace and Development Council U Myo Htoo Kyaw and party, the Rakhine traditional drum troupe and the cultural troupe members.

On arrival at Maha Muni Buddha Image in Kyauktaw, the Senior General and party were welcomed by the director-general and officials of the

Archaeology Department, the chairman of the pagoda board of trustees and members, the drum troupe and cultural troupe members and local people.

The Senior General offered flowers, 'soon', water and lights to the Maha Muni Buddha Image. Next, he donated gold foils in homage to the image.

(See page 8)



Senior General Than Shwe pays homage to Maha Muni Buddha Image in Kyauktaw on 30 November.— MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 2 December, 2004

For parallel development of all regions

The State Peace and Development Council has been striving for parallel development of all regions across the Union and, in doing so, development measures are being taken according to their topographical and climatic features.

Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe frequently visits states and divisions in person and inspects their development, giving guidance and fulfilling their requirements.

During his trip to Rakhine State, Head of State Senior General Than Shwe met with the state-level departmental personnel at the meeting hall of the Sittway station on 29 November. At the meeting, the Head of State gave guidance that, to bridge the development gap among the regions and to bring equal development to them, it was necessary to exploit their terrestrial and aquatic resources systematically and properly and make effective use of them.

Rakhine State has favourable conditions for the agricultural industry. Moreover, it is rich in terrestrial and aquatic resources. Therefore, efforts will have to be made to meet the target yield of crops and to introduce new varieties of crops such as rubber and pepper. Only then will the income of local people increase and development of the state be materialized.

Rakhine State has geographical and climatic conditions suitable for the cultivation of rubber. Rubber is an industrial crop widely used throughout different ages and it is in very good demand in overseas markets today. Growing rubber on a commercial scale can fetch foreign exchange and remarkably increase the per capita income of the people in the region. Moreover, it is necessary to extend the cultivation of pepper.

To ensure the economic development of Rakhine State and higher living standard of the people in it, regional authorities are required to take innovative measures, give correct leadership and make effective use of natural resources. Only if they do so, Rakhine State will become as developed as other states and divisions and the people in the region will surely enjoy higher living standard.

Therefore, we would like to call on regional authorities and people of all states and divisions, including Rakhine State, to work in concert and make effective use of natural resources. For, parallel development of all regions will result in that of the entire nation.

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

Two new lifts donated to Children's Hospital

YANGON, 1 Dec — A ceremony to open the two new lifts worth US \$ 76,000 donated to Children's Hospital under the programme of Japan's Grassroots Grant Assistance was held at the Children's Hospital this morning.

Present on the occasion were Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo, Directors-General, Deputy Directors-General, Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Nobutake Odano, Professors, Heads of Department and officials from the hospital and guests.

Japanese Ambassador explained the purpose of the donation. Next, the Deputy Minister presented a certificate of honour to the Ambassador. Afterwards, Myanmar Jardine Schindler Ltd Director and General Manager Mr Douglas Oliver clarified the facts about the lifts. Later, Medical Superintendent of Yangon Children's Hospital Dr Chit Ko Tin expressed gratitude and the ceremony ended. — MNA



Deputy Minister Dr Mya Oo presents a certificate of honour to the Japanese Ambassador. — NLM



Daw Thazin Nwe, wife of Deputy Minister for Education Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min, presents a medal to Ma Khin Kyu Kyu Hwe who stood eighth in the whole country in the matriculation examination in 2003-2004 academic year at the prize presenting ceremony of Latha Township BEHS-2 on 1 December, 2004. — NLM

Wushu competitions held

YANGON, 1 Dec — Under the sponsorship of Gandama Co Ltd, 2004 - 2005 Academic Year Fourth Yangon Division Inter Basic Education High Schools Wushu Competitions co-organized by No 3 Basic Education Department (Yangon) and Myanmar Wushu Federation were held at No 2 BEHS in Sangyoung Township this morning, attended by Deputy Minister for Education Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min, Director-General of No 3 Basic Education Department (Yangon) U Aye Kyu and officials, Vice President of MWF Daw Kyu Kyu and CEC members, guests and athletes.

The Director Gen-

eral extended greetings and formally opened the competitions. New generation athletes of MWF demonstrated Wushu competitive skills and the competitions for the first day began. The competitions continue tomorrow. — NLM



Demonstration of Inter-Basic Education High School Wushu Competitions held at No 2 BEHS in Sangyoung Township. — NLM

UN SECRETARY-GENERAL'S MESSAGE ON WORLD AIDS DAY 1 December 2004

This year's World AIDS Day is an occasion to recognize the burden that women and girls bear in the age of HIV/AIDS, but equally, to celebrate their achievements in the fight against the epidemic.

Women are our most courageous and creative champions in the fight against HIV/AIDS. In most countries and communities I have visited around the world, it is women's voices that are heard above all others; women advocates and activists who are moved to act selflessly and speak publicly, often risking prejudice, abuse or violence, in order to improve the lives of others.

The courage that women are showing in this fight is matched only by the toll the disease is taking on them. Women already bear the brunt of poverty. AIDS makes the poverty trap even easier for them to fall into, and even harder to break. Women continue to face discrimination on a number of fronts — from the workplace to laws governing land ownership and inheritance. AIDS puts them at even greater risk. Girls already make up the majority of children not in school. When AIDS strikes the family, those girls who are attending school are all too often taken out, to help run the household and care for sick relatives. Women now account for about half of all people living with HIV worldwide. In sub-Saharan Africa, where more than three quarters of all HIV-positive women live, almost 57 percent of adults living with HIV are women.

Why are women more vulnerable to infection? Why is that so, even where they are not the ones with the most sexual partners outside marriage, nor more likely than men to be injecting drug users? Usually, it is because society's inequalities put them at risk — unjust, unconscionable risk. A range of factors conspires to make this so: poverty, abuse and violence, lack of information, coercion by older men, and men having several concurrent sexual relationships that entrap young women in a giant network of infection. Nor does marriage always offer protection: in some heavily affected countries, married women have higher rates of HIV infection than their unmarried, sexually active peers.

These factors cannot be addressed piecemeal. What is needed is real, positive change that will give more power and confidence to women and girls. Change that will transform relations between women and men at all levels of society. Change that can only be brought about through the education of girls, through legal and social reforms, and through greater awareness and responsibility among men. Change that will allow women to play to the full their role in the fight against HIV/AIDS. Empowering women in this struggle must be our strategy for the future. It is among them that the real heroes of this war are to be found. It is our job to furnish them with hope. — UNIC

စာပေဒါန

ကျေးဇူးတင်စွာ ကိုယ်အားကိုးတို့၏အားကိုးအတွက် သုတ/ရသ စာအုပ်များနှင့် စာပေဒါန ငွေဒေသာပင် လှူဒါန်းပွဲကို အောက်ပါအစီအစဉ်အတိုင်း ကျင်းပပါမည်။

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အချိန် - မွန်လွဲ (၂) နာရီ

နေရာ - မြန်မာ့ရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊

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သိမ်ဖြူလမ်း၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့။

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Chinese, Finnish parlt chiefs vow to boost bilateral ties

BEIJING, 30 Nov— Chinese top legislator Wu Bangguo and his Finnish counterpart Paavo Tapio Lipponen vowed to enhance the two countries' relations during their meeting in Beijing on Monday.

"China is satisfied with the current Sino-Finnish ties and will make joint efforts with Finland to expand the cooperation to push forward bilateral ties and benefit the two peoples," said Wu, chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC), China's top legislature.

Despite the drastic changes in international and respective domestic situations since China and Finland established diplomatic ties 54 year ago, the two countries have witnessed sound development of bilateral relations, Wu said, noting Finland was one of the first Western countries to recognize the People's Republic of China.

"Especially after Chinese and Finn-

ish top leaders exchanged visits in 1995, bilateral relationship has entered the best period," Wu said.

The two countries have had considerable economic and trade cooperation and such a cooperation is showing a strong momentum, Wu said, noting exchanges in cultural, educational, legislative and military aspects have been promoted constantly.

China appreciates the Finnish side for its adherence to the one-China policy, Wu said.

On parliamentary cooperation, Wu said the Chinese NPC is willing to keep close exchange and cooperation with the Finnish Parliament in various aspects.

MNA/Xinhua



Malaysian students arrange a big red ribbon, the symbol of the AIDS World Movement, made of more than 10,000 red balloons, to promote HIV/AIDS awareness at a university in Kuala Lumpur on, 30 Nov, 2004.—INTERNET

Singapore opens Changi Air Base (East) extension

SINGAPORE, 30 Nov— Singapore on Monday officially opened its Changi Air Base (East), an extension of the existing Changi Air Base.

Addressing the inauguration ceremony, Defence Minister Teo Chee Hean said that it is a milestone in the development of the Republic of Singapore Air Force (RSAF). "It is the first RSAF air base facility which we ourselves entirely designed and developed," he said, adding that the design fully meets the RSAF's operational requirements. Built on about 200 hectares of undeveloped land, the base is featured by its airfield lighting system and supervisory control and data acquisition system, anti-condensation system, aircraft arresting system, energy conserving lighting management system and ergonomically-designed consoles at the control tower.—MNA/Xinhua

Ticket price rise planned for Beijing's six world heritage sites

BEIJING, 30 Nov — A hearing will be held on ticket price rise of six UNESCO world heritage sites in Beijing Tuesday, according to the *Beijing Daily Messenger*.

The six sites include the Summer Palace, the Forbidden City, the Badaling Section of the Great Wall, the Temple of Heaven, and two of the Thirteen Ming Tombs including Dingling and Changling. The Forbidden City and Dingling currently have the highest ticket price, 60 yuan (7.24 US dollars) in the busy season and 40 yuan (4.8 US dollars) in the off season. Beijingers are espe-

cially concerned with the price rise of tickets for the Summer Palace and the Temple of Heaven, since they frequent the two parks for morning exercises, the paper said.

Representatives for the hearing investigated the Forbidden City, the Temple of Heaven and the Summer Palace.

"The price for the Summer Palace is much lower than other world re-

nowned tourist resorts," Li said.

"Ticket revenue is the main source for the world heritage sites' operational costs. Government allocation only accounts for 30 per cent of the total funding," Li said. "A reasonable ticket price is key to preservation, administration and service of the Summer Palace as well as other world heritage sites."

Annually, 20 million

yuan (2.4 million US dollars) is spent renovation of buildings in the Summer Palace and another 20 million yuan is needed to buy water for the lake in the Summer Palace, the paper said.

According to Li, the Summer Palace plans to invest 650 million yuan (78.5 million US dollars) in its renovation between now and 2007.

MNA/Xinhua

Philippines ready to talk with Iraqi abductors of Filipino accountant

MANILA, 30 Nov—The Philippine Government on Monday expressed willingness to negotiate with the kidnappers of a Filipino accountant in Iraq.

Foreign Undersecretary Rafael Seguis said in a statement that President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has already ordered a Fili-

pino team in Baghdad to double their efforts to secure the release of Robert Tarongoy.

Seguis said that the team is exhausting all possible channels to reach out to the Iraqi abductors, who have not yet identified themselves or made known their demands.

However, Filipino negotiators were in touch with intermediaries with the kidnappers, he said.

"I am asking his abductors now not to harm him, with the assurance that we are willing to resume talking to them or their intermediaries anytime," he added.—MNA/Xinhua



A US Army armoured vehicle stands guard near a crater after a powerful car bomb exploded in Baiji, 112 miles north of Baghdad, on 30 November, 2004.

INTERNET

US death toll in Iraq ties record

WASHINGTON, 30 Nov— Fueled by fierce fighting in Fallujah and guerilla's counterattacks elsewhere in Iraq, the US military death toll for November equaled the highest for any month of the war, according to casualty reports available Tuesday.

At least 135 US troops died in November. That is the same number as last April, when the attacks flared in Fallujah and elsewhere in the so-called Sunni Triangle where US forces and their Iraqi allies lost a large measure of control.

On 8 Nov, US forces launched an offensive to retake Fallujah, and they have engaged in tough fighting in other cities since then. More than 50 US troops have been killed in Fallujah since then, although the Pentagon has not provided a casualty count for Fallujah for more than a week.

From the viewpoint of the United States and Iraqis who are striving to restore stability, the casualty trend since the interim Iraqi government was put in power June 28 has been troubling.

Each month's death toll has been higher than the last, with the single exception of October, when it was 63.

The monthly totals grew from 42 in June to 54 in July to 65 in August and to 80 in September.

The Pentagon's official death toll for Iraq, dating to the start of the war, stood at 1,254 on Tuesday.

Internet

Guerillas step up attacks on security forces in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 30 Nov— Guerillas stepped up attacks on Iraq's fledgling security forces, killing seven Iraqi police and guardsmen Monday in a suicide bombing hours after storming a police station north of the capital. The military reported five new US deaths.

Thirteen Marines were wounded Monday in a mortar attack south of Baghdad, the military said. No further details were released.

Military offensives in Fallujah and elsewhere have made November the

second-deadliest month for US troops since the March 2003 invasion, with at least 133 American dead.

Late Sunday, gunmen stormed a police station west of Samarra, 60 miles north of Baghdad, looted the armory, stole several police cars and fled after encountering no resistance, Iraqi officials said.

US troops went to the police station Monday morning and arrested two dozen people.

Internet

The new chapter of Indo-Myanmar friendship and cooperation

Aung Moe San

In this age of globalization, international friendship and peaceful development are essential needs for all nations around the world, as the international community has been opposing and warding off the evil policies and practices of some powers which are invading and enslaving developing nations and backward nations, threatening the international security and forming military pacts to bully others.

Hence, the UN was founded with the following objectives:

- to save the succeeding generations from the scourge of war;

- to establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained; and

- to reaffirm faith in the equal rights of all nations large or small.

Myanmar lies in the strategic location that is between the two Asian giants — China and India. In addition, Myanmar always maintains her traditions of extending cordial relations with any nation, whether China or India or any other neighbouring country, and especially, it strictly adheres to and constantly practices the UN's five principles of equality that can also be called the five precepts of the global body.

Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing left Myanmar for New Delhi on 25 October to pay a State Visit to the country at the invitation of Indian President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam.

Senior General Than Shwe and Daw Kyaing Kyaing were accompanied by Daw Khin Lay Thet, wife of General Thura Shwe Mann, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win, member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and wife Daw Khin Saw Hnin, Daw Khin Thet Htay, wife of Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thauang, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min, Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, Minister for Science and Technology U Thauang, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu, Maj-Gen Nay Win, Military Assistant to the Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council, Director of Medical Services of the Ministry of Defence Brig-Gen Than Aung, and heads of department. They arrived back Yangon on 29 October.

It is the first visit to India by a Head of State of Myanmar in 24 years. It is also the first visit of a Head of State of Myanmar since the Tatmadaw Government has adopted the market-oriented economic system in 1988. During the visit, the two heads of states discussed friendship and bilateral cooperation between India and Myanmar, and regional peace and stability and development. In addition, they exchanged views on international affairs and issued a joint declaration.

Indian President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam hosted a dinner in honour of Senior General Than Shwe and Daw Kyaing Kyaing and delegation at Presidential Residence of Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi on 25 October.

In his special meeting with Senior General Than Shwe and Daw Kyaing Kyaing before the din-

ner, President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam said that the goodwill delegation led by Senior General Than Shwe is the first Myanmar delegation led by a Head of State to visit the Republic of India during the 24-year period. The President said that he cordially welcomed the Myanmar delegation. The friendly relations between the two nations have existed for many years, he said, and expressed his belief that the visit of Senior General Than Shwe will open a new chapter of the India-Myanmar relations.

In his discussions, Senior General Than Shwe said that Myanmar is rich in natural resources. Foreign nations are drilling and producing oil and gas in Myanmar, based on mutual interest, he said, expressing belief that India also has wished to cooperate with Myanmar in oil and gas exploration and production business.

Myanmar will strive to further cement and extend the existing bilateral relations and cooperation between the two countries. Myanmar supports India's efforts to become a permanent member of the UN Security Council for the extended seat.

As Myanmar is located on the land lying between South Asia and Southeast Asia, it can serve as a bridge for India to extend trade with China and South-east Asian nations, he noted.

Senior General Than Shwe held talks with Prime Minister of India Dr Manmohan Singh at the Deccan Suite of Hyderabad House in New Delhi on 25 October, during which, the Indian Premier expressed hope to promote cooperation between the two nations. India will provide necessary assistance for Myanmar, based on her technical know-how and experiences, he said. The Senior General explained the sectors where India and Myanmar can cooperate based on common interest. They then met again at the Conference Room. During the discussions, the Senior General said that Myanmar will strive to further cement and extend the existing bilateral relations and cooperation between the two countries. Myanmar supports India's efforts to become a permanent member of the UN Security Council for the extended seat.

Dr Manmohan Singh said that the governments of the two nations have promoted cooperation between India and Myanmar and also with the regional countries. The Three-Country Highway Project linking India and Thailand via Myanmar will be seen as a milestone of bilateral cooperation, he remarked. He reiterated India's long-term resolve to join hands with Myanmar as a friendly nation for her development and peace and stability.

After the discussions, the Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Union of Myanmar and the Government of Republic of India on cooperation in the field of non-traditional security issues, the MoU on implementation of Htamanthi Hydro-electric Power Project and Cultural Exchange Programme between the two nations were signed.

On 25 October, Vice-President of India Mr Bhairon Singh Shekhawat called on Senior General Than Shwe at the Deccan Suite of Hyderabad House in New Delhi. He also hosted a luncheon in honour of the Senior General and delegation. During the talks, the Indian Vice-President said that India and Myanmar share similar religious and cultural traditions, expressing belief that the mutual cooperation between the two countries can be carried to the future.

In his discussions, the Senior General stated that

the new page of Indo-Myanmar friendly relationship has been opened by the reciprocal goodwill visits of leaders of the two countries. He said he believed that there will be cooperation in the political, economic and social sectors between the two nations, based on common interest.

Leader of Opposition of India Shri LK Advani called on Senior General Than Shwe at Oberoi Hotel, New Delhi, on 26 October. In his discussions, the Senior General said that peace and stability has prevailed across the nation including border areas as a result of relentless efforts of the Government for national development. The Government has already declared the seven-point future policy programme of the State. Myanmar is in the process of building a discipline-flourishing democratic nation, he added.

Mr Advani said that India understands well the systematic efforts of Myanmar to build a democratic state. He said that it took many years to install democracy in India; that a democratic state cannot be built overnight; that a country's situation will be different from another in the process of adopting democracy. He thanked Myanmar for not accepting groups opposing India.

Now, I have stated the success of the goodwill visit of Senior General Than Shwe and Daw Kyaing Kyaing and delegation. During the visit which lasted from 25 to 29 October, the Myanmar Head of State was able to promote friendly ties and cooperation between the two nations. Indian leaders have supported Myanmar in her efforts to build a discipline-flourishing democratic state in accord with the seven-point Road Map. India has become one of the Asian countries receiving largest amount of foreign direct investment. It received US \$ 4.6 billion in FDI in 2003, up 24 per cent from 2002. It is included in the top-ten FDI-receiving nations among the developing countries of the world. Recently, the Indian Secretary of State said that India and China will try to promote peace and development.

The US and its western allies are imposing economic sanctions on Myanmar to destroy the nation, while turning a blind eye to her peaceful and stable efforts to introduce market-oriented economy and democracy. However, the just and upright of neighbouring nations, the ASEAN, the Asian nations and the global nations have been enhancing their constructive relationship with Myanmar. The global market will flourish and develop based on international friendship, cooperation and peace.

The main reason behind the development of a country is based on trade and production. Trade and production have flourished since the emergence of the social division of labour.

Social division of labour has provided the infinite strength to the human labour and a constant flow of new knowledge and ideas.

The wider the social division of labour, the better and more profound the power of human knowledge, wisdom and consideration and experiences. The process is followed by the flourishing of democracy and human rights.

Thus, the State Visit to India of the goodwill delegation led by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council and Head of State of the Union of Myanmar Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing not only reflects the new chapter of Indo-Myanmar friendship and cooperation it has opened successfully, but also benefits the regional peace and stability and progress.

(Translation: TMT)

Kyemon+Myanma Alin: 1.12.2004.

Jade Buddha image donated to Lao PDR

YANGON, 1 Dec—The jade Buddha image donated by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar Senior General Than Shwe was handed over to the Lao People's Democratic Republic at a ceremony held at Wat Thepnimit in Vientiane on 28 November afternoon.

The image is to be kept in Wat Lun Ordination Hall in Pakse, Chanpasak Province, the LPDR.

Chairman of Laotian Sangha Committee Most Venerable Dr Maha Vichit Singharaj and members of the Sangha graced the ceremony with their presence. Also present were Chairman of Lao Front for National Construction Mr Sisavath Keobounphang, Laotian Foreign Affairs Deputy Minister Mr Vilayvanh Phomke, Laotian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Chanthavy Bodhisane, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Myanmar Ambassador to the LPDR U Tin Oo and wife Daw Thida Htay, Military Attache Col Hla Myint and wife Daw Theingi Soe, departmental heads, staff of the Myanmar embassy and the office of the Myanmar military attache and their families and local residents.

The Myanmar Foreign Affairs Minister and Mr Sisavath Keobounphang offered candle lights and joss



Jade Buddha image donated by Senior General Than Shwe to be kept at Wat Lun Ordination Hall.—MNA



Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win hands over documents related to Jade Buddha Image to Lao Front for National Construction Chairman Mr Sisavath Keobounphang.—MNA

sticks to the image.

The ceremony was opened with the three-time recitation of Namo Tassa. Next, Most Venerable Dr Maha Vichit Singharaj invested the congregation with the Five Precepts.

Minister U Nyan Win supplicated on the donation, saying that Senior General Than Shwe paid a State visit to the LPDR in 2003 at the invitation of the Laotian President. During the visit, the Senior General visited Pakse, Chanpasak Province.

And the Senior General had the image handed over by him to the LPDR to be kept in Wat Lun Ordination Hall in Pakse, he said.

The purpose of the donation was to mark the World Buddhist Summit to be held soon in Myanmar and for public obeisance in Wat Lun Ordination Hall in the native town of Laotian President Mr Khamtay Siphandone, he said.

The Chairman of Lao Front for National Construction expressed gratitude.

U Nyan Win handed over the related document to him.

The merits gained for the donation was shared. After the ceremony, Minister U Nyan Win and party paid homage to Most Venerable Dr Maha Vichit Singharaj.

Next, Minister U Nyan Win and the Chairman of Lao Front for National Construction and party paid obeisance to the image.

MNA

Myanmar Hoteliers Association members seen at the airport before departure for India.

MNA

Myanmar hotel delegation leaves for India

YANGON, 1 Dec — Under the arrangements of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism and Myanmar Hoteliers Association, the Myanmar delegation comprising Bagan Zone Hotels Association Chairman U Than Shwe, Mawlamyine Zone Chairman U Khin Maung Yin, four hotel staff, 12 cultural troupe members and four chefs led by Chairman of Mandalay Zone Hotels Association U Aung Khaing left here for New Delhi by air this evening to hold International Myanmar Night in India.

They were seen off at the airport by Director-General U Htay Aung of Directorate of Hotels and Tourism, Chairman of MHA Dr Khin Shwe and executives.

The Myanmar delegation will hold the Myanmar Night at Ashoka Hotel in New Delhi on 2 December to serve Myanmar foods, to entertain Myanmar dances and to explain facts about Myanmar beauty and resources and tourist destinations with the use of video tapes. On 3 December, arrangements have been made for presenting Myanmar

dances and selling Myanmar foods.

Vice-Chairman of the association U Tin Maung Shwe and two members left here in advance for New Delhi on 28 November.

MNA



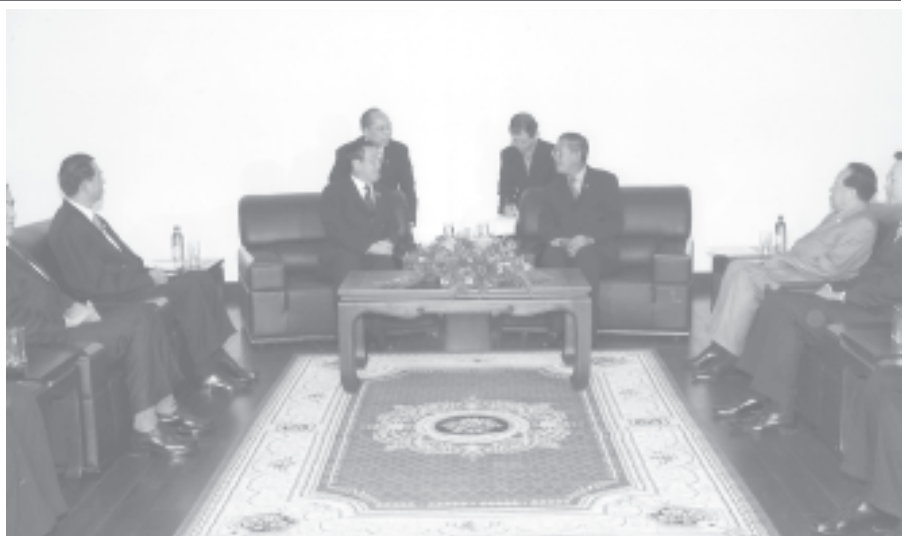
Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win meets with Prime Minister Mr Samdech Hun Sen

YANGON, 1 Dec — Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar Lt-Gen Soe Win met with Cambodian Prime Minister Mr Samdech Hun Sen in Room No B-1 at Friendship House, Villa Dongpasak, in Vientiane, Lao People's Democratic Republic, at 5 pm on 28 November.

Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win explained the latest developments in Myanmar.

The Cambodian Prime Minister said that he understands and appreciates Myanmar's latest developments, and discussed matters relating to bilateral cooperation between the two countries.

Also present were Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Deputy Minister U Kyaw Thu, Myanmar Ambassador to Laos U Tin Oo, heads of the Prime Minister's Office and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Myanmar, and Senior Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Mr Hor Namhong, Minister for Trade Mr Cham Prasith and high level officials of Cambodia.



MNA Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win cordially meets with Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Hun Sen.— MNA

Myanmar, Singapore discuss matters of mutual interest



YANGON, 1 Dec — Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar Lt-Gen Soe Win met with Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore Mr Lee Hsien Loong at Singapore Hall of Villa Dongpasak in Vientiane, Lao People's Democratic Republic, at 6.25 pm on 28 November.

The two Prime Ministers cordially discussed matters of mutual interest.

Also present were Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Deputy Minister U Kyaw Thu, Myanmar Ambassador to Laos U Tin Oo, heads of the Prime Minister's Office and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Myanmar, and Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr George Yeo, Permanent Secretary of the Foreign Affairs Ministry Mr Peter Ho, Singaporean Ambassador to Laos Ms Karen Tan and high level officials.

MNA

Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win and Singaporean Prime Minister Mr Lee Hsien Loong seen holding discussions.— MNA

Singaporean Prime Minister Mr Lee Hsien Loong greets Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win.— MNA



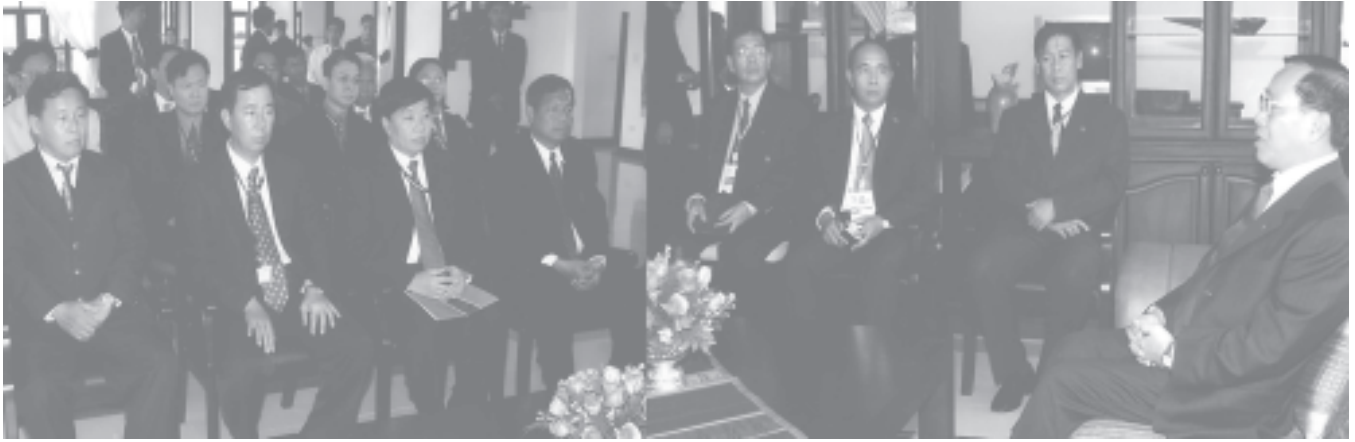
Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win attends Informal Working Dinner

YANGON, 1 Dec — Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win attended the Informal Working Dinner held at Lao Plaza Hotel in Vientiane, Lao People's Democratic Republic, on 28 November.

Present on the occasion were by Bruneian King Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Muizzaddin Waddaulah, Cambodian Prime Minister Mr Samdech Hun Sen, Indonesian President Mr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, Laotian Prime Minister Mr Bounnhang Vorachith, Malaysian Prime Minister Dato' Seri Abdullah bin Haji Ahmad Badawi, Philippine President Mrs Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, Singaporean Prime Minister Mr Lee Hsien Loong, Thai Prime Minister Dr Thaksin Shinawatra, Vietnamese Prime Minister Mr Phan Van Khai, Laotian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Somsavat Lengsavad, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, ASEAN Foreign Ministers, Economic Ministers, and Secretary-General of ASEAN Mr Ong Keng Yong.

Laotian Prime Minister Bounnhang Vorachith extended greetings on the occasion. Next, Heads of ASEAN countries and ministers had the dinner together and took part in the informal working discussion cordially.

MNA



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win receives UMFCCI President and party at the hostel for Myanmar of Villa Dongpasak in Vientiane, LPDR, on 27 November.— MNA

Prime Minister receives UMFCCI members, entrepreneurs

YANGON, 1 Dec—Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar Lt-Gen Soe Win received President of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Win Myint, Vice-President U Win Aung, U Htay Myint, CEC members and executives, and entrepreneurs at Villa Dongpasak in Vientiane, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, on 27 November afternoon. The officials and the entrepreneurs were on a visit there to attend ASEAN Economic and Investment Meeting.

On the occasion, the Prime Minister delivered a speech, saying that the officials of the UMFCCI and

entrepreneurs had gained experiences and knowledge from the 9th ASEAN Summit and related meetings on economy and investment held in Bali, the Republic of Indonesia, in October 2003.

Attending the 10th ASEAN Summit and related meetings, they would get more experiences and have wider views of international affairs.

Lt-Gen Soe Win pledged that the government would continue to encourage and provide assistance constantly for systematic development of the entrepreneurs' businesses and raising the role of the private sector. The entrepreneurs on their part were to make

collective and united efforts for development of their economy as well as the State's. In conclusion the Prime Minister called on them to be dedicated to the aim for promoting investment and boosting production in addition to extending trade with regional nations through invaluable experiences and views.

The UMFCCI President and the Vice-President and the entrepreneurs reported on endeavours for progress of businesses and gaining knowledge in the international sphere.

After the meeting, the Prime Minister cordially greeted the officials and the entrepreneurs. — MNA

NPED Minister inks MoU, protocol

YANGON, 1 Dec — Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha on 28 November inked the Memorandum of Understanding on the Joint Cooperation in pushing forward the construction of the Information Highway in the Greater Mekong Sub-region and the Protocol to imple-

ment the Fourth Package of Commitments under the ASEAN Framework Agreement on service at Lao Plaza Hotel in Vientiane, Laos People's Democratic Republic.

The signing ceremony was held after the ASEAN Economic Ministers' Meeting at the hotel. — MNA

NPED Minister attends ASEAN Economic Ministers' Meeting

YANGON, 1 Dec — Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha on 26 November attended a working dinner of ASEAN Economic Ministers held at Lao Plaza

Hotel in Vientiane, Laos People's Democratic Republic. Minister U Soe Tha also attended the ASEAN Economic Ministers' Meeting held at the hotel the next day. — MNA



Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win receives Special Envoy of UNSG Mr Razali Ismail.— MNA

Foreign Minister U Nyan Win receives special envoy of UNSG

YANGON, 1 Dec — Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win received special envoy Mr Razali Ismail of the Secretary-General of United Nations at Myanmar Hostel of Villa Dongpasak in Vientiane, Laos People's Democratic

Republic, on 28 November.

Also present at the call together with the minister were Myanmar Ambassador to Laos U Tin Oo and Director-General of Political Department U Thauang Tun. — MNA

Foreign Affairs Minister holds talks with Japanese counterpart

YANGON, 1 Dec — Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win and Japanese Foreign Affairs Minister Mr Nobutaka Machimura on 27 November had a discussion at Lao Plaza Hotel in

Vientiane, Laos People's Democratic Republic.

Director-General of the ASEAN Affairs Department U Aung Bwa was also present at the discussions. — MNA



Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win receives Japanese Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr Nobutaka Machimura at Lao Plaza Hotel in Vientiane, Lao PDR, on 27 November.— MNA

Foreign Minister attends ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting

YANGON, 1 Dec — Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win together with Myanmar Ambassador to Laos U Tin Oo and Director-General of Political Department U Thauang Tun on 26th November met with over 80 foreign reporters of news agencies at Lao International Trade Exhibition & Convention Centre (Lao-

ITECC) in Vientiane. During their meeting with the reporters, political, economic and social developments in Myanmar were clarified.

Minister U Nyan Win attended ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting held at International Cooperation and Training Centre (ICTC) on 27th November. He also attended the ASEAN+3

Foreign Ministers' Meeting, ASEAN-China Meeting, ASEAN-Japan Meeting, ASEAN-Korea Meeting and ASEAN-India Meeting.

MNA

**Donate
blood**

Senior General Than Shwe...

(from page 1)

Afterwards, the Senior General presented cash donations for the image to Chairman of the board of trustees of the pagoda U Tun Aye Tha. They made a clock-wise round of the pagoda as an act of homage before Senior General puts his signature in the visitors' book. Director-General U Nyunt Han of Archaeology Department reported on arrangements being made for excavating ancient Danyawady city and ancient Vesali city for research purposes. After hearing the reports, the Senior General gave necessary guidelines.

Next, the Senior General released fish into Udawhsaykan Lake in the precinct of the image.

Similarly, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein and party, who accompanied the Senior General, freed fish into Lettawhsaykan Lake. After greeting the local people and the traditional cultural troupe, the Senior General and party went to An by Tatmadaw helicopter in the



Senior General Than Shwe presents cash donations to Maha Muni Buddha Image Board of Trustees Chairman U Tun Aye Tha in Kyauktaw on 30 November.— MNA



Senior General Than Shwe hears reports on excavation of ancient Danyawady city and Vesali city by Director-General U Nyunt Han of Archaeology Department in Kyauktaw on 30 November.— MNA

evening. The Senior General and party were welcomed there by Deputy Commander of Western Command Brig-Gen Tin Hlaing, Col Myint Swe of An Station and senior military officers, local authorities, departmental officials, social organizations, the Mingala drum troupe and the traditional cultural troupe, pom-pom dance troupe, students and local people. Afterwards, the Senior General and party proceeded to the Yeiktha of An Station.— MNA

Minister for Foreign Affairs sends message to Laotian FM

YANGON, 2 Dec— On the occasion of the 29th Anniversary of the founding of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, which falls on 2 December 2004, U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to Mr Somsavat Lengsavad, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Lao People's Democratic Republic. — MNA

General Thura Shwe Mann hosts dinner in honour of Chinese General Ge Zhenfeng and party

YANGON, 1 Dec — Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence of the Union of Myanmar hosted a dinner in honour of General Ge Zhenfeng, Deputy Chief of the General Staff of the People's Liberation Army of the People's Republic of China and goodwill delegation members at Zeyathiri Beikman Hall, Konmyinthta, at 7 pm today.

Also present on the occasion were Members of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo and Lt-Gen Tin Aye of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Chief of Staff (Navy) Captain Nyan Tun, Military Appointment-General Maj-Gen Hsan Hsint, Judge Advocate-General Maj-Gen Soe Maung, Inspector-General of Defence Services Maj-Gen Thein Htaik and senior military officers, Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Li Jinjun, Military Attache' Senior Colonel Ma

Shoudong and officials.

Before and during the dinner, artistes of the Ministry of Culture presented songs and Myanmar cultural dances.

After the dinner, General Ge Zhenfeng, Deputy

Chief of the General Staff of the People's Liberation Army of the People's Republic of China, presented a bouquet to the artistes and took a documentary photo with them.

MNA



General Thura Shwe Mann hosts dinner in honour of Deputy Chief of General Staff General Ge Zhenfeng and party of People's Liberation Army of People's Republic of China at Zeyathiri Beikman Hall.— MNA

Corrigendum

Please read Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein instead of Western Command Commander Brig-Gen Min Aung Hlaing in the caption of the photo at column 1/2 on page 8 of 1-12-2004 issue of the New Light of Myanmar daily.

MNA

General Thura Shwe Mann welcomes Deputy Chief of General Staff of PLA and party

YANGON, 1 Dec — Deputy Chief of the General Staff of the People's Liberation Army of the People's Republic of China General Ge Zhenfeng and party arrived here this afternoon to pay a goodwill visit.

Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Chief of Staff (Navy) Captain Nyan Tun, senior military officers, Ambassador of PRC to Myanmar Mr Li Jinjun, Military Attaché Senior Col Ma Shoudong and officials welcomed them at Yangon International Airport. — MNA

General Thura Shwe Mann welcomes Deputy Chief of General Staff General Ge Zhenfeng and party of People's Liberation Army of China at Zeyathiri Beikman Hall.— MNA



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win arrives LPDR to attend ASEAN Summit, CLMV Summits

YANGON, 1 Dec — Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar Lt-Gen Soe Win, accompanied by

Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu and departmental heads, left here by special aircraft

at 9 am on 27 November to attend the 10th ASEAN Summit and other meetings and the summits of CLMV countries in Vientiane, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, at the invitation of Mr Bounnhang Vorachith, Prime Minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, and arrived at Wattay International Airport in Vientiane, LPDR, at 11.20 am local time.

Myanmar Ambassador U Tin Oo and Laotian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Chanthavy Bodhisane welcomed the Prime Minister on board the aircraft.

When Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win alighted from the aircraft, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office Mr Somphong Mongkhonvilay of LPDR welcomed Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win.

Next, Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win and party were welcomed by Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha who arrived there to attend the ASEAN Economic Ministers' Meeting, Military Attaché Col Hla Myint and staff of the Myanmar Embassy and Military Attaché's Office.

Next, Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win and party proceeded to the hostel at Villa Dongpasak in Vientiane in a motorcade.— MNA



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win being welcomed at Wattay International Airport by the Laotian Minister at the Prime Minister's Office. — MNA

Myanmar to provide technical assistance, construction experience for Mekong Bridge Project

YANGON, 1 Dec — Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar Lt-Gen Soe Win called on his Laotian counterpart Mr Bounnhang Vorachith at the Prime Minister's Office of the Lao People's Democratic Republic in Vientiane at 2.45 pm on 27 November.

During the talks, Prime Minister Mr Bounnhang Vorachith expressed pleasure to know the latest developments in Myanmar and the progress made to provide basic needs for the people.

He said he had learnt that the convening of the National Convention, the first step of the seven-point Road Map, laid down by the State Peace and Development Council, is in progress at present, expressing belief that Myanmar will materialize the remaining steps successfully.

(See page 10)

Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win presents a souvenir to Laotian Prime Minister Mr Bounnhang Vorachith.— MNA



Myanmar to provide ...

(from page 9)

He is proud to attend the World Buddhist Summit. The two countries will cooperate to assist each other in constructing the Mekong River Bridge, he added.

Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win said that Myanmar has been strengthening the traditional friendly ties with her neighbouring countries of the region. Despite slight changes in personnel in the Myanmar Government, there is not a single change in her policy. The nation will continue to strive with might and main for progress under the leadership of Head of State Senior General Than

Shwe. The nation will also promote cooperation with neighbouring and regional countries and UN organizations. Concerning the Mekong River Bridge Project, Myanmar engineers will provide technical assistance and other help based on their experience in the joint implementation of the project under the two-country co-operation programme.

Myanmar Prime Minister presented a souvenir to his Laotian counterpart. Also present were Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu, Myanmar Ambassador to Laos U Tin Oo, heads of the Prime Minister's Office, the Pyithu Hluttaw Office and the Ministry of



Foreign Affairs.

The hosts included Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Phongsavath Boupha, Head of the Prime Minister's Office Dr Phankham Viphavanh, Lao Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Chanthavy Bodhisane and high level officials.

MNA

Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win and Laotian Prime Minister Mr Bounnhang Vorachith seen at the cordial discussions.— MNA

Despite slight changes in personnel in the Myanmar Government, there is not a single change in her policy.

Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win greets Laotian Prime Minister Mr Bounnhang Vorachith.— MNA

Prime Minister explains latest developments in Myanmar

YANGON, 1 Dec — Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar Lt-Gen Soe Win held talks

Dongpasak in Vientiane, Lao People's Democratic Republic, at 5 pm on 27 November.

the seven-point Road Map successfully and smoothly. He said the two countries should further



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win meets with Vietnamese Prime Minister Mr Phan Van Khai.— MNA

with Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Mr Phan Van Khai at Vietnam Hall of Villa

During the discussions, Mr Phan Van Khai expressed belief that Myanmar will materialize

promote the existing bilateral friendship and co-operation.

The four less de-

Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win attends ASEAN Business and Investment Lunch

YANGON, 1 Dec — Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar Lt-Gen Soe Win attended the ASEAN Business and Investment Lunch at Grand Ballroom of Lao Plaza Hotel in Vientiane, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, at 12.30 pm on 28 November. Also present at the lunch were Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Hun Sen, Laotian Prime Minister Mr Bounnhang Vorachith, Malaysian Prime Minister Dato' Seri Abdullah bin Haji Ahmad Badawi and Vietnamese Prime Minister Phan Van Khai, Myanmar Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Ministers for Foreign Af-

fairs and Economy of ASEAN countries, deputy ministers, senior officials, officials of the ASEAN Secretariat and the Secretariat of ASEAN Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Ambassadors to Lao PDR, President of Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Win Myint, Vice-President U Win Aung and entrepreneurs. Laotian Prime Minister Mr Bounnhang Vorachith expressed gratitude for successful completion of the ASEAN Business and Investment Summit at Lao Plaza Hotel in Vientiane and proposed toasts together with those present.

Later, they had lunch.— MNA



Lt-Gen Soe Win attends ASEAN Business and Investment Summit Lunch.— MNA

veloped nations must extend cooperation among themselves to catch up with the other six advancing nations of the ASEAN.

"We will have to manage our internal affairs by ourselves", he said. The government is responsible for progress of the people, he said, expressing wish to extend closer cooperation between the two nations.

The Myanmar Prime Minister explained in detail the Myanmar-SRV economic cooperation, bilateral trade development, the policy of Myanmar that will not be changed despite the slight changes in the Government, peace and stability of the nation, national reconsolidation, annual growth in production and services enterprises, de-

mocracy transition.

Lt-Gen Soe Win presented a souvenir to his Vietnamese counterpart.

Also present were Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu, Myanmar Ambassador to Laos U Tin Oo, departmental heads, the Prime Minister's Office, the Pyithu Hluttaw Office and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Myanmar, and SRV Ambassador to Laos Mr Huynh Anh Dzong, Assistant to the Prime Minister Mr Kieu Dinh Thu and officials.— MNA

"We will have to manage our internal affairs by ourselves".

Prime Minister Mr Phan Van Khai

Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win attends dinner hosted by Laotian Prime Minister

YANGON, 1 Dec — Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar Lt-Gen Soe Win attended the dinner hosted by Laotian Prime Minister Mr Bounnhang Vorachith in honour of Cambodian, Myanmar and Vietnamese Prime Ministers at Lao Plaza Hotel in Vientiane, Lao People's Democratic Republic, on 27 November evening.

The Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Hun Sen, Myanmar Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win and Vietnamese Prime Minister Phan Van Khai arrived at the Lao Plaza Hotel where the honorary dinner will be held. They were welcomed by Laotian Prime Minister Mr Bounnhang Vorachith.

Next, the Prime Ministers had a cordial meeting in a separate room.

At 8 pm, the Laotian Prime Minister ex-



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win attends a dinner hosted by Laotian Prime Minister Mr Bounnhang Vorachith at Lao Plaza Hotel on 27 November evening.—MNA

tended greetings and proposed toasts to the visiting Prime Ministers at the Grand Ballroom of Lao Plaza Hotel before

the dinner.

Before and during the dinner, Laotian traditional cultural troupe members entertained

guests with Lao traditional music.

Also present at the dinner were Ministers and Deputy Minister for

Foreign Affairs and Ministers for Economy, deputy ministers from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam as

well as Secretary-General Mr Ong Keng Yong of ASEAN Secretariat, senior officials and guests.

MNA

Vientiane Declaration on Enhancing Economic Cooperation and Integration among CLMV signed



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win poses for documentary photo with Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Hun Sen, Laotian Prime Minister Mr Bounnhang Vorachith, Vietnamese Prime Minister Mr Phan Van Khai at CLMV Summit.—MNA

ese Prime Minister Phan Van Khai, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of LPDR Mr Somsavat Lengsavad and ministers, Myanmar Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Deputy Minister U Kyaw Thu, senior officials, Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Economy of Cam-

bodia and Vietnam, senior officials, ASEAN Secretary-General Mr Ong Keng Yong and officials.

At the summit, the Laotian Prime Minister delivered an opening address.

Next, the programmes of the summit followed and concluded at 10.45 am.

After the summit, the ceremony to sign the Vientiane Declaration on

Enhancing Economic Cooperation and Integration among CLMV was held at the Room B of ICTC.

Prime Minister Samdech Hun Sen, Laotian Prime Minister Mr Bounnhang Vorachith, Myanmar Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win and Vietnamese Prime Minister Phan Van Khai signed the declaration.

MNA

YANGON, 1 Dec — The Cambodia-Laos-Myanmar-Vietnam (CLMV) Summit was held at International Cooperation and Training Centre (ICTC) in Vientiane, Lao People's Democratic Republic, at 8.30 am on 28 November.

Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar Lt-Gen Soe Win attended the summit and

signed the Vientiane Declaration.

First, Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win together with the Cambodian and the Vietnamese Prime Ministers arrived at ICTC to attend the summit. They were welcomed by the Laotian Prime Minister.

Before the summit, four Prime Ministers had documentary photos taken.

Next, the Cambodia-Laos-Myanmar-Vietnam (CLMV) Summit was held at Room A of International Cooperation and Training Centre (ICTC).

Present at the summit were Prime Minister Samdech Hun Sen, Laotian Prime Minister Mr Bounnhang Vorachith, Myanmar Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win and Vietnam-



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win attends Cambodia, Lao, Myanmar and Vietnam Summit.—MNA

စေ့စပ်ကြောင်းလမ်းကြောင်းခြင်း

ဝဲရဲမြို့၊ တိုက်အမှတ်(၃၈)၊ အခန်းအမှတ်(၇/၆)၊ (၁၄)လမ်း၊
 ရွှေပိုင်လမ်းကွက်၊ ဦးရွှေအောင်မြို့နယ်၊
 ဦးဝင်းသိန်း+ဒေါ်ရီကြည်၊ (ဒေါ်ရီကြည်သနပ်ခါးအိုင်)တို့၏ သားကြီး
 နှင့်
 ဝဲရဲမြို့၊ လှိုင်ကုတ်ကြီး(၄)၊ မြေတိုင်း(၁၄)၊ ဘုရင့်နောင်လမ်း၊
 အမှတ်(၈၀/၈၂)နေ ဦးရွှေမောင်+ဒေါ်ရီတို့၏သမီး၊
 ဦးရွှေလင်း+ဒေါ်အုန်းအုန်းတို့၏တူမ

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တို့သည် နှစ်ဖက်သော မိဘများနှင့် ဂုဏ်သရေရှိလှကြီးမင်းများရှေ့မှောက်၌
 (၂၄-၁၁-၂၀၀၄)ရက်နေ့တွင် စေ့စပ်ကြောင်းလမ်းကြောင်းခြင်းကြောင်း။

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 Dated. 2 December,
 2004

**Comatose
mother gives
birth to healthy
baby girl**

URUMQI, 30 Nov— A
 young woman who has
 been in a coma for more
 than seven months gave
 birth to a healthy baby girl
 Saturday China's western-
 most Xinjiang Uygur
 Autonomous Region.

It was a Cesarean birth
 and the baby weighed
 2,400 grammes, slightly
 underweight but appar-
 ently physically sound,
 said doctors with the No.
 1 People's Hospital in
 Aksu Prefecture, where
 the baby was born Satur-
 day afternoon.

The baby is fed on in-
 fant formula as her 27-
 year-old mother Sun
 Xiaohong has no milk,
 local Xinjiang Daily
 reported on Monday.

Sun, a textile worker
 in Aksu, was knocked
 down by a taxi on April
 14. She suffered from a
 broken leg and brain dam-
 ages that left her in a pro-
 longed coma. In mid Au-
 gust, doctors found
 through an ultrasound test
 that she was already six
 months pregnant and the
 fetus was growing well.

MNA/Xinhua

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 Dated. 2 December 2004

**Missing
Russian
helicopter
crew found
alive**

Moscow, 30 Nov—
 The Mi-8 helicopter that
 went missing in the
 Khabarovsk region on
 Monday morning has been
 found, and the three
 crewmembers aboard are
 alive, the ITAR-TASS
 news agency reported.

The missing helicop-
 ter was spotted at the Lake
 Evoron, not far from its
 destination airport. Mem-
 bers of the search-rescue
 team noticed two bonfires,
 near which the Mi-8 crew
 probably warmed up, ac-
 cording to the Press ser-
 vice of the Russian Emer-
 gency Situations Ministry.

The pilots will be
 evacuated to Komso-
 mol'sk-on-Amur soon, the
 ministry spokesman said.

The Mi-8 helicopter
 took off from the Zemgi
 Airport to the Evoron Air-
 port located 90 kilome-
 tres away from the city
 early on Monday.

The regional emergen-
 cies department said "the
 crew was last communi-
 cated after covering a
 flight distance of 85 kilo-
 metres".

Some time later, at
 03:39, Moscow Time
 (0039 GMT), the helicop-
 ter disappeared from ra-
 dar screens, and the heli-
 copter's pilot failed to
 communicate with ground
 services at the designated
 time later, the report said.

MNA/Xinhua

UN Trusteeship Council targets for extinction

UNITED NATIONS, 1 Dec
 — A decade after it ran
 out of things to do, an ob-
 solete and obsolete UN
 agency called the Trust-
 eeship Council is finally
 targeted for extinction.

A high-level panel on
 UN reform, in a report
 made public on Tuesday,
 said the UN Charter,
 drafted in 1945 and rarely
 altered since then, should
 be rewritten to put the five-
 nation Council out of its
 misery.

The Trusteeship
 Council was created to
 supervise the administra-
 tion of 11 territories in-
 herited from the long-de-
 funct League of Nations

as well as some colonies
 taken from Italy and Ja-
 pan at the end of World
 War II.

Its last ward, the west-
 ern Pacific nation of Palau,
 became self-governing in
 October 1994, prompting
 the Council to suspend its
 operations a month later.
 Since then, it has rarely
 met. Its five members —
 the United States, China,
 Russia, Britain and France
 — last got together on
 October 20 to elect French
 Deputy Ambassador
 Michel Duclos as its presi-
 dent and British Deputy
 Ambassador Adam
 Thomson as its vice-presi-
 dent. By tradition, the post

rotates every two years
 between the French and
 British deputy ambassa-
 dors.

The president's sole
 obligation these days is to
 have lunch once a year
 with Annan, along with
 the heads of the other main
 UN bodies. The rotation
 gives the French and the
 British an equal chance to
 attend the annual lunch-
 eons, diplomats said.

But the Council has
 remained alive because to
 abolish it would involve a
 change in the charter, and
 diplomats have hesitated
 to reopen that weighty
 document until they could
 agree on how to restruc-

ture the 15-nation Secu-
 rity Council.

The high-level panel,
 created by UN Secretary-
 General Kofi Annan in
 2003, has put forward two
 different options for re-
 structuring the Security
 Council as well as the call
 for the Trusteeship Coun-
 cil's abolition. If all goes
 according to plan, which
 is extremely unlikely, the
 reform package would be
 adopted in late 2005.

But it is not at all cer-
 tain at this point that UN
 members will go for char-
 ter amendments, meaning
 the Trusteeship Council
 could yet endure.

MNA/Reuters

Tiny air-borne particles reducing average human life span

GENEVA, 30 Nov —
 Tiny air-borne particles
 released by burning fossil
 fuels are reducing the av-
 erage human life span
 across Europe and North
 America by eight months,
 a leading research body
 said on Monday.

Studies showed that
 the particles are a major
 cause of heart attacks, one
 of the world's biggest kill-
 ers, a scientist from an
 Austrian-based research
 body told a UN news con-
 ference.

"We always knew that
 they had an effect on the
 respiratory system, but
 now we know that they
 spark cardiovascular dis-
 ease by inflaming the heart
 membranes," said Markus
 Amann of IAASA, the In-

ternational Institute for
 Applied Systems Analy-
 sis. Power stations,
 road traffic, steel and ce-
 ment plants and even
 wood-burning in country
 areas contribute to the
 build-up of the particles,
 he added.

Amann was speaking
 in advance of a confer-

ence in Geneva of the
 UN's Economic Commis-
 sion for Europe (ECE),
 which is expected to set
 up an expert team to look
 at the problem.

The conference also
 marks the 25th anniver-
 sary of a pact on reducing
 cross-border air pollution,
 which has helped remove

relatively heavy pollut-
 ants like sulphur from the
 atmosphere.

The fossil fuel parti-
 cles that cause heart at-
 tacks, however, are light
 and can travel 2,000 to
 3,000 kilometres (about
 1,200 to 1,900 miles) on
 air currents.

MNA/Reuters

Zambia bans fishing for conservation

LUSAKA, 1 Dec — The
 Zambian Government has
 banned all fishing activi-
 ties in its natural waters
 with effect from Decem-
 ber 1 to February 28, to
 protect the country's fish-
 eries resources, the offi-
 cial *Zambia Daily Mail*
 reported Tuesday.

Mundia Sikatana, the
 Minister of Agriculture

and Cooperatives, said the
 ban would affect major
 rivers and lakes in the
 country, including the
 Zambezi River, the Kafue
 River, the Itzhi-Tezhi
 Lake and the Kariba Lake.

"The government has
 proof that the period be-
 tween mid-November to
 beginning of March pro-
 vides peak breeding sea-

son for most commercially
 important fish in the Zam-
 bia natural waters. It is
 that time that the parent
 fish are highly vulnerable
 to fishers as they nest
 and breed in shallower
 waters," he said.

MNA/Xinhua

DONATE BLOOD

မညာရေးဖြင့် ခေတ်မီပွဲပြီးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့

Oil prices rise as gas leak closed North Sea oil field

LONDON, 1 Dec — Oil prices rose Monday as a gas leak closed a large Norwegian North Sea oil field and the threat of a colder-than-normal US winter fuelled worries about low heating oil stocks.

North Sea Brent blend jumped 1.18 US dollars a barrel to 45.75 US dollars and US crude was up 32 cents at 49.76 US dollars after a four-day holiday break.

Prices rose as a gas leak forced closure of the 130,000-barrel-per-day Snorre A platform and the 75,000 bpd Vigdis field in the Norwegian North Sea.

Rising world demand has left little spare capacity in the world supply system, magnifying the impact of sudden disruptions. In Canada the 165,000-bpd Terra Nova platform has been shut for the past week for the investigation of an oil spill. — *MNA/Reuters*

Saline spray can help prevent spread of diseases

WASHINGTON, 30 Nov — Simply inhaling a saltwater spray could help prevent the spread of diseases including flu and tuberculosis, US and German researchers reported on Monday.

They found a saline spray, administered using a device called a jet nebulizer, reduced the number of germ-spreading droplets by as much as 70 per cent for six hours.

The findings, published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, could provide a way to help control epidemics such as the 2003 outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome

that spread globally and killed many health care workers trying to help patients.

The findings might also help control any global influenza pandemic, which almost all health experts believe is coming and which could kill millions.

The researchers noted much more study was needed before a saline spray device could be

marketed to prevent the spread of diseases.

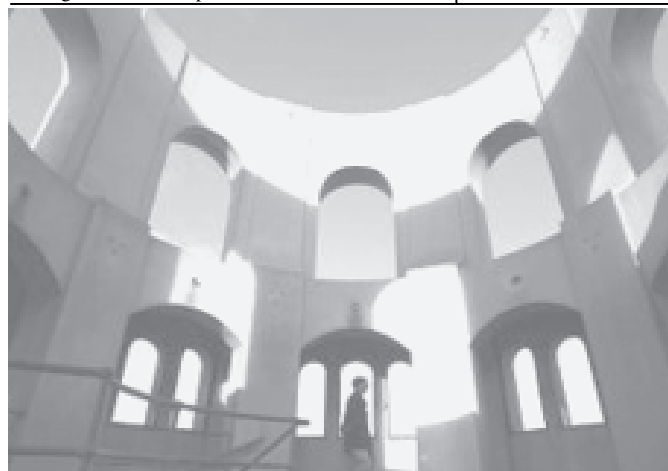
Gerhard Scheuch of Harvard University and colleagues there and at biotechnology firms Pulmatrix and Inamed tested 11 volunteers, giving them the oral spray and then measuring how many particles they released when coughing.

"Viruses known to spread from humans and/or animals through

breathing, sneezing, and coughing include measles, influenza virus, adenovirus, African swine fever virus, foot and mouth disease virus, Varicella zoster virus (chickenpox), infectious bronchitis virus and smallpox, among others," they wrote.

Bacteria spread in airborne droplets include anthrax, *Escherichia coli* and tuberculosis.

— *MNA/Reuters*



A visitor is framed by one of the arches on top of Coit Tower in San Francisco, on 30 Nov, 2004. The tower built in 1933, offers scenic views of the city. — INTERNET

70,000 people die of "AIDS" in Uganda last year

KAMPALA, 30 Nov — Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni said here Monday that 70,000 people died of AIDS and another 75,000 got infected in the East African country last year.

Opening the two-day 3rd Uganda AIDS Partnership Forum in Kampala, he expressed sadness over the fact that since 1983 over one million Ugandans have died of AIDS with over one million living with the disease.

The President said the scourge is an extraordinary kind of crisis that must be treated as an emergency and long term de-

velopment issue due to its rapid spread and depth of impact on the human race.

He called on all partners in the fight against the pandemic to re-energize the national strategy on behaviour change particularly among the youth to control and stop the rising rates of the scourge in society.

However, he greatly discouraged the practice

of distributing condoms in primary and secondary schools, saying this can only encourage promiscuity.

Museveni expressed happiness that anti-retroviral (ARV) drugs are now accessible to patients in the country but cautioned that though they prolong life and reduce the physical effects of HIV/AIDS infection they should be applied only on the doctor's advice. — *MNA/Xinhua*

At least 16 die in Somalia's boat sinking

MOGADISHU, 30 Nov — At least 16 people died and many more were feared drowned after a boat crossing to Yemen from the Horn of Africa sank with more than 115 passengers on board, Somalia media said on Monday.

The boat, carrying mostly Ethiopians and Somalis, left the coast of Somalia's breakaway northern Puntland region last Thursday. Local reports said it may have been overloaded. "We are seeing more than 16 dead bodies out at sea," Yusuf Shiek, a resident of Dhagcaan Village, told Modnimo Radio in nearby Bosaso Town.

"Some of the crew reached the shore alive." Somalis fleeing their war-torn homeland and Ethiopians in search of better economic prospects often attempt the hazardous 185 mile crossing to the oil-rich Gulf region. — *MNA/Reuters*

Costa Rica to intensify efforts to combat "AIDS"

SAN JOSE, 1 Dec — The Costa Rican health authorities Tuesday said more efforts will be made to combat HIV/AIDS, which has affected an increasing number of women in the country.

The government has launched a nationwide campaign to mark the December 1 World AIDS Day, when a series of activities will be organized to let people know more about the deadly disease.

During the event, which will last until December 15, people will be given special lectures and informative materi-

als on HIV prevention around the country.

According to official figures, AIDS cases in Costa Rica have increased to 2,455 since the first of such case was found in 1983, while 12,000 more have been tested HIV-positive.

— *MNA/Xinhua*



Camels on the Rhine : Two camels, Inda (L) and Kalinka, offer an unusual view, as they pose on the banks of the River Rhine with Cologne's Dome in the background, during a promotional event ahead of the touristic fair scheduled from 3 to 5 December. — INTERNET

Pink locusts sweep through Canary Islands

CORRALEJO (Spain), 30 Nov — Millions of pink locusts swept through one of Spain's Canary Islands on Monday, driving tourists from its storied beaches.

The swarm reached the island of Fuerteventura from West Africa — just 95 miles away — late on Sunday and covered an area of some 1 million square metres, said Antonio Ortega, director general of the regional agriculture department. Locusts have destroyed crops in central and western Africa in recent months but Ortega said the flying insects were too tired from their journey across a stretch of the Atlantic to eat much on the Canaries. "They are not eating ... because of the long journey they are exhausted and they are not ingesting," Ortega said, adding authorities had decided not to spray the insects to avoid harming the environment. — *MNA/Reuters*

Sudan expels British charity Oxfam's country director

KHARTOUM, 30 Nov — Sudan expelled the country director of Save the Children, accusing the British aid agency of breaching Sudanese law and interfering in domestic affairs, the Humanitarian Affairs Ministry and the agency said on Monday.

Save the Children confirmed it had received two letters from the ministry on Monday morning expelling their country director Kate Half and officially warning the organization.

British charity Oxfam said it had received a letter of warning, which also suggested their country director may be expelled. — *MNA/Reuters*

SPORTS

UCI rejects Phonak licence appeal

GENEVA, 1 Dec—Swiss cycling team Phonak, whose American rider Tyler Hamilton is tangled in a doping scandal, was refused a racing licence Tuesday by the sport's world governing body.

The International Cycling Union (UCI) said it also had denied pro-tour authorization to two other teams — France's AG2R and Mr Bookmaker.com Palmans of Belgium.

The UCI did not give its reasons for refusing the four-year licences to compete in UCI-recognized events, including the Tour de France. All teams can appeal the decision to the Court of Arbitration for Sport.—MNA/Reuters

Diouf banned for 3 matches for spitting Portsmouth's player

LONDON, 1 Dec—Bolton Wanderers striker El Hadji Diouf has been banned for three matches after spitting at Portsmouth's Arjan de Zeeuw in Saturday's Premier League match, the Football Association (FA) said on Tuesday.

The 23-year-old Senegal international, who was fined two weeks wages by his club on Sunday after the incident at the Reebok Stadium, admitted a charge of improper conduct and his suspension starts immediately, the FA said on their web site.

He will miss the Premier League matches away at Everton on December 4 and Norwich City on the 11th as well as the home game with Manchester City on the 18th.

Bolton manager Sam Allardyce told the club's web site: "We have discussed the situation at great length. El Hadji is full of remorse and very sorry for his actions. He has apologized and has accepted his punishment, both from the club and the FA."

MNA/Reuters



Ronaldinho gets friendly : FC Barcelona's Brazilian Ronaldinho controls the ball during a friendly football match to raise money for AIDS projects, at the Camp Nou Stadium in Barcelona.—INTERNET

Chelsea book place in League Cup semifinals

LONDON, 1 Dec—Chelsea booked their place in the League Cup semifinals with a late 2-1 win at Fulham and were joined by unfancied Watford after the second division side trounced Premier League Portsmouth 3-0 on Tuesday.

Chelsea, who thrashed Fulham 4-1 just over two weeks ago, needed an 88th minute winner from substitute Frank Lampard to scrape victory on their return to Craven Cottage.

The leaders went ahead in the 55th minute with a deflected shot from Ireland winger Damien Duff, only for American striker Brian McBride to level in the 74th.

Watford, who thrashed Southampton 5-2 in the fourth round, claimed another top flight victim with two goals from Icelandic striker Heidar Helguson and one from Bruce Dyer.

Chelsea boss Jose

Mourinho showed his determination to reach the February 27 final at the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff by fielding nine first-team regulars, plus defender Glen Johnson and midfielder Scott Parker.

Fulham made much the better start, though, and striker Andy Cole was among those missing chances. They paid the price when Duff's shot from the edge of the area took a deflection off defender Ian Pearce and beat goalkeeper Edwin van der Sar.

McBride equalized when Elvis Hammond

provided a low cross just a minute after replacing Cole and the American forward steered home for Chris Coleman's side.

Lampard settled the tie with a shot from outside the area which cannoned off Van der Sar into the roof of the net. Mourinho said: "It's always difficult against a team you played 15 days ago. They felt that game, they could study it and use it to prepare the next one."

"The game was very difficult for us and credit to Chris and his players, who were fantastic. My players fought a lot... and I think we were a bit lucky to score that goal at the end."

Coleman, who slammed his men after Saturday's 2-0 defeat by Blackburn Rovers, said: "We perhaps deserved more than what we got, it was a fantastic performance."

"We were booed off on Saturday, and rightly so. Tonight we were cheered. Our fans realized we came out to prove a point. If we play like that, week in week out, there won't be a problem."—MNA/Reuters



Chelsea's English midfielder Frank Lampard, seen here June 2004. Lampard came off the bench to fire Chelsea into the last four of the League Cup with a crucial late winner against London neighbours Fulham.—INTERNET

Olympic medallists win 2004

Jesse Owens Awards

PORTLAND, 30 Nov—Olympic medallists Justin Gatlin and Joanna Hayes Monday were named the winners of the 2004 Jesse Owens Awards by USA Track & Field.

Established in 1981, the Jesse Owens Award is USA Track & Field's highest accolade, presented annually to the outstanding US male and female track and field performers. The 2004 awards will be presented December 3 at the Jesse Owens Awards and Xerox Hall of Fame induction ceremony, held in conjunction with the USATF annual meeting in

Portland.

Gatlin, 22, won the closest 100-metre final in Olympic history as he posted a career-best time of 9.85 seconds in the Athens Games.

Gatlin, who edged world-class sprinters Francis Obikwelu of Portugal (9.86) and bronze medallist Maurice Greene (9.87), earned a total of three medals during the Olympics.

He also added a bronze medal in the 200 metres (20.03) and took silver in the 4x100m relay (38.08) to become the only male track & field athlete from any country to win three medals at the 2004 Games.

"It is such a great honour to win the Jesse Owens Award," said Gatlin. "It is one of the biggest honours in track and field and it is a great end to a great year. I'd like to congratulate all my fellow Team USA members and Jesse Owens Award finalists on their outstanding 2004 seasons."

Hayes also wrote her own history at the Olympic Games as the 27-year-old won the gold medal in the 100-metre hurdles. Hayes, who had been known more for her abilities in the 400-metre hurdles, ran the final in a stunning time of 12.37 seconds. Her time broke the 16-year-old Olympic record of 12.38, held by



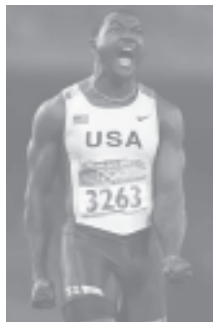
Joanna Hayes

world record holder Yordanka Donkova. Hayes became only the second American ever to win Olympic gold in the event.

"To be the winner of the Jesse Owens Award is an honour beyond words," Hayes said. "Receiving an award with his name attached to it is obviously prestigious and I am extremely honoured to have my name associated with his. Knowing some of the great people who have won this award before me and knowing what it represents, I feel a sense of accomplishment and pride which lets me know that everything that I have worked for is and always will be worth it."

Other finalists for the men's Jesse Owens Award were Jeremy Wariner, Tim Mack, Shawn Crawford, Dwight Phillips and Meb Keflezighi. Women's finalists were Deena Kastor, Gail Devers, Lauryn Williams and Allyson Felix.

MNA/Reuters



Justin Gatlin

Newcastle chairman says Abramovich blew transfer market apart

DUBAI, 1 Dec—The vast riches of Chelsea owner Roman Abramovich have blown the transfer market apart and created one market for them and another for everyone else, Newcastle United chairman Freddie Shepherd said on Monday.

Speaking at the Soccerex trade fair, Shepherd, who estimated his club had spent 300 million pounds in the last 10 years, said Chelsea, who have spent 200 million pounds since Abramovich took over 18 months ago, had unbalanced the game.

"Abramovich has blown the transfer market open. There are now two markets out there — one for Chelsea and one for everybody else, it is as simple as that."

"We were getting transfer fees down to sensible levels then Abramovich came in and blew them out of the sky. If he wants a player he gets him, it doesn't matter what money he has to pay."

"But I would love a Georgie Abramovich to come to

Newcastle," he conceded.

After spending about 120 million pounds within months of arriving at Chelsea, Abramovich authorized the transfers of Didier Drogba (24 million pounds), Ricardo Carvalho (19.85 million), Paulo Ferreira (13.2 million) and Arjen Robben (12 million) among others at the start of this season.

The Russian also brought in coach Jose Mourinho from European champions Porto and his investment appears to be paying off with Chelsea — who were last English champions in 1955 — leading the Premier League by five points from champions Arsenal after 15 matches.

MNA/Reuters

World AIDS Day-2004 Commemoration Ceremony held



Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo speaking at the ceremony to mark World AIDS Day. —MNA

YANGON, 1 Dec—World AIDS Day-2004 Commemoration Ceremony was held today at the International Business Centre with an opening address by Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo.

In his address, Dr Mya Oo said, this year's World AIDS Day slogan is "Women, Girls, HIV and AIDS". Education is one of the key defenses against the spread of HIV and the impact of AIDS and the evidence for this is growing, he noted.

He continued to say that in Myanmar, pre-

acknowledged that Myanmar is doing its utmost for HIV/AIDS prevention and control activities.

In conclusion, Dr Mya Oo said although World AIDS Day is commemorated on 1st December, we should aim for the World AIDS Campaign for the whole year round implementation especially focusing on the wide spread awareness campaigns on HIV/AIDS through various media and conducting HIV/AIDS prevention focusing on women and girls as per this year

AIDS with a caring spirit make the world a safer and better place to live, he said.

At the ceremony, Resident Representative of UNDP Mr Charles Petrie read out a message of UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan and AIDS Programme Coordinator Mr Brian Williams read out a message of Executive Director of UNAIDS Dr Peter Piot.

Afterwards, prize presentation ceremony of World AIDS Day commemorative essay, poster and painting contests were followed.

Mr Agostino Borra, Representative of UNICEF Ms Carol C Long and Mr Brian Williams of UNAIDS presented prizes to the winners of the contests.

After the ceremony, those present viewed around the World AIDS Day commemorative booth displayed at the centre.

The ceremony was attended by President of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation Daw Than Than Nwe, Wife of Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win, and executive members of MAAF, President of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association Daw Khin Khin Win, Wife of Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, deputy ministers, members of the National Health Committee and National AIDS Committee, work committee and subcommittees, ambassadors of ASEAN nations, representatives of UN Agencies, Global Fund For AIDS, members of TB & Malaria Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM) and officials concerned.

MNA



Officials view World AIDS Day Commemorative Exhibition.—MNA

vention of AIDS has been regarded as a National Concern. International organizations have

slogan. May he concerted efforts of all the nations of the world in preventing and controlling HIV/

Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo, Mr Charles Petrie, WHO Resident Representative

Han Golf Masters Junior Golf Series on 7 December

YANGON, 1 Dec—With a view to turning out a new generation of golfers, the Myanmar Golf Federation will hold the Han Golf Masters Junior Golf Series 2004 at the Myanmar Golf Club on Pyay Road, 9th Mile, here, on 7 December.

The series will comprise five categories: aged 8-10 division, 11-12 division, 13-14 division, 15-17 division and women's division (under 18).

Those interested may register at HGM Pro-Shop YCDC (Tel: 641341) or Han Event Management Office, No 15-A, Kanbawza Street, Bahan Township, (Tel: 542989, 706788, 723221) not later than 2 pm on 6 December.

MNA

Matriculation exam timetable announced

YANGON, 1 Dec — The Myanmar Board of Examinations under the Ministry of Education today announced the timetable for 2004-2005 Academic Year Matriculation Examination.

The examination will be held from 16 to 26 March from 9 am to 12 noon. Myanmar will be on 16 March, English on 17 March, Mathematics on 18 March, Chemistry on 19 March, Physics on 21 March, Biology/History on 22 March, Geography on 23 March, Economics on 25 March and Optional Myanmar on 26 March.

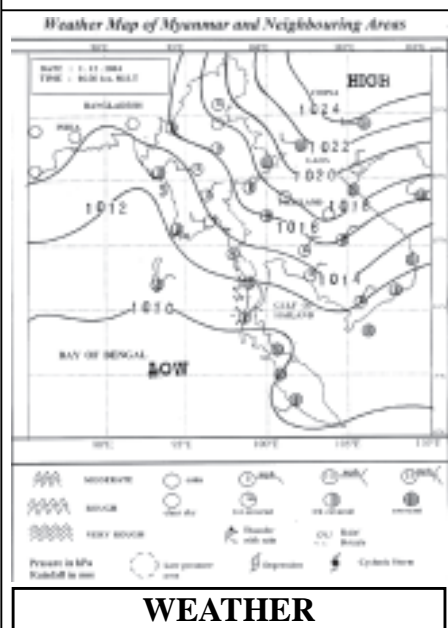
MNA

Top singers join Mandela's drive against "AIDS"

JOHANNESBURG, 1 Dec—Former South African president Nelson Mandela, through his global 46664 campaign, is roping in more and more young icons to fight the HIV/AIDS in a bid to sensitize the youth about the disease.

The latest additions to the list of local and international stars invited by Mandela to volunteer to be 46664 ambassadors are American classic and pop music star Josh Groban and kwaito superstar Mandoza. Local daily the *Star* reported that Groban and Mandoza were welcomed to the campaign by Mandela himself at the Nelson Mandela Foundation offices in Johannesburg on Monday.

By volunteering themselves, the two icons join an array of celebrated artists, some of whom performed at the 46664 concert in Cape Town late last year. Movie stars Will Smith and Brad Pitt, both of whom recently visited South Africa, have also become 46664 volunteers. —MNA/Xinhua



WEATHER

Wednesday, 1 December, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours

MST: During the past 24 hours, light rain has been isolated in Taninthayi Division, weather has been partly cloudy in Shan, Chin and Rakhine States, upper Sagaing and Yangon Divisions and fair in the remaining areas. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Chin, Mon States and Taninthayi Division and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Hakha (6°C), Namsam and PyinOoLwin (7°C) each.

Maximum temperature on 30-11-2004 was 95°F. Minimum temperature on 1-12-2004 was 64°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 1-12-2004 was 76%. Total sunshine hours on 30-11-2004 was (8.0) hours approx. Rainfall on 1-12-2004 were nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 were 112.28 inches at Yangon Airport, 106.77 inches at Kaba-Aye and 109.68 inches at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 5 mph from Northeast at (14:50) hours MST on 30-11-2004.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 2-12-2004: Likelihood of isolated light rain in eastern Shan and Rakhine States, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions and weather will be generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Generally fair weather in the whole country.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 2-12-2004: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 2-12-2004: Fair weather.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye welcomes back PM Lt-Gen Soe Win on his return from 10th ASEAN Summit in LPDR

YANGON, 1 Dec— Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win of the Union of Myanmar arrived back here by special flight this morning after attending the 10th ASEAN Summit, the Cambodia-Laos-Myanmar-Vietnam Summit, the Heads of State/Governments of ASEAN+China, Japan and Republic of Korea, the Heads of State/Governments of ASEAN+India Summit and the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Commemorative Summit.

Prime Minister Lt-

Gen Soe Win and party were welcomed back at Yangon International Airport by 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, members of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann, Lt-Gen Maung Bo and Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Ministers, Charge d'Affaire of Laos Embassy to Myanmar Mr Kobkeo Luangkhot and officials and departmental officials.

Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win and Deputy Minister U Kyaw Thu, Director-General at the Prime Minister's Office U Soe Tint, Director-General of Protocol Department



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye welcomes back Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win who attended 10th ASEAN Summit in Lao PDR.

MNA

Thura U Aung Htet and departmental officials also arrived back on the same flight.

MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye sends message to Lao PDR

YANGON, 2 Dec— On the occasion of the 29th Anniversary of the founding of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, which falls on 2 December 2004, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to Mr Choummaly Sayasone, Vice-President of the Lao People's Democratic Republic. — MNA

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For parallel development of all regions

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The new chapter of Indo-Myanmar friendship and cooperation

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Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win sends message to Laotian counterpart

YANGON, 2 Dec— On the occasion of the 29th Anniversary of the founding of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, which falls on 2 December 2004, Lt-Gen Soe Win, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to Mr Bounnhang Vorachith, Prime Minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic. — MNA

General Thura Shwe Mann meets Deputy Chief of General Staff of PLA

YANGON, 1 Dec — Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence met Deputy Chief of the General Staff of the People's Liberation Army of the People's Republic of China General Ge Zhenfeng and party at Zeyathiri Beikman Hall Konmyinthar here at 6 pm today.

Also present were Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Tin Aye of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint

Swe, Chief of Staff (Navy) Captain Nyan Tun, Maj-Gen Soe Maung, Maj-Gen

Kyi Win, Maj-Gen Win Myint, Maj-Gen Aung Hlaing and Maj-Gen Aye

Myint of the Ministry of Defence.

Also present to-

gether with General Ge Zhenfeng were Ambassador of PRC to Myanmar

Mr Li Jinjun and Military Attaché Senior Col Ma Shoudong. — MNA



General Thura Shwe Mann receives Deputy Chief of General Staff General Ge Zhenfeng and party of People's Liberation Army of People's Republic of China at Zeyathiri Beikman Hall. — MNA