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Friday, 3 December 2004

As Government and people have their own responsibilities, it is important for both to be dutiful Priority should be given to 100-megawatt Thahtay Creek Hydel Power Project in Thandwe region Senior General Than Shwe on inspection tour of Rakhine State

YANGON, 2 Dec—Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe left Thandwe by air and arrived back here this afternoon, after making inspection tours of Sittway, Kyauktaw, An, Kyaukpyu and Thandwe townships in Rakhine State from 29 November to 2 December.

During his tour of Rakhine State, the Senior General inspected progress of An and construction tasks and gave guidance to the officials yesterday.

Upon arrival at Hinywet Dam near Auk

Village in An later in the morning, the Senior General and party were welcomed by Col Myint Swe of An Station, Chairman of An Township PDC U Kyi Win and members, and officials of Construction Group 3 of the Irrigation Department. Col Myint Swe reported on salient points of the irrigation facility, supply of water to the town, and arrangements for greening surrounding areas and cultivation of summer paddy with the use of surplus water.

In response, the Senior General gave guidance to the officials and viewed water storage of the dam. With a 70-



Senior General Than Shwe inspects progress in building Minkyaung Creek Bridge on Yangon-Kyaukpyu Road in Yanbye Township. —MNA

The Government has to weigh its income up to use funds in proportionate ratio for extending all public transport, education, health facilities.

foot-high and 750-foot-long earthen embankment, the dam was built to supply clean water to local people. Plans are under way to supply the surplus water from the dam for greening of An

Airport and its environs and growing of summer paddy.

Next, the Senior General and party inspected progress of construction of wards, surgical ward, main building, operation theatre and ward-to-ward pavements of 100-bed people's hospital project in An. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, Commander Brig-Gen Min Aung Hlaing and Medical Superintendent Dr Ye Nyunt conducted them round the project site.

The Senior General gave guidance on systematic construction of the medical facility in accordance with the (See page 8)



Minkyaung Creek Bridge on Yangon-Kyaukpyu Road in Yanbye Township under construction.—MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 3 December, 2004

Towards promotion of friendship and cooperation among ASEAN nations

Practising the active and independent foreign policy, the Union of Myanmar has friendly relations with other nations of the world. Moreover, it has been actively cooperating with members of international organizations including the UN, neighbouring countries and members of the Association of South-East Asian Nations, especially with neighbours and those in the region in trade and economic affairs while maintaining traditional ties of friendship.

At the invitation of Mr Bounnhang Vorachith, Prime Minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lt-Gen Soe Win, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, attended the 10th ASEAN Summit held in Vientiane in LPDR from 28 to 30 November. Moreover, the Prime Minister also attended Cambodia-Laos-Myanmar-Vietnam Summit, the Heads of State/Government of ASEAN+China, Japan and Republic of Korea, the Heads of State/Government of ASEAN+India and the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Commemorative Summit.

Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win called on Laotian Prime Minister Mr Bounnhang Vorachith at the latter's office in Vientiane on 27 November. At the meeting, Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win said that Myanmar would boost cooperation with her neighbours, other nations in the region and UN organizations and provide technical assistance and construction experiences for the construction of the Mekong Bridge. Laotian Prime Minister Mr Bounnhang Vorachith expressed pleasure at the socio-economic development of Myanmar and progress of the National Convention, the first step to the seven-point Road Map, and belief that Myanmar would successfully realize the remaining steps.

During his visit to the LPDR, Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win also met with Vietnamese Prime Minister Mr Phan Van Khai, Cambodian Prime Minister Mr Samdech Hun Sen and Singaporean Prime Minister Mr Lee Hsien Loong and discussed matters on promotion of bilateral relations and cooperation in a friendly atmosphere. Moreover, Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win signed the Vientiane Declaration on Enhancing Economic Cooperation and Integration among Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam on 28 November. We believe that Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win's visit to the LPDR will contribute a lot to promotion of friendship and cooperation among ASEAN nations and regional development.

စာပေဒါန

ကျေးဇူး ကိုယ့်အားကိုးကိုးစာကြည့်တိုက်များအတွက်
သုတ/ရသ စာအုပ်များနှင့် စာပေဒါန ငွေပေးသောပင်
လူဒါနံ၊ ဝိပဿနာ အောက်ပါအစီအစဉ်အတိုင်း ကျင်းပပါမည်။

နေ့ရက် - ၃-၁၂-၂၀၀၄ (သောကြာနေ့)

အချိန် - မွန်လွဲ (၂) နာရီ

နေရာ - ပြန်ကြားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊

အစည်းအဝေးခန်းမ

သိမ်ဖြူလမ်း၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့။

စာပေဒါနပြုလိုကြသော စေတနာရှင်၊ အလှူရှင်များ အချိန်မီတက်ရောက်
လှူဒါန်းနိုင်ကြပါရန် နှိုးဆော်မိတ်ကြား အပ်ပါသည်။

ပြန်ကြားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန

ပြန်ကြားရေးနှင့် ပြည်သူ့ဆက်ဆံရေးဦးစီးဌာန

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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

Transport service develops on Myeik-Bokpyin-Kawthoung Road

YANGON, 2 Dec — A ceremony to commence Myeik-Bokpyin-Kawthoung (Pale) Bus-line Committee was formed at the highway terminal in Myeik yesterday morning.

Present were Chairman of Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Coastal Region Command Maj-Gen Ohn Myint, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Hone Ngaing, senior military officers, departmental

officials, chairmen of bus-line committees, social organizations and local people.

Commander Maj-Gen Ohn Myint gave a speech. Division Police Force Commander Police Col Hla Myint presented commemorative pennants to the commander and officials. At the auspicious time, the commander and Chairman of the Supervisory Committee for the Bus-line Control Committee commenced the bus

Myanmar Gazette

YANGON, 2 Dec — The State Peace and Development Council has appointed Pro-rector U Than Swe of Meiktila Institute of Economics under the Higher Education Department (Upper Myanmar), the Ministry of Education, as Rector of the same institute on probation from the date he assumes charge of his duties. — MNA

line.

Similarly, Myeik-Bokpyin-Kawthoung (Pale) Bus-Line Committee was formed in Kawthoung. Chairman of the District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col

Tin Soe gave a speech. Brig-Gen Khin Zaw Win and officials launched the bus line. Myeik-Bokpyin-Kawthoung Road is 276 miles and two furlongs long.

MNA



Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo addresses opening of 14th IFNGO ASEAN NGOs Workshop on Prevention of Drug and Substances Abuse. — MNA

14th IFNGO ASEAN NGOs Workshop on Prevention of Drug and Substances Abuse hosted

YANGON, 2 Dec — A ceremony to host the 14th IFNGO ASEAN NGOs Workshop on Prevention of Drug and Substances Abuse co-organized by the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control of Myanmar and Myanmar Anti-Narcotics Association in Myanmar was held at the Grand Plaza Parkroyal Hotel on Alanpya Pagoda Road, here, this morning.

It was attended by Chairman of CCDAC

Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo, Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein, Deputy Minister for Education Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min, Director-General of Myanmar Police Force Brig-Gen Khin Yi, departmental heads, members of CCDAC, Chairman of MANA U San Thein and CEC members, members of Myanmar Foreign Correspondents Club and ambassadors and officials of foreign mis-

sions in Myanmar, chairman and officials of IFNGO and ASEAN NGOs and guests.

At the ceremony, students demonstrated the consolidation of ASEAN member nations. Chairman of IFNGO Mr Shireley Tissera and Minister Maj-Gen Maung Oo extended greetings to the occasion.

Next, the minister and those present had documentary photos taken. Afterwards, the

minister received leaders of delegations at the lobby of the hotel and explained the measures being taken for the eradication of narcotic drugs in the nation.

At 11 am, the workshop was inaugurated. Afterwards, 122 delegates of the People's Republic of China, Mauritius and Australia presented the topic "Strive for New Destiny: ASEAN Drug Free 2015." The workshop continues up to 4 December.

MNA

Kandawgyi Gardens inspected

YANGON, 2 Dec — Yangon City Development Committee Chairman Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin inspected construction tasks in Central Forest Zone of Kandawgyi all-round upgrading tasks today and gave necessary instructions to the officials.

Head of Engineering Department (Buildings) U Zaw Win and officials explained the construction of Maunt Popa Tower and spiral stairs, installation of two lifts and renovation of ceilings. After hearing reports, the mayor instructed them to make arrangements for letting in natural light in every storey, safety at the site and meeting the set standard.

Afterwards, the mayor inspected the construction of Kandawgyi circular bridge and arrangement for future plans and beautifying tasks. Next, the mayor stressed the beautifying of the park and extended growing of flowering plants. — MNA



Deputy Director-General U Aye Myint of No 3 Basic Education Department presents prize to a winner in

Fourth Yangon Division Inter-Basic Education School Wushu Competition sponsored by Gandamar Co at Sangyoung BEHS No 2 on 2-12-2004. — NLM

Australia hails launch of FTA negotiations with ASEAN

CANBERRA, 2 Dec—Australian Trade Minister Mark Vaile said on Wednesday the launch of negotiations on a free trade agreement (FTA) between Australia, New Zealand and 10 Southeast Asian nations is a historic development in Australia's engagement with Southeast Asia.

During a summit in Vientiane, Laos, leaders from the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), Australia and New Zealand agreed to launch the FTA negotiations in early 2005.

"An FTA will help boost our trade and commercial links with one of the most economically-vibrant regions in the world," Vaile said in a statement.

"It will lead to further job creation in our export sector, adding to the 1.4 million jobs created since 1996," he said. Australia has had FTA agreements with Singapore and Thailand. Vaile said an ASEAN FTA will further consolidate Australia's economic integration with Southeast Asia.

The minister said he is particularly

pleased that the leaders also endorsed a set of negotiating principles including a commitment to a comprehensive agreement covering both goods and services, and the progressive elimination of all forms of barriers to trade.

"Australia already enjoys a substantial trading relationship with ASEAN, but an FTA will provide a solid platform for future growth," he said.

Australia's two-way merchandise trade with ASEAN was valued at 32.8 billion dollars (25.4 billion US dollars) in 2003-04 financial year. ASEAN countries currently purchase more than 11 per cent of Australia's merchandise exports and just under 15 per cent of services exports.—MNA/Xinhua

New Zealand announces initiatives to build links with ASEAN

WELLINGTON, 2 Dec—The New Zealand Government has agreed to a range of initiatives to build closer ties with the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), Prime Minister Helen Clark announced on Wednesday.

Clark's announcement in Laotian capital Vientiane came as New Zealand and Australia launched trade talks with ASEAN, a trade deal with Thailand and New Zealand's intention of signing a symbolic treaty of non-aggression with the region.

The "commemorative summit between the leaders of New Zealand, Australia, and the ASEAN marks nearly 30 years of dialogue partnership for New Zealand," Clark said.

"The government has given considerable thought to how to step up New Zealand's engagement with Southeast Asia," beyond the launch of the FTA negotiations announced today.

"Linkages between

New Zealand and South-east Asia go well beyond trade or development assistance. It's important to acknowledge the breadth

and richness of our relationship. This package of initiatives is intended to do this," Clark said.

MNA/Xinhua

US knew of suspected Iraq abuse in 2003

WASHINGTON, 1 Dec—Senior US Army generals in Iraq were told in December 2003 that special operations troops and CIA personnel were suspected of abusing Iraqi prisoners — four months before the scale of prisoner abuse became public in television photos that shocked the world.

The December 2003 report on suspected prisoner abuse, confirmed by US officials on Wednesday, also showed the US leadership in Iraq had

clues about prisoner treatment before photographs of detainees being abused at Abu Ghraib jail emerged within the military in the middle of January. But officials disputed the notion that the warning had been ignored.

"It's indicative that there were some troubling signs, and actions were taken early on. It got overcome by other investigations (after the Abu Ghraib abuse became known). But it was not ignored,"

an Army official said.

When the abuse photographs, including ones showing a US female soldier holding a naked prisoner on a leash, were shown on US television, they prompted calls by political opponents and human rights activists for Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld to resign. The Pentagon said it was investigating but the existence of the 2003 report was not revealed.

Internet

Saudi Arabia to raise oil output to 12.5 million BPD

ABU DHABI, 1 Dec—Saudi Arabia plans to raise its oil production capacity to 12.5 million barrels per day (BPD) from the current 11 million bpd over the next few years, local *Arab News* daily reported on Tuesday.

Saudi Petroleum and Mineral Resources Minister Ali Bin Ibrahim al-Naimi told the daily that plans have been developed to increase the kingdom's sustainable production capacity to 12.5 million bpd over the next few years.

The decision to raise production capacity on this scale reflects the kingdom's belief that demand for Saudi oil will continue to increase in the coming years.

However, the minister declined to set a specific date for the start of extra production, saying market demands will dictate a timetable.

MNA/Xinhua

Iraq will cost Blair votes, says ministerial ally

LONDON, 2 Dec—Iraq will cost Tony Blair votes, a close ministerial ally of the British Prime Minister said on Tuesday, six months before an expected general election. "There is a significant number of people who would regard themselves as friends of the Labour government who have been virulently opposed to the intervention in Iraq," Charles Falconer, a member of Blair's cabinet, said in an interview. "I recognise for some of them they won't be able

to vote for the government because of it," said Falconer. "I don't know what the size of that bit will be but I recognise that as a fact." Opinion polls show that Blair, US President George W Bush's closest ally on Iraq and a major troop contributor, is on track to win a third term at an expected May election but that his huge parliamentary majority is at risk. Britons tend to vote on domestic issues but analysts say more British military casualties in Iraq or a

failure to carry out Iraqi elections set for January could turn more voters against Blair. "I believe this to be a significant issue that effects significant numbers of people," Falconer told *Reuters*.

A slide in Blair's public trust and popularity ratings, primarily over the US-led war in Iraq, sparked a flurry of speculation earlier this year over his future, prompting him to take the unprecedented step of setting his own departure date.—Internet



A Malaysian shows newly launched HIV test kits in Kuala Lumpur on 29 Nov, 2004. — INTERNET

1255 US troops killed since beginning of Iraq war

WASHINGTON, 2 Dec—As of Wednesday, 1 Dec, 2004, at least 1,255 members of the US military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count.

At least 984 died as a result of hostile action, the Defence Department said. The figures include three military civilians.

The British military has reported 74 deaths; Italy, 19; Poland, 13; Spain, 11; Ukraine, nine; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary and

Latvia have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,117 US military members have died, according to AP's count.

That includes at least 875 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

Internet



US Marines wade ashore while conducting military operations near Yusufiya, south of Baghdad on 28 Nov, 2004. —INTERNET

Let's grow rubber for profit

Ko Pho Thaung

Nowadays, rubber is an essential item in the world. Some industrialized nations are creating synthetic rubber and using it as they could not obtain

was stated that Vietnam had earned more foreign exchange than last year for rubber price had been on the increase; that it earned US\$ 383 more

tural entrepreneur, through a friend of mine. She is making progress in growing over 300 acres of rubber in Alieni Special Zone, Indagaw, Bago Township.



10 years old rubber trees.— PHOTO ARKAR (PARAMI)

natural rubber as much as they need although they have offered higher prices. Rubber is always in high demand in the world market.

As I happened to read a piece of news about rubber fetching higher prices, I, who have been observing what kind of business is good to do, have a sudden urge to grow rubber.

On page-4 of the Myanma Alin Daily published on 25-11-2004, it

than million last year.

As I had saved a considerable amount of money, I was wrapped in thought that what kind of business I should do for my children in the long run. Agriculture is my favourite interest.

Therefore, I observed agriculture daily. And I went to Hlegu-Indagaw area to inquire land prices there.

There, I got acquainted with Daw Aye Mi Mi Soe, an agricul-

So, she knows well about the benefits of rubber.

"Ko Pho Thaung, don't waver, but grow rubber. Growing rubber means establishment of an business for posterity. But there is one point. You will have to wait for about seven years to gain profit".

"I am ready to wait if there is long-term interest. By the way, let me know, Ah Ma Gyi, the period and capital of investment".

"I will tell you. To grow one acre of rubber will cost you nearly K 200,000. The expenses for maintenance of one acre of rubber for six years will cost you about K 600,000 at the rate of K 100,000 per year before latex is produced.

If K 800,000 is invested, there will be an annual net profit ranging from K 250,000 to K 300,000 per acre after seven years. The better maintenance you do, the more net profit you get."

"If so, let's do it. I envy you."

"Actually, it is more than what I say. I also envy the persons like U Than Swe and U Yan Shin of Dawei, U Than Maung (Turkey umbrella) of Yangon, U Aung Moe

Kyaw of Hmawby, U Khin Zaw and U Myint Han of Mon State, U Hla Kyi of Pulaw, U Kyin Yan of Taninthayi and U Maung Linn of Myeik, who have become rich by growing rubber."

"After 10 years of growing rubber you will recover all expenses. And you will enjoy the annual net profit up to another 20 years. Therefore, it is a profitable business from economic point of view."

"It is a sound business undertaking."

"Of Course! Besides, I will give you a piece of advice to cover the expenses before latex is produced. If crops such as paddy, groundnut, pulses and beans, sesame,

Irrigation. There, Manager U Aung Myo Oo of the centre and Assistant Manager Daw Khin Nila Tun replied to my queries heartily.

"At the research and reproduction centre (Indagaw), work is well under way along with Chinese technicians under Myanmar-China Rubber Plantations Establishment Project. New agricultural

"To be able to produce more latex from the old rubber trees, ethylene gas-used equipment or ethrel can be used. It is learnt that those techniques are being used in Malaysia after 12 years of research. Malaysia enjoys the highest rubber production rate in the world."

"Thanks all for detailed explanations."

"Never mind. We

Myanmar which has a favourable weather condition for growing rubber can become a main rubber grower if vast vacant and virgin land in the nation is reclaimed. Everyone should engage in rubber growing since it benefits both growers and the State.



Some 30 years old rubber trees.— PHOTO ARKAR (PARAMI)

water melon are grown among rubber trees, you can not only cover the annual expenses but also earn extra income."

"It is heartening to hear this. I took interest in it since I learnt from the dailies that rubber is in high demand in the world market. I had made up my mind to grow rubber only after meeting you. Thanks a lot."

"If you want to know more about rubber, you can make inquiries at the research and reproduction centre in Indagaw".

In this way, I went the research and reproduction centre (Indagaw) of Myanma Perennial Crops Enterprise under the Ministry of Agriculture and

techniques of Chinese technicians are added to the project, explained Manager U Aung Myo Oo."

When I asked, "Is there any difficulty in recruitment of workers if we engage in growing many acres of rubber?"

Assistant Manager Daw Khin Nila Tun responded that there is no difficulty in recruitment of workers although rubber growing regions are different.

When rubber trees are over 20 years old, latex can be produced through modern techniques.

At that time, you no longer need many workers.

are ready to help everyone who is engaged in growing of rubber."

As I would like to seek more information about growing of rubber, I went to the Myanma Perennial Crops Enterprise (Head Office) on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road where I got an opportunity to meet Managing Director of MPE Col Kyi Win and officials.

Col Kyi Win explained: "Rubber is a kind of raw material. It is widely used today.

Almost all the personal goods are made of rubber.

For example, there are over 400 rubber related items in a car."

(See page 5)



Rubber leaves treated with chemicals change into household goods.— PHOTO ARKAR (PARAMI)

Let's grow rubber...

(from page 4)

"The government is providing necessary assistance to rubber growers as it can be beneficial to posterity.

Land allotments were granted to national entrepreneurs to help them

25,000 metric tons of rubber in 2003-2004 fiscal year." "Permits have been granted to private entrepreneurs to market and export the product freely.

Meanwhile, the Myanma Perennial Crops

produces rubber most?"

"It is Malaysia. It can be regarded as the highest rubber producing nation in the world. With 4.2 million acres of rubber, Malaysia's production rate is 1.8 million metric tons of rubber.

With 8 million acres of rubber, Indonesia's production rate is 1.5 million metric tons of rubber. With 4.8 million acres of rubber, Thailand's production rate is 1.1 million metric tons of rubber."

"Rubber is in high demand yearly in the world as rubber products are being sought after. Even non-rubber producing countries are using synthetic rubber since they cannot obtain natural rubber as much as they can. They are the industrialized countries such as USA, Russia, Japan, France and the People's Republic of China."

"Natural rubber which is popular in the world can thrive in Myanmar, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, India and the PRC."

"73 per cent of world rubber is grown in Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia combined. The three nations are also enjoying 73 per cent of world rubber production. But they have found it difficult to increase growing of rubber due to land constraint.



Collection of latex from nearly 30 years old rubber tree.— PHOTO-ARKAR (PARAMI)

engage in extended growing of rubber."

"One metric ton of Myanmar rubber is now priced from US\$ 1,100 to 1,300 whereas one metric

Enterprise is providing everyone, who want to grow rubber, with land plots, rubber seeds, technology, fertilizer and pesticides. Growing of rub-



Growth of four months old rubber nursery.— PHOTO- ARKAR (PARAMI)

ton of crumbs of rubber is priced at US\$ 1,000 in the world market."

"Myanma Perennial Crops Enterprise under the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation earned over US\$ 21 million through over

ber can benefit not only the growers but also the State".

Afterwards, I met General Manager U Mya Hlaing to ask some questions.

"Which country

Myanmar which has a favourable weather condition for growing rubber can become a main rubber grower if vast vacant and virgin land in the nation is reclaimed.

Everyone should



Thriving over four months old rubber plantation.— PHOTO ARKAR (PARAMI)

It is learnt that rubber is popular in the world market; that it is a foreign exchange earner and can serve the long-term interest with a considerable amount of capital; that the government is providing necessary assistance to rubber growers and that it can be grown the length and breadth of the nation.

engage in rubber growing since it benefits both growers and the State."

"Myanma land and weather conditions are very suitable to rubber growing. Rubber can be grown in all the regions of Myanmar apart from some areas of Magway, Mandalay and Sagaing Divisions. Kachin State and Shan State are also making progress in rubber growing."

"A rubber tree will not be in vein although after 30 years old when its latex cannot be produced. It can be used as timber which is used in making furniture.

Six to seven tons of timber can be extracted from one acre of old rubber trees and they are worth between US\$ 1,500 and 1,600. Rubber leaves can also be sold for other purposes."

Knowledge gained from Daw Aye Mi Mi Soe who grows rubber herself, officials and technicians from Myanma Perennial Crops Enterprise benefits me much.

It is learnt that rubber is popular in the world market; that it is a foreign exchange earner and can serve the long-term interest with a considerable amount of capital; that the government is providing necessary assistance to rubber growers and that it can be grown the length and breadth of the nation.

Therefore, I have been actively engaged in rubber growing that surely serves the long-term interest.

(For the benefit of those interested in grow-

ing rubber, I would like to offer extra information regarding acquisition of land. Enthusiasts may contact the respective Peace and Development Councils of Taninthayi Division, Mon State, Kayin

State, Rakhine State, Yagon Division, Bago and Ayeyawady Division to acquire land. I have learnt that over 50,000 acres remain to be reclaimed in Ayeyawady Division.)

(Translation: TS)



Collection of latex from upper part of an old rubber tree.— PHOTO ARKAR (PARAMI)

Lt-Gen Soe Win attends ...

(from page 16)

Mr Lee Hsien Loong, Thai Prime Minister Dr Thaksin Shinawatra, Vietnamese Prime Minister Mr Phan Van Khai and ASEAN Secretary-General Mr Ong Keng Yong.

Myanmar Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Deputy Minister U Kyaw Thu, ministers and deputy ministers of ASEAN countries, senior officers and officials attended as observers the 10th ASEAN Summit at Room B-4 of Lao-ITECC.

At 11.30 am, the officials of ASEAN Business and Advisory Council clarified on matters concerning economic conditions of ASEAN countries to Heads of State/Government of ASEAN countries. Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win attended it.

Next, the ceremony to sign the Vientiane Action Programme and the ASEAN Framework Agreement for the Integration of the Priority Sectors was held at Theatre-1 of Lao-ITECC, attended by Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win and Heads of



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win poses for documentary photo with Heads of State/Government of ASEAN countries at 10th ASEAN Summit.— MNA



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win attends ASEAN+China at Lao-ITECC in Vientiane, Lao PDR, on 29-11-2004.— MNA



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win attends ASEAN+3 Summit at Lao-ITECC in Vientiane, Lao PDR.— MNA

State/Government of ASEAN countries.

Afterwards, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha and Economic Ministers of ASEAN signed in the ASEAN Sectoral Integration Protocols and ASEAN Protocol on Enhanced Disputes Settlement Mechanism in the presence of Heads of State/Government of ASEAN countries.

Also present on the occasion were Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Deputy Minister U Kyaw Thu, ministers of ASEAN countries, deputy ministers, senior officials and the ASEAN Secretary-General. Next, the Heads of State/Government of ASEAN countries and Heads of State/Government of the People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea attended the working lunch at Room B-6 of Lao-ITECC. They had documentary photos taken at Room B-2 before the ASEAN+3 Summit.

When the ASEAN+3 Summit was held, heads of State/Government of ASEAN countries, Chinese Premier Mr Wen Jiabao, Japanese Prime Minister Mr Junichiro Koizumi and President of ROK Mr Roh Moo Hyun attended it. The ministers, the deputy ministers and senior officials of ASEAN countries, China, Japan and Korea, the ASEAN Secretary-General and officials attended the summit as observers at Room B-4 of Lao-ITECC.

At 4.45 pm, the summit between heads of State/Government of ASEAN countries and the Premier of PRC was held at Room B-2 of Lao-ITECC. After the summit, the signing ceremony for the Agreement on Trade in Goods of the Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Cooperation between ASEAN and China and the Agreement on Disputes Settlement Mechanism between ASEAN and China was held at Theatre-1. Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha and Economic Ministers of ASEAN countries and China signed the documents in the presence of the heads of State/Government of ASEAN countries

and the Chinese Premier.

Also present on the occasion were Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Deputy Minister U

Kyaw Thu, the ministers and deputy ministers of ASEAN countries and China, senior officials and the ASEAN Secretary-General. — MNA

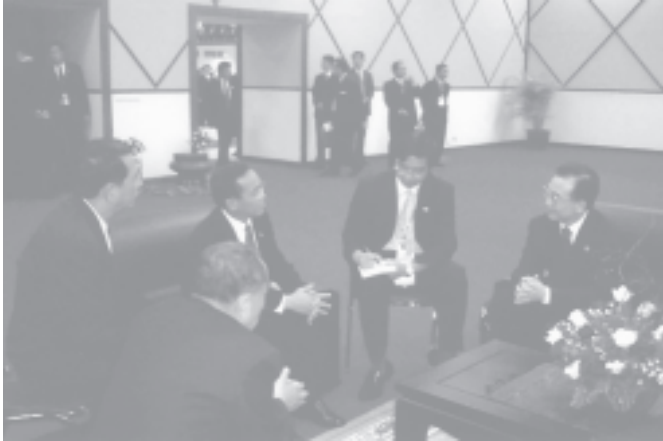


Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win poses for documentary photo with Heads of State/Government of ASEAN countries at ASEAN+3 Summit.— MNA



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win and Japanese Prime Minister Mr Junichiro Koizumi in a discussion at Friendship House at Villa Dongpasak in Vientiane, Lao PDR. (News on page 7) — MNA

Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win meets with Chinese Premier



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win cordially greets Chinese Prime Minister Mr Wen Jiabao at Lao International Trade Exhibition & Convention Centre. MNA

YANGON, 2 Dec — Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar Lt-Gen Soe Win met with Premier of the People's Republic of China Mr Wen Jiabao at the Lao International Trade Exhibition and Convention Centre in Vientiane of the Lao People's Democratic Republic at 2.40 pm on 29 November.

Also present at the call were Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, directors-general of the Prime Minister's Office and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Chinese Premier was accompanied by Chinese Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Li Zhaoxing and officials.

The two Prime Ministers cordially discussed enhancing of friendly relationship between the two countries and greater cooperation in economic and social affairs.

MNA



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win attending the dinner hosted by Laotian counterpart Bounnhang Vorachith and wife Mrs Khammeung Vorachith at Lao ITECC in Vientiane. —MNA

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

YANGON, 2 Dec — Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar Lt-Gen Soe Win on 29 November evening attended the gala dinner for 10th ASEAN Summit and Related Summits hosted by Laotian Prime Minister Mr Bounnhang Vorachith and wife Mrs Khammeung Vorachith at Lao International Trade Exhibition & Convention Centre (Lao ITECC) in Vientiane.

It was also attended by Bruneian King Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Muizzaddin Waddaulah, Cambodian Prime Minister Mr Samdech Hun Sen, Indonesian President Mr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and wife, 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, Chi-

nese Premier Wen Jiabao, Japanese Prime Minister Mr Junichiro Koizumi, President of Republic of Korea Mr Roh Moo-hyun and wife, Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of Australia Mr John Howard and wife, Prime Minister of New Zealand Mrs Helen Clark, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development of Myanmar U Soe Tha, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu, ministers and deputy ministers of ASEAN dialogue partners, high ranking officials, ASEAN secretary-general and officials.

Laotian Prime Minister Mr Bounnhang Vorachith and wife welcomed them at Lao ITECC where the honorary dinner would be held.

At the dinner, Laotian Prime Minister Mr Bounnhang Vorachith extended greetings and proposed toasts together

Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win confers with Japanese counterpart

YANGON, 2 Dec—Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win paid a courtesy call on Japanese Prime Minister Mr Junichiro Koizumi at Friendship House of the Villa Dongpasak in Vientiane, the Lao People's Democratic Republic on 29 November evening.

Also present were Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu, Myanmar Ambassador to the LPDR U Tin Oo, departmental heads of the Prime Minister's Office, Pyithu Hluttaw Office and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japanese Foreign Affairs Minister Mr Nobutaka Machimura and Japanese high-ranking officials.

On the occasion, the Myanmar

Prime Minister briefed Mr Junichiro Koizumi on developments in Myanmar, measures being taken for enhancing national solidarity and successful holding of the National Convention for drawing the State Constitution.

The Japanese Prime Minister said that he had an understanding of the explanations of his Myanmar counterpart and wished him success in the tasks.

He said he would like the Myanmar counterpart to convey his pledge to Head of State Senior General Than Shwe that Japan and Myanmar had established friendly relations for many years and thus Japan would take steps for strengthening bilateral amicable relations.

MNA



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win cordially greets Japanese counterpart Mr Koizumi at Friendship House in Villa Dongpasak, Vientiane. — MNA

Myanmar, Philippines discuss bilateral cooperation

YANGON, 2 Dec — Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar Lt-Gen Soe Win met with President of the Philippines Mrs Gloria Macapagal Arroyo at Lao International Trade Exhibition and Convention Centre in Vientiane, Lao People's Democratic Republic, at 10.15 am on 29 November.

The Prime Minister and the Presi-

dent cordially discussed matters relating to cooperation between the two nations based on common interest.

Also present were Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha and the directors-general of the Prime Minister's Office and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

MNA

Myanmar, Malaysia discuss technological, economic development

YANGON, 2 Dec — Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar Lt-Gen Soe Win met with Malaysian counterpart Dato Seri Abdullah bin Haji Ahmad Badawi at Lao International Trade Exhibition and Convention Centre in Vientiane, Lao People's Democratic Republic, at 11.40 am on 29 November.

The focal point of their cordially discussions was technological and economic development.

Also present were Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha and the directors-general of the Prime Minister's Office and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. — MNA

ASEAN-Russia Foreign Ministers' Meeting held

YANGON, 2 Dec — ASEAN-Russia Foreign Ministers' meeting was held on 29 November in Vientiane, Lao People's Democratic Republic.

Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, foreign ministers of ASEAN nations and foreign minister of Russia Federation attended the meeting.

After the meeting, ASEAN foreign ministers and Russian foreign minister signed the Instrument of Extension of Treaty of Amity and Cooperation and Instrument of Accession to Treaty of Amity and Cooperation which pave the way for Russia to include in ASEAN Friendship and Cooperation Treaty.

MNA

with prime ministers, presidents and officials.

Laotian traditional cultural troupe entertained guests with music at the dinner.

As a gesture of hailing the meetings related with 10th ASEAN Summit, hot-air balloons decorated with the flags of ASEAN nations were released in Vientiane at night. — MNA



Senior General Than Shwe inspects water storage capacity at Hinywet Dam.— MNA



As Government and people...

(from page 1)

characteristics of a hospital. Almost cent per cent of construction task has been completed so far. Afterwards, they inspected construction of the runway of An Airfield.

The Senior General held a cordial meeting with officers and other ranks and their families of An Station at An Yoma Hall. Prior to the meeting, Secretary-1 Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein, together with SPDC Member Quartermaster-General Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Rear-Admiral Soe Thein and Commander-in-Chief

(Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, met officers and other ranks of An Station and their family members and dealt with organizational matters. Senior General Than Shwe and party ar-

rived back An Airport. The Senior General cordially greeted departmental officials and members of social organizations who saw him off. The Senior General and party flew to Minkyaung Creek

The Senior General gave guidance on completion of the project earlier than scheduled for convenience of the people. From the briefing hall, the Senior General inspected work progress.

welcomed at Kyaukpyu Airport by local authorities, service personnel, teachers and students, members of the USDA and Rakhine traditional cultural troupe and locals.

At the meeting

paddy for local food sufficiency, growing of pepper as different crop, edible oil crops, kitchen crops and vegetables, raising fish, prawn and livestock, education, health, transport sectors,



Senior General Than Shwe inspects progress in building An Township Hospital (100-bed). — MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein explains progress in politics and economy of the State.—MNA

Bridge Project on Yangon-Kyaukpyu Road in Yanbye Township, Kyaukpyu District, where they were welcomed by Deputy Minister for Construction Brig-Gen Myint Thein, Project Senior Engineer U Tin Soe and officials. Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun gave an account of the project, progress in constructing approach roads, the main bridge, large bridges in Rakhine State, and repairing of Kyaukpyu-Maei section and Maei-Taungup section on Yangon-Kyaukpyu Road.

On completion, the bridge will be a 2,704 feet long facility with a 24-foot-wide motorway and two 3-foot-wide pedestrian lanes on it. The reinforced concrete bridge will withstand 60-ton loads. Now, 80 per cent of the project has been completed.

In the afternoon, the Senior General and party helicoptered to Kyaukpyu. They were

with local authorities and departmental officials at Yammawady Hall in Kyaukpyu, the Senior General and party heard reports presented by Kyaukpyu District PDC Chairman Lt-Col Myo Tint on location and area of the region, land utilization, measures for prevalence of law and order, community peace and stability, agriculture, cultivation of monsoon

and requirements for regional development.

Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo reported on tasks for extending cultivation of paddy and boosting per acre yield for regional food security; Minister Maj-Gen Saw Tun, on conditions on Yangon-Sittway Road, progress in constructing Yangon-Kyaukpyu Road; Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, on health care concerns, vaccination and medical treatments to the people in Kyaukpyu District; (See page 9)

On completion, Minkyaung Creek Bridge will be a 2,704 feet long facility with a 24-foot-wide motorway and two 3-foot-wide pedestrian lanes on it.



Minkyaung Creek Bridge under construction, 2,704 feet long, with 24 feet wide motor road and three feet wide pedestrian ways on both sides, seen on Yangon-Kyaukpyu Road in Yanbye Township, on 1 December.— MNA



Senior General Than Shwe inspects the resorts along Ngapali Beach. — MNA

As Government and people...

(from page 8)

Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, on assistance to be rendered by the Ministry for Rakhine State to export its marketable crops via border trade centre; Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, on distribution of fuel oil in Rakhine State; Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein, on prospects of Rakhine State in the fish and meat sector; Minister for Hotels and Tourism and for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, on progress made in the tourism industry, and plans for betterment of auto exchange system.

Next, the Secretary-1 elaborated on political and economic development, Our Three Main National Causes, the bounden duty which all national people have to hand down to posterity, and requirements of peace and tranquillity and

Shwe gave guidance, saying that Kyaukpyu District has a favourable cli-

mate and geographical condition, and its development relies on the efforts and labour of the local people. However, the district cannot produce enough rice for its population and per capita income is low when compared with other regions.

portant for both to be dutiful. The Government has to weigh its income up to expend the funds in a pro-

Senior General and party cordially met Tatmadaw members and families of Kyaukpyu Station. Before

leaving Kyaukpyu for Thandwe by air, they cordially greeted officials, social organizations, cul-

tural troupes, and local people who saw them off at the airport.

(Seepage 10)



Senior General Than Shwe gives guidance on efforts to complete Kyaukpyu-Ma-ei-Taungup section earlier than scheduled. —MNA

mate and geographical condition, and its development relies on the efforts and labour of the local people. However, the district cannot produce enough rice for its population and per capita income is low when compared with other regions.

portionate ratio on extending all public transport, education, health facilities. As the Government's revenues mainly come from taxes, its income will increase only if the economy of the people is good.

In this regard, the people should strive with heart and soul for development of the economy and production industries. The stronger the economy and the higher the per capita income of the people in all regions of the country, the greater economic development the Government will enjoy. The Senior General cordially greeted those present at the meeting.

At the Thadoe Maha Bandoolla Hall, the



Senior General Than Shwe cordially converses with Tatmadawmen and families of Kyaukpyu station at Thadoe Maha Bandoolla Hall.— MNA

Kyaukpyu District is required to extend crops that thrive well in the region, in addition to paddy to raise income.

strong economy for transforming the nation into a democratic one. The Secretary-1 stressed the importance of production of paddy surplus and new products region-wise, and boosting production in various sectors.

Senior General Than

The local people need to double or triple their efforts. The district is required to extend crops that thrive well in the region, in addition to paddy to raise income. As the Government and the people have their own responsibilities, it is impor-



Senior General Than Shwe gives guidance to local authorities and departmental officials from Kyaukpyu District at Yammawady Hall in Kyaukpyu. —MNA



Senior General Than Shwe hears reports on implementation of hydel power projects in Thandwe Region by Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut. — MNA

As Government and people...

(from page 9)

In Thandwe today, the Senior General held a meeting on hydroelectric power projects to be implemented in Thandwe region. Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut reported to the Senior General on salient points of Thahtay Creek Hydel Power Project, Thandwe Creek Hydel Power

priority should be given to the Thahtay Creek Hydel Power Project. Feasibility study and survey should be conducted to implement An Creek Hydel Power Project in An region soonest. Preliminary survey showed that a 15-megawatt power station can be built on the An Creek.

Thahtay Creek

Kyeintali Creek Hydel Power Project will be located 38 miles south-east of the town. It will be installed with 28-megawatt turbines.

Accompanied by the commander, the Senior General and party inspected private hotels including Amata Resort and Sandoway Resort on Ngapali Beach. The Senior General greeted the hoteliers. He also in-

spected Ngapali Beach Hotel. Along the beach, he observed the hotels and the potential developments of the beach.

Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Thein Zaw reported to the Senior General on a video footage on the tourism promotion campaign, extension of private hotels at the beach, and accommodation capacity of hotels and the

number of visitors to the beach. After giving guidance, the Senior General inspected the map showing land allotment for hoteliers and new hotel projects.

At Amazing Ngapali Resort, the Senior General inspected the studio suite, and gave guidance on development of tourism industry in the region. After inspecting Thandwe by car the Sen-

ior General and party went to Thandwe Airport, where they were seen off by the commander, senior military officers, local authorities, social organizations, mingala drum troupe, traditional dance troupes, band troupes and dance troupes and local people.

The Senior General and party arrived back here this evening.

MNA



Senior General Than Shwe hears reports on plans for water supply and summer paddy cultivation. — MNA

Project, and Kyeintali Creek Hydel Power Project in the region, with the help of maps and charts. Commander Brig-Gen Min Aung Hlaing, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, and Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo gave supplementary reports.

In response to the reports, the Senior General gave guidance, saying that of the projects,

Hydel Power Project will be built on Thate or Thahtay Creek 15 miles north-east of Thandwe. As it is a 100-megawatt project, priority will be given to implement it for supplying power to Thandwe region and hotel industry in Ngapali Beach.

The 30-megawatt Thandwe Creek Hydel Power Station will be on Thandwe Creek 13 miles south-east of the town.



Senior General Than Shwe cordially greets Tatmadawmen and families from An station. — MNA



Storage of water seen at Hinywet Dam 70 feet in height and 750 feet in length on 1st December. — MNA



Cent per cent completion of An Township Hospital (100-bed). — MNA

THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY-GENERAL'S MESSAGE ON THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF DISABLED PERSONS 3 December 2004

This year's International Day of Disabled Persons focuses on the goal of full and equal participation by persons with disabilities in social life and development, which is a central message of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons.

For many years, persons with disabilities tended to be viewed as "objects" of welfare policies. Today, as a result of a dramatic shift in perspective that has been taking place over the past two decades, persons with disabilities have started to be viewed as people who must enjoy the full spectrum of civil, political, social, cultural and economic rights. This process is admittedly slow and uneven, but it is taking place in all parts of the world. The motto of the international disability movement, "Nothing About Us Without Us", encapsulates the shift.

The right to make one's own choices and to participate in all areas of life is figuring prominently in current efforts to elaborate an international convention on the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities. Those efforts are making good progress, and the process itself has seen an unprecedented degree of engagement by persons with disabilities and their organizations in international negotiations, bringing their first-hand experience and expertise to bear on disability issues.

Indeed, it has become increasingly clear that persons with disabilities are the best experts on how to remove barriers to their participation, and must be included in the design, implementation and evaluation of policies and programmes that affect their lives. Moreover, no society can claim to be based on justice and equality without persons with disabilities taking decisions as full-fledged members.

On this observance of the International Day of Disabled Persons, let us reaffirm our commitment to fundamental changes in our thinking about the place of persons with disabilities in society. And let us pledge to work even harder towards fully inclusive societies. — UNIC

Objectives of 57th Anniversary Independence Day

- All the national people to collectively safeguard the national independence and sovereignty of the State and ensure non-disintegration of the Union and national unity
- All the national people to unitedly strive with might and main for emergence of an enduring State Constitution and for building a new modern and developed nation
- All the national people to work in concert for success of the seven-point Road Map of the State with Union Spirit and nationalist spirit
- All the national people to make concerted efforts for building of a new discipline-flourishing democratic nation

News from the Districts

Self-reliant knowledge banks (libraries) mushrooming nationwide

PINLAUNG, 10 Nov — Opening ceremony of Nannein Village in Lonepyin Village-tract in Pinlaung Township was held on 29 October at the village.

At the ceremony, wellwishers provided 70 books on knowledge including journals and cash for the library.

Head of the township Information and Public Relations Department (IPRD) U Tun Linn briefed on the work of a library.

Township Peace and Development Council Chairman U Saw Hla Oo and officials opened the library.

Similarly, a self-reliant library was inaugurated on 17 October in Totsan Village in Kyaukme Township in Shan State (North).

At the ceremony, Head of the township IPRD U Kyaw Win and wellwishers provided books on knowledge and cash for the library through the supervisory committee members of the library.

A total of 10,410 libraries have been opened up to 30 November all over the country.

KYEMON

Talks on diabetes held in Pathein

PATHEIN, 14 Nov — To mark the World Diabetes Day, talks on diabetes was held at Pathein General Hospital in Pathein, Ayeyawady Division on 14 November.

Physician Dr Tin Maung Win of the general hospital gave talks on diabetic complications and do's and don'ts for prevention of the disease.

KYEMON

Ditches dug in Wetlet Township

WETLET, 20 Nov — With the aim of supplying irrigation water to be able to cultivate double and triple crops in Wetlet Township, Wetlet Township Irrigation Department has dug the ditches in the township.

On 9 November, under the arrangement of Wetlet Township Peace and Development Council the officials of the Irrigation Department oversaw the digging of the drainage channels flanking Shwebo-Monywa Road near ShwePanGon Model Monsoon paddy field in the Township.

The Irrigation Department will irrigate the farmland through the drainage so that monsoon and summer paddy, and winter crops could be cultivated in the township.

KYEMON

Cooperatives Minister attends opening of Sanpya cooperative shop in South Okkalapa

YANGON, 2 Dec — An opening ceremony of Sanpya cooperative shop of AungTagun Trading Cooperative Ltd in South Okkalapa Township was held at the shop this morning, attended by Minister for Cooperatives Col Zaw Min.

Director-General Col Soe Win of Cooperative Department, Chairman of Yangon Division General Economic Cooperative Union U Ye Aung and chairman of Township General Economic Cooperative Syndicate Ltd U Myint Swe formally opened the shop. Chairman U Ye Aung presented K 100,000 to



Minister for Cooperatives Col Zaw Min inspects shop of Aung Tagun Sanpya Cooperative Society in South Okkalapa Township. — COOPERATIVE

Vice-Chairman U Myo Tint of Aung Tagun Trading Cooperative Ltd. Later, the minister and party viewed round the

shop and the ceremony ended.

Consumer goods, stationery, electrical equipment, cosmetics are

available at the shop. A total of 16 shops have been opened in Yangon Division.

MNA

Cash donated to Hospice

YANGON, 2 Dec — U Myo Naing, wife Daw Aye Aye Myint and wellwishers including old trainees of Sinda Technical Training School and Myanmar families in Sydney, Australia, donated K 2 million to U Hla Tun Hospice Cancer

Foundation (Centre) on No 2 Highway in Dagon Myothit (East) Township at 10 am on 30 November. Chairman of the foundation U Hla Tun accepted the donations and presented certificates of honour to the wellwishers. —H



Chairman of U Hla Tun Hospice Cancer Foundation U Hla Tun accepts cash donations from wellwishers. —H

Literary prize winners to report by 9 December

YANGON, 2 Dec — The ceremony for presenting the 2003 Life-long National Literary Award, National Literary Award, Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award and the 15th National Motto, Literary and Photo prizes to the winners will be held at the National Theatre on Myoma Kyaung Street here on 12 December.

The winners of National Literary Award and Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award are to attend the rehearsal without fail at the venue at 1 pm on 10 December, and to report in

person or on phone to the Chief Editor of Sarpay Beikman (Tel: 252560, 381450) not later than 9 December.

And the winners of the 15th National Motto, Literary and Photo prizes are to report in person to the Secretary (Myanma Radio and Television) of the committee for holding the literary contest by 9 December. — MNA

**Drive
safely**

MNA/Reuters

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Brain scans show difference of liar's, truth teller's brain

WASHINGTON, 1 Dec—Brain scans show that the brains of people who are lying look very different from those of people who are telling the truth, US researchers said on Monday.

The study, using functional magnetic resonance imaging or fMRI, not only sheds light on what goes on when people lie but may also provide new technology for lie-detecting, the researchers said.

"There may be unique areas in the brain involved in deception that can be measured with fMRI," said Dr. Scott Faro, director of the Functional Brain Imaging Centre at Tem-

ple University School of Medicine in Philadelphia. "There may be unique areas in the brain involved in truth-telling," Faro added at a news conference.

Faro and colleagues tested 10 volunteers. Six of them were asked to shoot a toy gun and then lie and say they did not do it. Three others who watched told the truth about what happened. One

volunteer dropped out of the study.

While giving their "testimony", the volunteers were hooked up both to a conventional polygraph and also had their brain activity imaged using fMRI, which used a strong magnet to provide a real-time picture of brain activity.

There were clear differences between the liars and the truth-tellers, Faro's team told a meeting in Chicago of the Radiological Society of North America.

"We found a total of seven areas of activation in the deception (group)," he said. "We found four areas of activity in the truth-telling arm."

Overall, it seemed to take more brain effort to tell the lie than to tell the truth, Faro found.

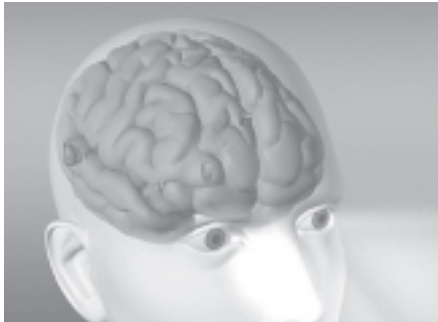
Lying caused activity in the frontal part of the brain — the medial infe-

rior and pre-central areas, as well as the hippocampus and middle temporal regions and the limbic areas. Some of these are involved in emotional responses, Faro said.

During a truthful response, the fMRI showed activation of parts of the brain's frontal lobe, temporal lobe and cingulate gyrus.

Faro said the study was small and limited. Volunteers were not asked to try especially hard to deceive the equipment, he said — noting that it has been documented that some people can fool a polygraph using various techniques.

Using fMRI as a lie detector is expensive, but it may be worthwhile in some cases — such as trying to question a terrorism suspect, or in a high-profile corporate crime case, Faro said.—MNA/Reuters



Computer image mapping parts of the brain. A high-tech brain scan may one day make it easier for psychiatrists to diagnose bipolar disorder with greater confidence, US researchers said.—INTERNET



The bust of a statue archaeologists identify as Roman Emperor Philip the Arab, who ruled from 224 to 249 AD, is seen on a beach on the Mediterranean island of Corsica in this recent undated photo. Archaeologists announced on 19 Nov, 2004 that a 2-metre statue of a feminine silhouette and statue fragments of the Roman Emperor were discovered on 23 Oct, 2004 in shipwreck dating from the third century off Porticcio in southern Corsica.—INTERNET

Schwarzenegger's wife says America may amend US Constitution

LOS ANGELES, 1 Dec—California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's wife, Maria Shriver, says America may someday amend the US Constitution and elect a foreign-born president — but it will not be her husband.

"Forget about it. It is not going to happen. The process takes years, and this is as far as it goes," Shriver, the niece of former president John F Kennedy, told *Vanity Fair* magazine amid talk of amending the Constitution to allow the Austrian-born film star to run for president.—MNA/Reuters

Draft anti-terrorism law submitted to Russian Parlt

MOSCOW, 1 Dec—Russian deputies submitted a draft anti-terrorism law to parliament on Tuesday in the latest security measure.

The bill proposes enabling authorities to introduce a series of emergency measures — including phone tapping, more document checks and media restrictions — if they receive information, even unconfirmed, that an attack is being planned.

"Upon receiving information, pointing to the possibility of the preparation or threat of a terrorist act... temporary special legal restrictions could be introduced as a counter-terrorism measure," the text of the bill, obtained by *Reuters*, says.

The bill, proposed by the dominant pro-Kremlin United Russia party, could come up for discussion in its first reading by the end of the year, the Duma's security committee head, Vladimir Vasilyev, was quoted as saying by *RIA Novosti* news agency.

MNA/Reuters

Scientists say urinary incontinence in women can be corrected

CHICAGO, 1 Dec—Urinary incontinence in women can be corrected by transplanting the patient's own muscle-derived stem cells into the urethra to strengthen it, scientists said on Monday.

The outpatient procedure takes only 15 to 20 minutes and many patients have no leakage within 24 hours, said the report from the Medical University of Innsbruck, Austria.

"We believe we have developed a long-lasting and effective treatment that is especially promising because it is generated from the patient's own body," said Ferdinand

Frauscher, associate professor of radiology at the school.

"Urinary incontinence is a major problem for women, and for an increasing number of men," he added in a report released at the annual meeting of the Radiological Society of North America.

He said the stem cells are removed from a patient's arm, cultured in a lab

for six weeks and then injected into the wall of the urethra and into the sphincter muscle, restoring muscle mass and contractility.

About 15 million people around the world, primarily women, suffer from stress incontinence in which urine leakage occurs when an individual exercises, coughs, sneezes, laughs or lifts heavy objects, the report said.

The procedure was successfully done on 20 women aged 36 to 84, the report said.

"These are very intelligent cells," Frauscher said. "Not only do they stay where they are injected, but also they quickly form new muscle tissue and when the muscle mass reaches the appropriate size, the cell growth ceases automatically."—MNA/Reuters

Study shows experimental vaccine reduced presence of HIV

SAO PAULO (Brazil), 1 Dec—An experimental vaccine reduced the presence of the HIV virus by at least 80 per cent in a Brazilian study of 18 infected patients released in the journal *Nature Medicine*.

Viral loads in all patients fell and stayed low for one year after being inoculated with the vaccine three times in a six-week period, the study said. In eight of the patients, viral loads fell by more than 90 per cent, according to the article posted on its web site (nature.com).

The patients did not receive any antiviral drugs prior to or during the study, which was conducted by the Federal University in Pernambuco State and sponsored by French medical institutes.

Despite the encouraging results, researchers advised caution about hope for a cure for HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

"We should emphasize... that the efficacy of such a therapeutic vaccine will not be definitively proven until a randomized trial with an appropriate control arm has been performed," the authors said in the British journal.—MNA/Reuters



Alicia Keys poses for pictures on the red carpet upon her arrival at a benefit in New York City on 1 Dec, 2004. The benefit, presented by Alicia Keys, was for 'Keep A Child Alive', an organization that provides life-saving medications to children with HIV/AIDS in Africa.—INTERNET

Over a ton of cocaine seized in Nicaragua

MANAGUA, 1 Dec — Nicaraguan police have seized more than a ton of cocaine in a nationwide search following Friday's capture of a light plane with arms and drug residues on board, local Press said recently.

Police in the north-western Leon Department found the drugs in a truck with a Salvadoran licence.

The drugs, 1,105 kilos in total, were packed in 36 sacks and hidden in a compartment of the truck, said Captain Alfonso Silva, chief of public relations of the Leon Department Police.

Differences in the dimensions of the driver's cabin and the cargo compartment drew police attention, said Silva.

The truck driver, identified as Genaro Gonzalez, carried two identity cards, one of Nicaraguan nationality and the other Salvadoran.

The confiscated drugs were believed to have links with the drug-trafficking light plane.

MNA/Xinhua



Manchester United players celebrate after David Bellion scored in the opening minutes making it 1-0 against Arsenal during their Carling Cup quarterfinal clash at Old Trafford. — INTERNET

SPORTS

Man Utd beat Arsenal 1-0 in League Cup quarterfinal

LONDON, 2 Dec—A David Bellion goal in the opening seconds gave Manchester United a 1-0 win over arch-rivals Arsenal and a place in the League Cup quarterfinal on Wednesday.

The night's other quarterfinal between Tottenham Hotspur and Liverpool was deadlocked at 0-0 with extra time being played at White Hart Lane.

Chelsea and Second Division Watford secured their places in the semifinal draw with victories over Fulham and Premier League Portsmouth respectively on Tuesday.

United's victory in a game between two second-string sides came five weeks after their first team ended Arsenal's record 49-match unbeaten league run at Old Trafford, triggering a collapse in form from which the champions have yet to recover.

October's 2-0 win also led to the 'Battle of the Buffet' in which snacks were reportedly

thrown at United manager Alex Ferguson in the players' tunnel, adding to a long-standing enmity between the two sides. Their latest encounter swung United's way immediately after kickoff when Bellion's seemingly harmless shot straight at Manuel Almunia bounced off the Spanish keeper's knee and into the net.

MNA/Reuters

Cisse afraid of losing left leg

LONDON, 2 Dec — Liverpool's French striker Djibril Cisse feared he would lose his left leg following the injury he suffered against Blackburn Rovers in October. The international forward is out of action for the rest of the season after breaking his leg in two places at Ewood Park, but realizes the situation could have been a lot worse.

"When I was taken from the field, what they did next was so important for my career, what they did in those first few moments was vital," he was quoted on Wednesday as saying in the Premier League club's official magazine.

MNA/Reuters

UEFA official calls for cooperation to tackle violence

ISTANBUL, 2 Dec — A top UEFA official called on Wednesday for cooperation to tackle soccer violence at a meeting to unveil the logo and ticket details for the Champions League final in Istanbul in May.

Turkish football was rocked last week by the fatal stabbing of a 16-year-old during a match at Besiktas' stadium in the city.

"Everybody involved in football in Turkey must help each other to prevent violence," Turkish UEFA vice-president Senes Erzik was reported as saying by Anatolian news agency.

"UEFA and FIFA are both watching the events... and are working on various sanctions to prevent them," he said referring to violence and racist behaviour at recent matches in Europe.

Turkish football officials pledged to make a success of the final, being staged at Istanbul's Olympic Stadium on May 25.

"We will do everything we can to make this final the best ever," Turkish Football Federation Chairman Levent Bicakci told the meeting.

The match will be played in front of 69,000 spectators, down from a usual capacity of 80,000. It was not clear why the capacity had been reduced.

MNA/Reuters

Korean favourites Seongnam Ilhwa stunned by Al Ittihad

KUALA LUMPUR, 2 Dec — Saudi Arabia's Al Ittihad stunned Korean favourites Seongnam Ilhwa 5-0 on Wednesday to lift the Asian Champions League title with a 6-3 aggregate win.

Having suffered a 3-1 defeat in the first leg in Jeddah last week which resulted in the sacking of coach Tomislav Ivic, Al Ittihad produced a remarkable performance at the Seongnam Sports Complex to ruin the home side's hopes of salvaging a disappointing season. Defender Rehda Tukar gave Al Ittihad the lead on 27 minutes when he rose above Park Woo-hyun to head in Chico's corner.

Hamza Idris made it 2-0 for the six-times Saudi champions in first-half injury time after Seongnam failed to clear a Chico freekick.

Seongnam were forced to go on the offensive in the second half which played into the hands of the counter-attacking Saudis, coached by Dragan Talajic.

Al Ittihad took the aggregate lead when skipper Mohamed Noor tucked the ball past Seongnam keeper Yang Young-min after a run down the left by Manaf Abushgeer.

Noor made it 4-0 in the 78th minute and Abushgeer completed an amazing victory with a curling shot five minutes into injury time. — MNA/Reuters



Al-Ittihad's Mario Karecca (front) is challenged by Seongnam Ilhwa Chunma's Wang Cheon during the first leg of the Asian Champions League final. Seongnam Ilhwa Chunma took a huge step towards securing their third continental title when they beat Al-Ittihad 3-1 in Jeddah. — INTERNET



A free kick by Feyenoord goes through the wall of Schalke 04 during their UEFA Cup football match in Rotterdam. — INTERNET

Feyenoord defeat Schalke 04 2-1

LONDON, 2 Dec — Feyenoord won the battle of the former winners to reach the final 32 of the UEFA Cup on Wednesday after a 2-1 victory over Schalke 04.

The Rotterdam side, winners in 2002 when they beat Borussia Dortmund in their own De Kuip stadium, joined 1997 victors Schalke in qualifying from Group A.

Feyenoord and former European champions Steaua Bucharest were the only teams on the night to guarantee progress to the knockout stages.

The Cup's new group format this season involves eight groups of five teams with the top three going into the last 32 where they are joined by eight teams from the Champions League.

Two goals from Salomon Kalou lifted the pressure on Feyenoord boss Ruud Gullit, under-fire for his side's stuttering league form.

Bundesliga high-flyers Schalke, who started with regular strike duo Ebbe Sand and Gerald Asamoah on the bench, took a seventh minute lead when Mike Hanke poked

home from close range.

Kalou levelled in the 32nd minute after he was played in by strike partner Dirk Kuijt and the same pair combined again four minutes before the break, Kuijt crossing for Kalou to score with a diving header.

Swiss side Basel came from a goal down in Budapest in the other Group A game to defeat Ferencvaros 2-1 and keep their hopes of going through alive.

Steaua Bucharest went through from Group B despite a 1-0 defeat in Spain to Athletic Bilbao.

The Romanian side have completed their programme on six points but can only be overhauled by two of the other four teams.

Athletic captain Joseba Etxeberria hit the only goal in first-half stoppage time, firing a superbly taken shot into the roof of the net after striker Ismael Urzaiz had headed

back into his path at a rain-drenched San Mames.

Steaua were denied an equalizer late on when Daniel Aranzubia made a fine block from Nicolae Dica.

Besiktas were pegged back by a late equaliser in Istanbul, Sambegou Bangoura cancelling out a first-half strike from Turkish international midfielder Okan Buruk. The 1-1 draw left both sides on four points with all still to play for.

Sporting, who will stage this season's final in Lisbon, wasted the chance to book their place after failing to get the point they needed at home to Sochaux in Group D.

Johann Lonfat scored with an angled drive in the second minute after a mistake by Brazilian defender Polga to net the only goal for the French side, who join Sporting on six points with one round of matches to go.

MNA/Reuters

PLA General and party visit Shwedagon Pagoda, Myanmar Gems Emporium

YANGON, 2 Dec — Visiting Deputy Chief of the General Staff of the People's Liberation Army of the People's Republic of China General Ge Zhenfeng and party accompanied by Maj-Gen Aye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, Chinese Military Attaché Senior Colonel Ma Shoudong and officials, this morning visited Myanmar Gems Emporium after paying homage to Shwedagon Pagoda.

At 7.30 am, the visiting Chinese General and party went to Shwedagon Pagoda where they were welcomed by U Thein Zaw and officials of the pagoda board of trustees.

The Chinese General signed in the visitors' book and presented cash donations for the pagoda to U Thein Zaw and officials.

Next, the General



Chinese delegation offers cash donations to funds of the Shwedagon Pagoda.—MNA

and party paid homage to Jade Buddha Image and viewed the big bell donated by King Thayawady. Afterwards, they had group photo taken. They made a clock-wise round of the pagoda as an act of homage

and viewed round the religious buildings.

On arrival at Myanmar Gems Emporium on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road, the Chinese guests and party were welcomed by Assistant Director U Thit

Lwin and officials of Myanmar Gems Enterprise. Next, Adviser U Ohn Myint conducted the guests round the Gems Mart.

Later, the visiting General put his signature in the visitors' book.—MNA



USDA Secretariat Member Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan meets local people in Maukthayet village, Yinmabin Township.—MNA

Regional development in Sagaing Division discussed

YANGON, 2 Dec — The Secretariat member of Union Solidarity Development Association (Central) Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan went on inspection tour of rural development tasks in Yinmabin and Pale Townships, Monywa District, from 28 November to 1 December.

He attended mass meeting of Maukthayet Village held at Maukthayet Post-Primary School in Yinmabin Township, Monywa District. The minister discussed regional development.

The minister said that he was there to provide necessary assistance to the local people in accord with the guidance of Head of the State Senior General Than Shwe. He urged local people to

make efforts for regional development.

He expressed satisfaction for contribution of K 4.9 million of local people to the self-reliant bridge in Maukthayet village.

He added that the government is providing assistance for human resources development. A total of 156 universities

and colleges have been built nation-wide and the Government is striving to build a discipline-flourishing democratic nation and thus it is necessary for the people to collaborate with it for realizing Seven-point future policy programme of the State.

Afterwards, the Minister proceeded to Yinmabin BEHS. He met

with townselders there and presented prizes to outstanding students.

The Minister donated K 100,000 each for Yinmabin BEPS No 1 Yinbountin village primary school and Tawa Village Biogas plant. He also presented periodicals for self-reliant libraries and gifts to local people.—MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan presents cash assistance to Ma Aye Aye Htwe.—MNA



WEATHER

Thursday, 2 December, 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 (6°C) above normal in Rakhine State, (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Kachin and Chin States and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Namsam (2°C) and Hakha (6°C).

Maximum temperature on 1-12-2004 was 94°F. Minimum temperature on 2-12-2004 was 64°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 2-12-2004 was 87%. Total sunshine hours on 1-12-2004 was (7.9) hours approx. Rainfall on 2-12-2004 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 9 mph from North at (13:50) hours MST on 1-12-2004.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 3-12-2004: Possibility of isolated light rain in Rakhine State and Taninthayi Division and weather will be partly cloudy in Ayeyawdy and Yangon divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (40%).

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 3-12-2004: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 3-12-2004: Fair weather.

Indonesian rescuers find black box of plane wreck

Solo, 2 Dec— The Indonesian rescue team on Wednesday found the flight recorder of a passenger plane which crashed 20 hours earlier.

The cabin voice recorder, known as black box, of the US-made MD-82 aircraft was kept at the Emergency Operational Centre's room in the airport.

The plane crashed after skidding-off in a rain-slicked runway at the Adi Sumarmo Airport in the Central Java town of Solo. Official figure puts the death toll of the accident at 26.

Separately in Jakarta, Transport Minister Hatta Radjasa said it would take a maximum one month after the black box was found to announce the investigation result of the accident.

He said President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono has ordered him to launch a transparent investigation and announce the result to the public.

The government has formed an 18-member investigation team comprising aviation and medical experts and senior pilots.

MNA/Xinhua

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



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and visiting PLA Deputy Chief of General Staff General Ge Zhenfeng and party at Zeyathiri Beikman Hall.— MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye receives Deputy Chief of General Staff of PLA

YANGON, 2 Dec — 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 received 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 on Konmyinthta, here, at 9 am today.

Also present at the call were Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann, 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, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win and Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt.

The visiting General and party were accompanied by Chinese Ambassador Mr Li Jinjun and Military Attaché Senior Colonel Ma Shoudong. — MNA

Lt-Gen Soe Win attends 10th ASEAN Summit, summits of Heads of State/Govt of ASEAN and PRC, Japan and ROK

YANGON, 2 Dec — Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar Lt-Gen Soe Win attended the 10th ASEAN Summit at Lao International Trade Exhibition & Convention Centre (Lao ITECC) in Vientiane, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, on 29 November morning.

First, Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win and Heads of State/Government of ASEAN countries arrived at Lao ITECC, venue of the 10th ASEAN Summit at 8.15 am.

They were welcomed at the entrance of the building by Laotian students waving miniature flags of ASEAN countries and presenting Laos traditional music and dances.

Next, Laotian Prime Minister Mr Bounnhang Vorachith welcomed Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win and Heads of State/Government of ASEAN countries at the entrance of the

main building of Lao ITECC.

At 8.30 am, Heads of State/Government of ASEAN countries posed for documentary photo at Hall B-2 of Lao-ITECC before the summit.

Next, the summit followed. Present at the summit were His Majesty of Brunei Darussalam 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, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar Lt-Gen Soe Win, the Philippine President Mrs Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, Singaporean Prime Minister

(See page 6)



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win attends ASEAN+3 Summit at Lao-ITECC in Vientiane, Lao PDR.— MNA