

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Volume XII, Number 233

9th Waning of Tazaungmon 1366 ME

Sunday, 5 December 2004

Senior General Than Shwe sends message of felicitations to Thailand

YANGON, 5 Dec — On the occasion of the birthday of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej which falls on 5 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 His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej, King of Thailand. — MNA

Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win felicitates Thai counterpart

YANGON, 5 Dec — On the occasion of the birthday of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej which falls on 5 December 2004, Lt-Gen Soe Win, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Dr Thaksin Shinawatra, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand. — MNA

Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects river water pumping projects in NyaungU



Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects Thugaungte Water Pumping Station Project near Auknyint Village in NyaungU Township, Mandalay Division. — MNA

YANGON, 4 Dec — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office

and departments, left here and arrived at NyaungU Airport at 7 am on 29 November.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party were welcomed at the airport by Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace

and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint, Kyaukpadaung Station Commander Brig-Gen Than Tun, Chairman of (See page 8)

Bridge construction projects inspected in Mandalay

YANGON, 4 Dec — Member of the State Peace and Development

Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by

Chairman of Mandalay Division PDC and Commander of Central Com-

mand Maj-Gen Ye Myint, Chairman of Mandalay City Develop-

ment Council Mayor Brig-Gen Yan Thein, senior military officers, offi-

cials of the SPDC Office and departmental personnel, arrived at the construction project of Myitnge bridge, being undertaken by the special bridge construction group 12 of Public Works on 1 December.

At the briefing hall of the project, engineers presented reports on construction of the bridge. After hearing the reports, Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave instructions on timely completion of the project meeting the set standards.

(See page 10)



Lt-Gen Ye Myint looks into the construction site of Myitnge Bridge Project. — MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 5 December, 2004

For economic development and closer ties among five nations

The opening of the First CLMTV-ECS Trade Fair-2004 took place at the Myanmar Convention Centre on Mindhamma Road, Mayangon Township, on 3 December. The objectives of the Trade Fair with the theme "Towards Prosperity of Five Nations" are to promote trade within ECS countries, to gain market access for the ECS exportable products, to promote trade and investment opportunities of ECS countries and to promote and strengthen existing relations between ECS countries. Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win formally opened the Trade Fair.

Cambodia, Laos, host Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam are staging 135 pavilions at the Trade Fair. They include booths and sale centres of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, the Ministries of Industry 1 & 2, the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, the Ministry of Forestry, Thai companies, companies of Myanmar Forest Products and Timber Merchants Association, Industrialists Association, other various companies of traditional medicines, jade and jewellery, weaving, personal goods, farm equipment and sale rooms of Myanmar Rice Merchants Association and Myanmar Beans and Pulses and Sesamum Merchants Association.

Economic cooperation reflects good prospects and resources of the five neighbouring nations, and it is indeed the best programme for smooth trade and investment in the region. Such cooperation helps develop trade and investment and enhance close relations and mutual understanding among the five countries.

Under the Economic Cooperation Strategy (ECS) are the five major sectors: smooth trade and investment, agricultural and industrial cooperation, smooth main transport routes, development of tourism industry, and development of human resources. Of them, smooth trade and investment play an important role in creating job opportunities, increased income, and reduction of social and economic problems since it contributes towards flourishing of strong points of the competitive system, and fast flow of commodity and investment.

Holding trade fairs is the most effective means for development and smoothness of trade. Myanmar has participated in foreign trade fairs to enable national products to penetrate international markets, and hosted international trade fairs in the nation to improve the nation's economy.

The First CLMTV-ECS Trade Fair-2004 is a result of close relations between the nations in the sub-region, and it will contribute much to generating the trade and investment promotion in the countries.

It is thus believed that the hosting of the trade fair in the nation will provide greater opportunities for economy and investment and further cement relations between the five countries.

International Trade Course (Programme-3) opened

YANGON, 2 Dec—With the sponsorship of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, the International Trade Course (Programme-3) was opened at the UMFCI Training Centre on Bosunpek Street, here, this morning.

President of UMFCI U Win Myint made an opening speech and Chairman of UMFCI Education Committee U Sein Win Hlaing explained the purpose of the trade course. The eight-day course is being attended by 60 trainees.—MNA

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



Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung attends the 12th 47-member plenary meeting of the fifth State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee. — MNA

12th 47-member plenary meeting of fifth State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee continues

YANGON, 4 Dec—The 12th 47-member plenary meeting of the fifth State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee went on for the second day on Kaba Aye Hill here this morning.

It was attended by Vice-Chairman of the SSMNC Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Bahan Township Aungmyebonsan Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Pannindabhivamsa, Secretary Abhidhaja Maha

Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Magway Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kumara and member Sayadaws, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, departmental heads and officials. Sayadaw Bhaddanta Pannindabhivamsa presided over the meeting. Joint-Secretary Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Vicara acted as MC. Agga Maha

Ganthavacaka Pandita Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sumana presented the brief report on Vinaya matters, Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Sayadaw Bhaddanta Pannavamsa, on religious matters, and Agga Maha Ganthavacaka Pandita Sayadaw Bhaddanta Jotika, on academic matters carried out by the fifth SSMNC (First Branch). In the afternoon session, matters on religious affairs presented by Sayadaws from states, divisions and the report on

tasks carried out from the fifth SSMNC (First Branch) to date, and matters for selecting Sayadaws in the Vinaya sector were discussed. It was followed by a general round of discussions about religious affairs.

Chairman of the hilly region Buddhist missionary committee Agga Maha Thiri Thudhama Manizawtadara Annawa U Than Aung and family of Gyatawya Street in Bahan Township, Yangon, offered meals and desserts to the Sayadaws. — MNA

Laotian Commerce Minister leaves

YANGON, 4 Dec—Laotian Commerce Minister Mr Soulivong Daravong and party who attended the First CLMTV-ECS Trade Fair, left here by air for home this morning.

They were seen off at the Yangon International Airport by Deputy Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Aung Tun, Director-General of Directorate of Trade U Nyunt Aye and officials of Laotian Embassy to Myanmar.—MNA



Laotian Commerce Minister Mr Soulivong Daravong and party seen off at the airport. — MNA

Minister returns home

YANGON, 4 Dec—At the invitation of the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, the Myanmar delegation led by Minister for Science and Technology and for Labour U Thaug attended the ICT Ministerial Level Seminar on ASOCIO region held in Colombo on 1 and 2 December.

Altogether 15 nations in Asian Oceanian region attended the seminar and discussed matters related to regional collaboration, private sector and public sector initiatives, standardization of public policies, skills and standards.

The Myanmar delegation arrived back here yesterday evening and were welcomed at the Yangon International Airport by Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office Brig-Gen Pyi Sone and officials.—MNA



Medical staff give educational talks on AIDS. — MNA

Talks given to mark World AIDS Day

YANGON, 4 Dec—As a gesture hailing World AIDS Day, educational talks were given under the sponsorship of Shwetaung Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association in Bago Division and Myanmar Business Coalition on AIDS (MBCA) at the office of township MCWA on December 1 morning. — MNA

Malaysian FM says economy to be driving force for EAS

KUALA LUMPUR, 3 Dec— Economy would be the driving force behind the holding of the East Asia Summit (EAS), scheduled for December next year in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysian Foreign Minister Syed Hamid Albar said here Thursday.

With the rapid economic growth in China and the stability in Japan and South Korea, EAS would be of great benefit to Malaysia, Syed Hamid told reporters while commenting on the just-concluded 10th ASEAN Summit Meeting in Laos.

The Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), grouping 10 states in the region, was set up in 1967 to boost regional cooperation.

"We see the potential and the challenges and if we look at East Asia, there are almost two billion people in the region... so, there is a lot of benefit," he said.

Syed Hamid added that the modalities and details concerning the summit would be discussed by ASEAN foreign minis-

ters during a meeting in Cebu, the Philippines in February.

He said Malaysia also hoped that EAS would be held along with the ASEAN Summit to be held in Kuala Lumpur.

Syed Hamid stressed that countries in the region had expressed their desire to see East Asia churn out a community with confidence in terms of politics, security, economy, society and culture.

On ASEAN's role in the summit, he said the grouping would be the driving force for the holding of EAS. "So, ASEAN will not expire and vanish," he added.

Malaysia had offered to host the East Asia Summit in 2005 during the 10th ASEAN Summit in Vientiane, Laos at the end of last month. —MNA/Xinhua

India, Russia to build navigational satellite project

NEW DELHI, 3 Dec— India and Russia are putting together their space technology skills to build an ambitious navigational satellite project that would have both civilian and military applications, the Indo-Asian News Service (IANS) reported Thursday.

A milestone agreement on Indian participation in the proposed Global Navigational Satellite System (Glonass) as an equal and sole partner of Russia is to be signed during Russian President

Vladimir Putin's three-day visit to India from Friday, IANS quoted a senior official as saying.

Russia had revived the project recently as an alternative to the US Global Positioning Satellite System

and invited India to join it. New Delhi's positive response comes in the wake of delay in finalizing India's participation in the Galileo satellite navigation system that European Union is developing. —MNA/Xinhua

1,265 US troops killed since the beginning of Iraq war

WASHINGTON, 3 Dec — As of Friday, 3 Dec, 2004, at least 1,265 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 988 died as a result of hostile action, the Defense Department said. The figures include three military civilians.

The AP count is five higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated at 10 am EST Friday. 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 1 May, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,127 US military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 879 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

—One US soldier was killed Friday in an explosion near Kirkuk.

—One US soldier died Friday in an explosion in northern Baghdad. —Internet



A man poses as Santa Claus with a reindeer in Lapland on 3 Dec, 2004—INTERNET

ထုတ်တုန့်နှစ်သက်ခြင်း

Vietnam to discourage smoking

HANOI, 3 Dec— Vietnam will soon ban the sales of cigarettes to juveniles, the implementation of cigarette promotion programmes, and tobacco makers' sponsoring socio-economic activities.

The ban will be imposed from March 2005, when the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) initiated by the World Health Organization comes into force, local newspaper *Youth* reported Friday.

Under the FCTC, signatory countries are to ask tobacco producers to print large health warnings which represent 30-50 per cent of the total area of the main side of cigarette packets, increase the number of public places that prohibit smoking, and ban cigarette advertisements.

Vietnam, which has recently approved the FCTC, has already prohibited tobacco advertisements, said the report.

Statistics from the Health Ministry show that over 50 per cent of Vietnamese men and around 3 per cent of local women smoke cigarettes, and smoking has caused about 30,000 to 40,000 deaths annually.

Vietnamese smokers are estimated to spend some 30 billion Vietnamese dong (1.9 million US dollars) on cigarettes each year.

Vietnam, whose population now stands at about 82 million, has targeted to reduce the percentage of local smokers to 7 per cent by 2010, mainly by imposing higher taxes on tobacco products, restricting investment in cigarette production, and raising the public awareness

of the issues, the report said.

The global tobacco epidemic is still expanding, especially in developing countries where, currently, seven out of every ten tobacco-related deaths occur, according to the World Health Organization.

"Tobacco use kills 4.9 million people each year, and it has been estimated to cause an annual global net loss of 200 billion US dollars in healthcare cost and lost productivity. At current rates, the total number of tobacco users is expected to rise to 1.7 billion by 2025 from 1.3 billion now," the organization has said in a recent statement.

MNA/Xinhua

US soldiers patrol the northern Iraqi city of Mosul on 3 Dec, 2004. Six people were killed in attacks on the Nineveh provincial government headquarters in Mosul and on a US patrol.

INTERNET



Former US Marine sentenced to life in prison

LONDON, 3 Dec— A former US Marine on the run in Britain was sentenced to life in prison on Thursday for murdering a policeman as officers carried out a routine check on a stolen car.

Florida-born David Bieber, 38, a bodybuilder and nightclub doorman, was also convicted of the attempted murder of two other officers, shootings that attracted huge media interest across Britain.

Bieber gunned down police constable Ian Broadhurst, 34, at point blank range on Boxing Day last year in the northern city of Leeds as he was being questioned over the theft of a BMW.

He wounded officers Neil Roper, 45, and James Banks, 27 with gunshots before escaping in a hijacked car.

The police manhunt was speeded with the help of an audiotape recorded by the officers as they were trying to handcuff Bieber.

Police described Bieber's voice on the tape, which was played during the trial, as that of a "cold, calculating killer" who spoke in a calm manner.

On the tape, Broadhurst was heard pleading for his life before he was shot in the chest and then in the head.

During his trial, Bieber, also known as Nathan Coleman, told Newcastle Crown Court a mystery friend from the United States carried out the shootings, but he refused to name the man, saying he was a "loyal friend".

MNA/Reuters



Thai students in traditional dress perform fire stunts during a parade to mark World AIDS Day, in Bangkok on 1 Dec, 2004. —INTERNET

ဝက်ပျံ့ပွားအား ခေတ်ကျော်လွှား

Chinese leaders value role of economic audit

BELING, 2 Dec— Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao and Wu Guanzheng, Secretary of the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection of the Chinese Communist Party of China, have urged the improvement of economic audit work to boost the building of a clean government.

“Economic audit work is of great importance to building a clean government and promoting the government to act according to law,” Wen said in a written instruction to a national meeting on economic responsibility audit work, which opened here on Monday.

Wu said in his written instruction to the same meeting that audit results will be used as important reference in

evaluating and promoting cadres. Corrupt officials uncovered by audit departments will be punished.

China has decided to expand the scope of economic audit of government officials from the beginning of 2005. Heads of prefectures and prefecture-level agencies will be subject to economic auditing from January 1 of 2005, as were officials of lower ranks. —MNA/Xinhua

Cambodia still faces challenges in fighting against HIV/“AIDS”

PHNOM PENH, 2 Dec— Though Cambodia is among the five countries in the world that has a reduced HIV/AIDS infections, HIV/AIDS is still one of most serious challenges faced by the country, Deputy Prime Minister Sar Kheng said at the celebration on this year’s World AIDS Day.

Even though Cambodia has a great deal to celebrate on this year’s World AIDS Day, since the number of infected Cambodians aged 15 to 49 dropped from 3.2 per cent in 1999 to an estimated 2.6 per cent this year, the study shows that Cambodia still faces challenges in its fight against the disease.

Some 3,000 people attended the celebration

organized by the National AIDS Authority and presided over by Deputy Prime Minister Sar Kheng.

“If we don’t take strong measures to control it, then to 2010, we might have 230,000 people died of the lethal disease,” he warned. “The epidemic has spread to rural areas and is especially endangering our children and also married women.”

Sar Kheng, at the same time, called for more efforts to eliminate the country’s poverty, develop country’s society and economy, promote the education level, as well as to break off bad social habit, which, he said, were the causes of the spread of HIV/AIDS.

According to the figures from the National AIDS Authority, Cambodia’s new HIV/AIDS in-

fections, among adults, have been decreased from 175,000 in 1998 to 157,500 in 2003.

So far, Cambodia has about 90,000 people died of AIDS since the first infection in Cambodia. And it is estimated that some 60,000 orphans have left which caused serious problem for the development of the society.

MNA/Xinhua

China’s Defence University to recruit 800 doctorate candidates

BELING, 2 Dec— The Chinese People’s Liberation Army University of National Defence plans to recruit 800 candidates for doctorate and master degrees next year, said sources with a meeting of the university on the reform of graduate education on Wednesday.

As China’s top military academy, the university launched graduate courses in 1985, and more than 1,100 students have obtained doctorate and master degrees, among them more than 400 are serving as commanders at Army, division and regiment levels in the Chinese Armed Forces. The university plans to further deepen reform to train more people for the Army, the sources said. —MNA/Xinhua

Mortar attack on central Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 2 Dec— A barrage of mortar rounds has struck the centre of Baghdad, killing at least one Iraqi and injuring 11 others.

At least five shells exploded in the Iraqi capital, with several landing in the fortified Green Zone enclave.

Police and witnesses say at least one person was killed in the blasts but the full number of casualties is not known.

The attacks come after the Pentagon announced it would bolster US forces in Iraq to record levels ahead of general elections planned for January.

The US will expand overall troop numbers by 12,000 to reach 150,000.

The move is aimed at increasing security ahead of the polls but is also designed to keep pressure on insurgents operating in Iraq, correspondents say.

One of the shells in Thursday’s mortar attack struck near a mobile phone office in the al-Arasat neighbourhood of Baghdad, police said. At least one fatality was reported, and nine people were injured.

Thick smoke also billowed from the Green Zone on the west bank of the Tigris River after at least two mortars hit the compound.

The Green Zone is heavily guarded, and many foreigners are based there.

It also houses the interim Iraqi government, as well as the US and British embassies.

A US military spokesman confirmed multiple blasts in Baghdad between 0715 to 0755GMT on Thursday, but provided no additional details.

Internet

November marks deadliest month for US forces in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 2 Dec — With 135 American soldiers killed in Iraq, November tied April as the deadliest month for US forces fighting in Iraq, news reports said Wednesday.

Offensives in Fallujah and elsewhere in Iraq contributed to the death toll in November. Fifty-five of the 135 US troops died during the offensive in Fallujah, the scene of intense fighting involving about 10,000 US Marines and Army soldiers and several thousands of

Iraqi government troops.

The death toll is a reminder that the aftermath of the US-led invasion to topple Saddam Hussein has been far costlier in human lives than the initial battle, a *USA Today* report said.

MNA/Xinhua



A US Army Black Hawk helicopter flies past smoke after several loud explosions rocked Baghdad on 2 Dec, 2004. —INTERNET

Indonesian “F-16” jet skids off runway

JAKARTA, 2 Dec— An F-16 jetfighter belonging to the Indonesian Air Force skidded off runway after landing at the Hasanuddin Airport in South Sulawesi Province Wednesday morning.

Authorities blamed failure in brake system for the accident, which left the pilot unharmed, reported Detikcom online news service.

“The accident took place at 08:45 (00:45 GMT)... It caused the front landing gear broken. We assumed the jet skidded off runway because the brake system didn’t work optimally,” Hasanuddin Air Force Base Commander Colonel Bambang Sulistyono was quoted as saying.

MNA/Xinhua

China opposes US sanction against Chinese companies

BEIJING, 3 Dec — China firmly opposes the United States' frequent sanctions against some Chinese companies on the basis of its domestic laws, said China's Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Zhang Qiyue here Thursday.

Zhang made the remark at a regular Press conference when asked to comment on recent US sanctions against four Chinese companies, which the US side accused of selling weapons of mass destruction to Iran.

"China strongly opposes the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and related means of delivery," Zhang said,

adding that China has established an integral law system on non-proliferation export control, and taken measures to enhance law enforcement in this area.

If authentic evidence is found to prove that Chinese companies or individuals have engaged in illegal export activity, the Chinese Government will impose penalty according

to law, she said.

The US Government's frequent sanction upon Chinese companies according to its domestic law is not conducive to the effective cooperation between the two countries in the non-proliferation area, she said. — MNA/Xinhua



A woman chats with Japanese Business Design Laboratory's communication robot 'Ifbot' at the robot exhibition Robodex 2003' in

Yokohama, suburban Tokyo.—INTERNET

India, China promise to eradicate ignorance about AIDS

BEIJING, 2 Dec— The world's two most populous nations promised on Wednesday to eradicate ignorance about AIDS, a disease dismissed at first as a Western evil confined to drug users, homosexuals and prostitutes.

In the world's poorest continent, Africa, where the epidemic has ripped huge holes in the social and economic fabric, thousands staged rallies to mark World AIDS Day.

The World Health Organization estimates there are 25.4 million HIV sufferers in sub-Saharan Africa, 60 per cent of the global total in a region with 10 per cent of the world's population.

Activists and govern-

ments around the world marked the day with events drawing attention to the disease and promoting its eradication.

"HIV/AIDS is the greatest health crisis of our time. Its defeat requires the cooperation of the entire global community," US President George W. Bush said in Washington.

China, criticized for its slow initial response to HIV/AIDS, put on a display of commitment to

fighting a disease the United Nations fears could infect 10 million Chinese by 2010.

In India, where over five million people have already been infected, the government pledged greater efforts to promote awareness, especially in rural areas and among the young.

"The world can no longer afford to ignore the enormity of the HIV epidemic," Antonio

Costa, executive director of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, said in Beijing.

"AIDS affects us all," said UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan who called it "the worst epidemic humanity has ever faced."

At an event sponsored by six New York investment firms, Annan urged corporations to try to prevent the further spread of AIDS by treating infected workers and speaking up about it.— MNA/Reuters

New Zealand urged to seize ASEAN opportunity

WELLINGTON, 3 Dec — Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) has opened the door for New Zealand to join the successful ASEAN Free Trade Agreement (AFTA) and it must seize the opportunity, Asia-New Zealand Foundation Chairman, Sir Dryden Spring said Thursday.

Spring made the comment in the wake of announcements from this week's ASEAN Summit

in Laos attended by New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clark.

They included an agreement to enter into negotiations on an NZ-Australia free trade agreement with ASEAN, and an indication that New Zealand would consider with positive intent acceding to the ASEAN Treaty of Amity and Cooperation.

Spring said being part of AFTA would give New Zealand much better access to the large and rapidly growing markets of Southeast Asia,

"This is a huge opportunity for New Zealand and has become even more attractive with the commencement of ASEAN's intention to create a Free Trade Agreement with China.

MNA/Xinhua

Foreign tourist arrivals in Indonesia up in October

JAKARTA, 2 Dec— The number of foreign tourists visiting Indonesia in October increased by 7.93 per cent over the same period last year to 384,310 people, the Central Bureau of Statistic (BPS) announced on Wednesday.

However, the figure was lower than the previous month, since October was the low season for the foreign tourists to go to overseas after the peak season in August, head of the BPS Choirul Maksum explained to a Press conference. He said that the cumulative number of foreign tourists coming into the country by September had reached to 3.8 million, or surged by 25.65 per cent as compared to the same period last year.—MNA/Xinhua

US soldier shot, killed in Mosul

BAGHDAD, 3 Dec— Gunmen shot and killed a US soldier in Mosul on Thursday as he was conducting patrols in the restless northern Iraqi city.

The US military said the soldier, part of Task Force Olympia which is responsible for security in northern Iraq, died after being evacuated to a

military hospital. No further details were provided.

Mosul has been tense since guerillas launched an offensive against US and Iraqi security forces in the city in mid-November, overrunning police stations and attacking a convoy of vehicles.

MNA/Reuters



US Marines search a house in the restive city of Fallujah on 2 Dec, 2004. INTERNET

Iran says ending occupation essential to Iraqi security

TEHERAN, 2 Dec— Iranian President Mohammad Khatami said on Wednesday that ending foreign occupation is essential to restoring security to Iraq, the official IRNA news agency reported.

"While attempting to restore security and peace to Iraq, efforts should be made to end occupation of the country, so that the people in the country could decide their own fate," Khatami said at a conference on Iraq held in Teheran.

"Iraq is now free, willing to gain a position

in the region and global community," said Khatami, adding that occupation of Iraq was an inappropriate solution and an insult to Iraq, its neighbours, the Arab community and the Islamic world.

Khatami stressed that restoration of security to Iraq was important for all neighbouring countries.

MNA/Xinhua

Iraqi Govt decides to extend curfew in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 2 Dec — The Iraqi interim government has decided to extend the curfew in Baghdad and its outskirts and revise the curfew's time, local newspaper Al Sabah reported on Wednesday.

"The hours of the curfew in Baghdad and its outskirts as of now are from 11.00 pm to 5.00 am" said a statement issued by the office of Prime Minister Ayad Allawi, without mentioning when the curfew would end.—MNA/Xinhua

Lesotho Parlt leader vows to adhere to one-China policy

BEIJING, 2 Dec — Lesotho will adhere to the one-China policy and support the “one country, two systems” policy of China on the Taiwan issue, said Ntlohi Motsamai, speaker of the National Assembly, here on Tuesday.

During her meeting with Chinese top legislator Wu Bangguo, Motsamai spoke highly of Chinese achievements in economic development, as well as China's contributions to regional and world peace and prosperity.

Lesotho cherishes relationship with China and hopes that cooperation will be further expanded in political, economic, cultural and other aspects, she told Wu in the Great Hall of the People.

Wu, chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, China's top legislature, appreciated Lesotho's adherence to the one-China policy, saying bilateral ties witnessed sound develop-

ment since diplomatic ties resumed in 1994.

“The bilateral ties experienced twist and setbacks. However, in recent years, our cooperation fields expanded and we maintained consultation and cooperation in international issues,” Wu said.

As both developing countries, China and Lesotho shoulder responsibility to boost economy and improve people's life quality, Wu said, spoke highly of Lesotho's achievements in domestic and foreign affairs.

China attaches importance to the ties with Lesotho and will make joint efforts to enhance cooperation in all fields, he told Motsamai, who is on her first official visit to China. — MNA/Xinhua

China attaches great importance to Sino-Egyptian relations

CAIRO, 2 Dec — Chinese Ambassador to Egypt Wu Sike said here Wednesday that China attaches great importance to the bilateral relations between China and Egypt.

“To strengthen and develop the strategic cooperative relationship between China and Egypt is a long-standing policy of the Chinese Government,” Wu said at a reception held at the Chinese Embassy. He noted it is five years since China and Egypt started a strategic cooperative relationship and bilateral ties have enjoyed steady growth ever since.

MNA/Xinhua

Pilot reforms of RCCs achieve staged success in China

BEIJING, 2 Dec — Pilot reforms of the rural credit cooperatives (RCCs) in seven provinces and one municipality achieved a staged success, said a senior official of the China Banking Regulatory Commission here Wednesday.

Liu Mingkang, chairman of the commission, told a Press conference that in these regions, a new framework for the RCCs' supervision and administration has taken shape and the RCCs' ownership restructuring has proceeded as scheduled.

Their capacity of providing the needed financial services to agricultural production, farmers and rural areas has also been improved, he said.

The reform began at the beginning of 2003 and the eight selected provinces and municipality were Jilin, Shandong, Jiangxi, Zhejiang,

Jiangsu, Shanxi, Guizhou and Chongqing.

By the end of September this year, 10 rural commercial or cooperative banks had been incorporated, and other 14 banks had been approved to prepare for incorporation, he said.

The average capital adequacy ratio of RCCs, rural commercial banks and rural cooperative banks in these regions reached 7.38 per cent, up 11.2 percentage point from the beginning of 2003.

Loans outstanding made by these institutions to agriculture and rural households totalled 340.5

billion yuan (41 billion US dollars), a growth of 139.7 billion yuan (17 billion US dollars) or a 69.6-per-cent increase from the beginning of 2003. Their aggregate profit amounted to 2.516 billion yuan (303 million US dollars), he said.

The proposed reform programme for the newly approved 21 provinces and municipalities last August will be approved and implemented at the end of this year and at that time more than half of the provincial credit unions in these regions will be incorporated, Liu said.

MNA/Xinhua

Mass whale strandings found in Australia, NZ

WELLINGTON, 2 Dec — Mass strandings of marine mammals have occurred in Australia and New Zealand this week, proving an earlier predication made by Australian scientists, *New Zealand Press Association* said Wednesday.

Four months ago, Australian scien-

tists predicated that climate patterns could trigger mass strandings of marine mammals around the Southern Ocean. As anticipated, mass strandings occurred this week in Tasmania of Australia and in New Zealand, said the report.

MNA/Xinhua



A local walks past carcasses of stranded long-finned pilot whales and bottlenosed dolphins at Sea Elephant Beach on Tasmania's King Island in southeast Australia, on 28 Nov, 2004. More than 100 of the mammals mysteriously beached themselves in a mass stranding which was repeated at another beach on the island states' south-east coast, on 29 Nov, 2004.—INTERNET

မြန်မာ့သမိုင်းပါလေလွင်
ဆုတံဆိပ်ပြန်



A young girl waits on a bicycle to cross the street in front of a poster in Tokyo, capital of Japan, on 1 Dec, 2004 on World AIDS Day. The main theme of this year's World AIDS Day is on the need to protect women and girls, often sidelined in the fight against the disease.—INTERNET

HK, Guangdong cooperate against air pollution

HONG KONG, 2 Dec — Guangdong Province and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region are working in cooperation to reduce regional emissions, said Hong Kong's Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works Sarah Liao here on Wednesday.

“Since air pollution control started earlier in Hong Kong, we are often able to share our experience with the Chinese Mainland authorities responsible for environmental protection in our cooperation,” she told a Legislative Council meeting.

MNA/Xinhua

Web site, TOM group team up on HR service

Beijing, 2 Dec — TOM Online Inc, one of China's fastest growing Internet portals, teamed up with burgeoning human resource (HR) service website e2job.com to provide an international standard online HR service, *China Daily* reported on Thursday.

The new online HR service platform launched on Wednesday in Beijing targets both domestic and international employers and job seekers. Its new product online video Curriculum Vitae was also introduced to meet the growing demand for more convenient and efficient communication between job seekers and company interviewers.

A TOM Online Inc programme manager said cooperating with specialized Internet companies indicated a new trend for Internet portals to explore new busi-

ness modes and deepen their brand marketing. Both sides are confident with their cooperation. They foresee attractive prospects for China's online HR service sector, and the TOM and e2job “strategic partnership” will take a dominant market share in the market, said the newspaper.

The Hong Kong-based TOM group has concentrated its attention on enhancing the Chinese Mainland's presence in Internet and publication services, *China Daily* quoted Wang Xian, the group CEO, as saying. — MNA/Xinhua

India develops space-based augmentation system for air navigation

NEW DELHI, 2 Dec — In an effort to enhance air navigation facility, India is developing its own space-based augmentation system ‘Gagan’ to implement International Civil Aviation Organization Communication, Navigation System Air Traffic Management systems, the *Press Trust of India* (PTI) reported on Wednesday.

“We hope the prototype of the technology demonstration system will be ready by 2006 and thereafter the full operational system will be de-

veloped,” PTI quoted Civil Aviation Minister Praful Patel as said.

Patel was addressing the 13th steering committee of Cooperative Devel-

opment of Operational Safety and Continuing Airworthiness Programme for South Asia here on Wednesday.

MNA/Xinhua

The Golden Land of Myanmar

Myint Maung
(Religious Affairs)

Facts on Myanmar, its people and its culture, are known to some foreigners through newspapers, books, TV etc. Some have just heard of the name while some have the chance even to visit and personally know Myanmar. There are also a few foreign writers who have come and diligently studied Myanmar language, history and culture, and have written some books.

It is true that, among nations of the world, Myanmar is the only one that has inherited and practised the true Theravada Buddhism. Myanmar is also blessed with the beauties of nature such as blue mountains, green fields, great rivers, small streams, serene lakes and mysterious caves. Above all, Myanmar nationals have, in their possession, a rare gem called "*Metta Cetana*", i.e. the All-embracing love, or love, to all living beings.

This *Metta* (Loving kindness) radiates in the face and manners of all Myanmar nationals. It attracts and charms visitors to Myanmar, who cannot help but feel the response in their own hearts because it says, love begets love. Thus they feel sad that their wonderful vacation days are so short and that parting from this lovely land has come so swift. Then they all decide to come back soon, in very near future.

The one thing all visitors say in their departure is that Myanmar is spiritually the richest nation in the world. We Myanmar are proud and so much obliged for the tribute to our nation. It is true that Myanmar value *Metta*, the spirit of compassion, above all else. Even farmers and workers, who are not so well-off, have the blessed Myanmar spirit that "Our guests much have the best things at our home". They will feel hurt if they are paid, because the coming of guests itself has already paid a great tribute to their home. That is why Myanmar call visitors to their home as "Golden Guests".

This spiritual richness, of course, has come from the "*Teachings of Buddha*", which are known as "*Dhamma*". Though Buddha, the teacher, has passed away, the teachings still live, inherited and disbursed by monks, or our "*sangha*". These Three Gems (Buddha, Dhamma and Sangha) are the riches we all Buddhists inherit and we need no more. We may work for some material things but they don't count so much.

Visitors to Myanmar, because they come more or less from industrialised countries, often give the remark that there is a Great Machine in Myanmar purify the mind of the people and make them happy and contented. It is an apt remark and the Great Machine is none other than the *Three Gems*. These gems mould our people to become well-balanced persons, abstaining from evils and doing good as best we can.

We wish that more visitors may come and share these benefits of spiritual richness (the Great Machine work all time and answers to everyone who touches) while, at the same time, they may witness the unique natural beauties that make Myanmar well-known as the Golden Land.

14th IFNGO ASEAN NGOs Workshop on Prevention of Drug and Substance Abuse continues

YANGON, 4 Dec — The 14th IFNGO ASEAN NGOs Workshop on Prevention of Drug and Substance Abuse jointly organised by The Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control and Myanmar Anti-Narcotics Association was held at the Grand Plaza Parkroyal Hotel on Alanpya Pagoda Road this morning for the third day.

Delegates from ASEAN member countries, the People's Republic of China, Mauritius, Australia discussed Strive for New Destiny ASEAN Drug Free - 2015.

At the closing ceremony of the Workshop, Chairman of Myanmar Anti-Narcotics Association, U San Thein made a concluding remark and presented the certificates

of honour to those present. The workshop ended.

Likewise, the Press Conference was held at the same place, attended by chairman U San Thein and head of Trans National Crime Control Department Police Col Sit Aye and officials, heads of delegations from ASEAN member countries the PRC, Mauritius and Australia, Reporters of the

Myanmar Foreign Correspondents Club and others.

CEC member of Myanmar Anti-Narcotics Association Dr Tin Tun Oo acted as master of ceremonies and chairman U San Thein made an opening speech.

The officials answered queries raised by those present and the press conference ended. *MNA*



Deputy Director Dr Soe Tint gives closing remarks at the on-job training course for physicians in Ahlon Township on 3-12-2004.—NLM

Objectives of the 84th Anniversary National Day

- ★ Keeping national spirit alive and dynamic and uplift of national prestige and integrity
- ★ Uplift of national education
- ★ Perpetuation of independence and sovereignty of the State
- ★ Success of seven-point future policy programme of the State.

(၈၄)နှစ်မြောက်

အမျိုးသားနေ့

၁၃၆၆ ခု၊ တန်ဆောင်မုန်းလပြည့်ကျော် (၁၀)ရက်

(၆-၁၂-၂၀၀၄)

11th Myanmar beauty photo contest held

YANGON, 4 Dec—The 14th Myanmar beauty photo contest organized by Today Co Groups was held at YMCA on Maha Bandoola Street today.

Veteran photographers U Pe Khin, Artist Soe Moe, U Pe Myint Oo, U Htin Lin and U Moe Min selected 869 entries sent by 120 contestants.

Zaw Zaw Tun, Aung Myo and Dr Maung Maung Gyi won the first second and third prizes respectively. Today groups and Accel International Co Ltd will provide cash and photographic accessories to the winners.

The prize presentation ceremony will be held at YMCA at 9 am on 11 December.—*MNA*



The third-prize winning work.—H

Education Minister inspects schools Lewe and Pyawbwe

YANGON, 4 Dec — Minister for Education U Than Aung together with Director General Lt-Col Win Htein of No 2 Basic Education Department and officials arrived at No 1 Basic Education High School of Lewe Township.

The Minister met with members of Town-

ship PDC, members of Township USDA, the school principals of BEHSs in Lewe Township at the hall of the school and briefed an account of education matters. Later, the Minister paid homage to Sayadaw U Ariya Vamsa of Phayagyi Monastery and offered provisions to the

Sayadaw.

The Minister proceeded to No 1 BEHS of Pyawbwe Township. The Minister met with officials and education families and explained endeavours for the State Development and National Education Promotion matters. The Minister also inspected library of the school.—*MNA*

New stamps to be issued to hail World Buddhist Summit

YANGON, 3 Dec — To mark the World Bud-

dhist Summit, Myanmar Posts and Telecommuni-

cations will issue two new stamps — 5-kyat stamp and 30-kyat stamp. The stamps will be available state/division/district and township communication stations or post offices as of 9 December from 9.30 am.—*MNA*



Lt-Gen Ye Myint pays homage, donates alms to Sayadaws in Mandalay

YANGON, 4 Dec — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, together with Mandalay Division PDC Chairman Central Command Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint, senior military officers, officials of the SPDC office, paid homage and donated Kathina robes and alms to Vinaya Nayu Padetha Kyaung Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Bhaddanta Panñasami Bhivamsa of Masoeyein Monastery in Maha Aung Myay Township on 2 December morning and asked after the Sayadaw.

Next, he also paid homage and donated Kathina robes and alms to

Masoeyein Taikthit Sayadaw Agga Maha Saddhama Jotikadhaja Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Rajadhama Bhivamsa. Similarly, Lt-Gen Ye Myint paid homage and donated Kathina robes and alms to Sayadaw of Ahtulakari Hsinmin Kyaung Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Obhasa Bhivamsa of Dhatkhina Rama Phayagyitak and members of the Sangha. Afterwards, Lt-Gen Ye Myint donated a computer and accessories for the dictionary compiling group led by Naya Monastery Sayadaw Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhama Jotika Bhaddanta Medhiya Bhivamsa. Lt-Gen Ye Myint arrived back here by air in the evening. — MNA



Lt-Gen Ye Myint offers robes and alms to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Raja Dhamma Bhivamsa. — MNA

Regional development tasks inspected in Mandalay Division

YANGON, 4 Dec — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, attended the opening of Kyauktaga Dam in

Natmauk Township, Magway Division, on 30 November.

After the ceremony, Lt-Gen Ye Myint, accompanied by Mandalay Division Peace and

Development Council Chairman and Central Command Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint, senior military officers, and responsible officials of the SPDC Office, went to

the briefing hall near Toll Gate at Mile Post 350 on Meiktila-Mandalay Road.

At the briefing hall, officials presented progress reports on extension of Meiktila-Mandalay Road on Yangon-Mandalay Union Highway into a six-lane one. After hearing the reports, Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave instructions on completion of the project as scheduled meeting the set standards.

Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party arrived at Drain No 30 of Kinda main canal in TadaU Township, where he inspected the distribution of irrigation water from Thittetkon Dam to the drains of Kinda Dam. After hearing reports on the digging of new drains, Lt-

Gen Ye Myint added suggestions to the reports.

On arrival at Palintaung river-water-pumping project, Lt-Gen Ye Myint oversaw the channelling of the water from Thittetkon Dam and heard reports.

After hearing the reports, Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave instructions on preventive measures to be taken against the rivers and ditches drying out.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party proceeded to Thittetgon main canal near TadaU International Airport. On arrival there, Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspected the use of CNG engines in place of diesel engines to pump water out of the river. The engines in use are 22 horsepower ones.

Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party arrived at the briefing hall of ThuNgeDaw Lake. Departmental officials reported on the channeling of water into the lake, and then to farmland. After hearing the reports, Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave instructions on extension of the acreage of irrigated farmland.

In the past, the lake supplied irrigation water to 300 acres of farmland for cultivation of wheat, edible oil crops, and beans and pulses. Nowadays, plans are under way to expand the acreage of farmland to 8,118 acres.

They arrived back at Mandalay in the evening to spend the night there. —MNA



Meiktila-Mandalay Section of Yangon-Mandalay Union Highway Project under construction. — MNA

Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects river water...

(from page 1)

Magway Division Peace and Development Council Col Phone Maw Shwe, senior military officers and departmental officials.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party proceeded to the briefing hall of Lawkananda river water pumping project on the bank of Ayeyawady River in NyaungU Township. Project-in-charge U Maung Maung Lwin reported on progress of work and tasks to be done.

Director-General of Water Resources Utilization Department U Win Shwe and officials gave supplementary reports.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave instructions on extended cultivation of monsoon paddy, speedy reclamation of farmland, cultivation of monsoon paddy, edible oil crops and beans and pulses and

establishment of a model farming.

Construction of the 30,500 feet main canal has been finished. Out of the 12 smaller canals stretching 157,000 feet, laying of bricks has been completed up to 38,000 feet and 42 pumps were installed in seven pumping stations.

On completion, the project will benefit 11,000 acres of cultivable lands. A total of 500 acres of monsoon paddy and 150 acres of summer paddy were grown in 2003-2004. Arrangements are being made for cultivation of 1,800 acres of paddy.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspected pumping of river water and control units. He went to Nos 2 and 3 pumping stations and inspected inflow of water to the main canal and paddy fields.

In meeting with farm-

ers, Lt-Gen Ye Myint efficient use of water, digging of canals in their own arrangements, maintenance of the embankment, construction of lakes for drinking and cultivation of paddy and oil crops and beans and pulses. Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspected No 4 and 7 pumping stations and sesame plantations.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected Kyaukku river water pumping project near Kyaukku Pagoda in NyaungU district. On completion of the project, the pumping station can supply water to 2,500 acres of beans and pulses and oil crops and 500 acres of cotton.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspected the site for water pumping station and the main canal. He also inspected Thukaungti river water pumping project



Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects supply of water from Thittetkon Dam through an outlet canal of Kinda main canal in TadaU Township, Mandalay Division. — MNA

near Auknyint Village in NyaungU Township.

The Thukaungti river water pumping station will supply water to 3,500 acres of oil crops, 1,500 acres of paddy and 1,000 acres of cotton. Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspected digging of the canal.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party also inspected

Letpanchaypaw and Ngathayauk pumping water stations.

They went to Nos 1, 2 and 17 pumping stations and inspected their functions.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspected construction site of diaphragm wall of Ngathayauk dam project.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint met

Tatmadaw members and families at the regional battalion in NyaungU. He spoke on undertaking livestock breeding for welfare of families of Tatmadaw members and discharging duties assigned. He cordially met officers, Tatmadaw members and families.

MNA

Chinese delegation tours Mandalay Division

YANGON, 4 Dec — The Chinese delegation led by General Ge Zhenfeng, Deputy Chief of the General Staff of the People's Liberation Army of the People's Republic of China, together with Maj-Gen Aye Myint of the Ministry of Defence and Military Attache Senior Col Ma Shoudong of the Chinese Embassy in Myanmar, left here by special Tatmadaw flight for Mandalay Division yesterday.

On arrival at Mandalay International Airport in Tada U Township, they were welcomed by Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council



Deputy Chief of the General Staff of the People's Liberation Army of the People's Republic of China General Ge Zhenfeng and party visit Pyin Oo Lwin National Gardens. — MNA

also visited Defence Services Technological Academy, where they were welcomed by Rector Brig-Gen Win Myint and senior military officers. At

Ye Myint exchanged souvenirs.

This morning, the visiting Chinese delegation went to Mahamuni Pagoda in Mandalay, where they

also visited Golden Palace Cultural Museum and signed in the visitors' book. In the afternoon, the Chinese delegation left Mandalay for Yangon. They were seen off at Mandalay International

Airport by Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint and senior military officers. The visiting Chinese delegation led by Chinese General Ge Zhenfeng arrived back here in the evening. — MNA

also visited Golden Palace Cultural Museum and signed in the visitors' book. In the afternoon, the Chinese delegation left Mandalay for Yangon. They were seen off at Mandalay International

Airport by Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint and senior military officers. The visiting Chinese delegation led by Chinese General Ge Zhenfeng arrived back here in the evening. — MNA



Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint offers a welcome to General Ge Zhenfeng at Mandalay International Airport. — MNA

Chairman and Central Command Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint, senior military officers, the Chinese Consul-General Mr Li Xiulin of the Chinese Consulate and officials.

They proceeded to the Defence Service Academy in Pyin Oo Lwin. On arrival, the Chinese delegation was welcomed by Col Thoe Htein of the Academy and senior military officers. Col Thoe Htein extended greetings to the Chinese delegation at the convocation hall of the Academy.

On the occasion, Lt-Col Phone Myint gave a brief account of the historical background of the Academy. Next, visiting Chinese General Ge Zhenfeng signed in the visitors' book of the Academy and exchanged souvenirs with Col Thoe Htein.

Later, the Chinese delegation and the senior officers of the Academy posed for a documentary photo in front of the convocation hall.

The Chinese delega-

tion also visited Defence Services Technological Academy, where they were welcomed by Rector Brig-Gen Win Myint and senior military officers. At the meeting hall of the training centre, the rector extended greetings to the Chinese delegation. Lt-Col Nyan Tun of the DSTA gave a brief account of the historical background of the Academy and routine activities of the cadets. Chinese General Ge Zhenfeng signed in the visitors' book and exchanged souvenirs with Brig-Gen Win Myint.

The visiting Chinese delegation together with the senior military officers of the DSTA posed for a documentary photo.

The visiting Chinese delegation also visited the National Kandawgyi Park in Pyin Oo Lwin. They were conducted around the park by officials of the Forestry Department. Next, the Chinese delegation left there for Mandalay. In the evening, Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint hosted a dinner in honour of the visiting Chinese delegation at Yangyiaung Guest House in Mandalay Nanmyo. At the dinner, Visiting Chinese General Ge Zhenfeng and Commander Maj-Gen

paid obeisance to the Mahamuni Buddha Image, offering flowers, lights, water, joss sticks. They also offered gold foils to the Buddha Image.

Next, visiting Chinese General Ge Zhenfeng signed in the visitors' book and donated cash to the pagoda board of trustees for the pagoda.

Lt-Col Maung Pu, chairman of the board of trustees, accepted the donation and presented a certificate of honour.

The visiting Chinese delegation also visited Hsutaungpyi Pagoda on Mount Mandalay.

The visiting Chinese delegation enjoyed the morning beauty of Mandalay City from Mount Mandalay. They also donated cash to the pagoda.

The visiting Chinese delegation also visited Mahalawka Marazein Pagoda, where they observed stone inscriptions, offered lights, flowers, water and joss sticks to the Buddha Images, and donated cash to the board of trustees for the pagoda.

Later, the Chinese del-

egation went to Myanansankyaw Golden



General Ge Zhenfeng and party at the Cultural Museum of Myanansankyaw Golden Palace in Mandalay. — MNA

First CLMTV-ECS Trade Fair-2004...

(from page 16)

At the booth of Thailand, Thai handicrafts of the Department of Export Promotion under the Thai Commerce Ministry, cosmetics and textiles of Thai private companies were on display.

The booths selling Myanmar pearls are on the upper floor.

Altogether 162 booths of 8 ministries, 135 local companies and 21 foreign companies participated in the trade fair.

Yesterday, those visiting the trade fair numbered about 40,000.

Ministries fetched K159,400; private companies, K 1,020,524; Myanmar Pearl Booth, K 224,000 plus US\$ 25 and foreign companies, K 262,200 totaling K 1,666,124 plus US\$ 25.

On the central stage of the hall, the

work committee presented entertainment to the visitors with dances of the Fine Arts Department, variety dances of culture troupes of Thailand and Cambodia, fashion shows of Myanmar Pearls and entertainment of vocalists to the accompaniment of the Modern Music Troupe of Gitahmu Myat Min.

There will be entertainment programmes of the Fine Arts Department, variety dances of culture troupes of Thailand and Cambodia and Myanmar Fashion Show of Talent & Models Group led by Tin Moe Lwin on 5 December 2004.

The CLMTV-ECS Business and Investment Forum-2004 sponsored by the Central Committee for Organizing the First CLMTV-ECS Trade Fair-2004 continued for the second day today.

In the morning ses-

sion, representatives from Myanmar, Laos and Thailand presented papers on agricultural and industrial cooperation.

In the afternoon session, representatives from Myanmar and Thailand presented papers on tourism promotion while officials of Myanmar Pearl Enterprise presented the paper on Myanmar pearl industry.

Officials replied to queries raised by those present.

The forum ended with the concluding remarks by Chairman U Zaw Min Win.

To ensure the convenience of visitors to the trade fair, bus lines No 79, No 51, No 102, No 103, No 96, No 168 and No 224 were plying.

The trade fair continues tomorrow for the third day at the same venue.

MNA

Upgrading and sanitation tasks inspected

YANGON, 4 Dec —

Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, accompanied by Vice-Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa and officials, inspected upgrading of pavements along the roads in the city and tasks being carried out for proper drainage this morning and gave necessary instructions to officials.

The commander and party inspected repair of pavements at the corner of Shwebontha Street and Anawrahta Street in Pabedan Township, sanitation tasks being carried out and dredging of drains and spraying of insecticide, tarring of Bagaya Road linking Dhamma Zedi Road in



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe inspects tasks for upgrading of Yangon City.

YGN COMMAND

Sangyoung Township and Strand Road in Kyimyindine Township, upgrading of pedestrian lanes in front of Myanmar Gems Mart on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road in Mayangon Township.

The commander also inspected sanitation tasks being carried out by teachers, students and

USDA members in the compound of No 1 BEHS and No 4 BEHS in South Oakkalapa Township and tarring of Tharekhittara road in Ward-5. Next, the vice-mayor donated musical instruments worth K 270,000 for No 4 BEHS to Headmaster U Ba Thaug Tin. The com-

mander oversaw tarring of Sibin Road in Dagon Myothit (South) Township, 4-lane Bagaya Road and Bayintnaung Road section in Insein Township and sanitation tasks being carried out in front of the Forest Department. Later, the commander gave necessary instructions to officials. — MNA

Foreign Minister U Nyan Win felicitates Thai counterpart

YANGON, 5 Dec — On the occasion of the birthday of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej which falls on 5 December 2004, U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Dr Surakiart Sathathai, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand.

MNA

Minister for Culture visits book fair

YANGON, 4 Dec — Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung visited the book fair opened today at Yangon Trade Centre in commemoration of Sarsodaw Day.

About 9,000 book lovers visited the fair where 48 publishing houses sell various kinds of books in 76 booths. The sale of books today is over K 1.8 million.

MNA

Aid provided for rural development...

(from page 16)

the public in this process in the true sense of nationalistic aspiration and Union Spirit. He also explained the opening of multimedia classrooms at schools, colleges and universities in all states and divisions with the aim of raising the level of national education.

one-distinction winner students, and school uniforms to teachers of the school.

The commander and the minister donated K 2 million to construction of the school building, and school text books, exercise books, calendars and gifts to villages in the township, and

2004 academic year with flying colours.

On the occasion,

USDA Secretariat Member Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan presents a gift to an outstanding student of Mintaingpin BEHS in Pale Township on 29-12-2004. — MNA



Newly-built basic education primary school in Ohnnauk village, Pale Township. — MNA

Next, Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye presented a cash award to a three-distinction winner student of Pale Basic Education High School in the 2004 academic year, and 100 bags of cement for the school. Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan presented cash awards to three two-distinction winner students and 20

books and periodicals to libraries.

Next, the commander, the minister and party proceeded to Mintaingpin town in Pale Township. At Kinwun Hall of Mintaingpin BEHS, they met with local people and presented cash awards to outstanding students who passed the matriculation of the

they also donated cash, school text books, exercise books to basic education high schools in the township and books and periodicals and gifts to libraries.

The commander and the minister attended the opening of a primary school building of Ohnnauk village. On the occasion, donor U Thein

Myint handed over documents related to the school building to the education officer of Sagaing Division. The new school building was constructed at a cost of 4.95 million — 1.2 million contributed by the villagers, 1 million funded by the government, and 2.75 million donated by U Thein Myint. — MNA

Bridge construction projects...

(from page 1)

The construction of the bridge is 68 percent completed.

Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party went to the Ayeyawady bridge (Yadanabon) construction project on the bank of Sagaing Division.

At the briefing hall, Lt-Gen Ye Myint heard reports on progress made in construction of the bridge and inspected the construction site.

Later, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party proceeded to the Ayeyawady bridge (Yadanabon) construction project on the bank of Mandalay Division.

At the briefing hall, engineers reported on progress of the construction project. After inspecting the construction site, Lt-Gen Ye

Myint gave instructions on timely completion of the project.

Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint arrived at the meeting hall of the local battalion in the Palace Court, where he met with officers, other ranks and their families.

At the meeting, Lt-Gen Ye Myint urged them to conduct agriculture and livestock undertakings and cordially greeted them.

He also visited Mandalay General Hospital, where he asked after the health of Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Ratha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma jotika Bhaddanta Medhiyavamsa.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint left the hospital in the afternoon. — MNA

The danger posed to democratic revolution

Aung Moe San

A country usually will have to launch a social revolution to build a democratic state. In the western countries and the US also, social revolution had to be launched for generations. Because a democratic nation cannot be built overnight, and a democracy system cannot be copied from others. A period of 94 years after the start of the social revolution in the US, the Blacks won the voting rights.

As Japan and Germany (West Germany) had already reached the level of an industrial country in terms of economy, their transition to democracy after the World War II was easier and speedier.

Because of the existence of capitalist class, advanced working class and intellectual class in war-ravaged countries of the West Europe, the Marshall Plan worked well to help them recover. It is important for all to see the different types of democracy in transition of the nations with diverse conditions. Democracy cannot emerge just by enacting laws; the actual requirement is the development of a comprehensive socio-economic life. Myanmar is still a producing capitalist and working class and middle class. As the capitalist class is not developed yet, the nation still lacks political parties representing the capitalist class that has the ability to lead the democratic revolution to its success. And that is the main reason behind the Tatmadaw Government's performance of the duty to play a leading role in the democratic revolution, as the Tatmadaw is the strongest and most disciplined national institution, having the fine traditions. The best way for the existing political parties is to cooperate with the Tatmadaw.

Social scientists say that revolution systematically drives the human community towards progress. True, the opposite of revolution is vandalism, the old-age policy of destroying all developments and the human community till reaching a dead end.

The Tatmadaw Government has taken over the State duties due to unavoidable circumstances, and since its as-

sumption of the responsibilities, it has laid down the 12 objectives and has been implementing them to install a discipline-flourishing democratic system in the nation, as it will drive the country towards progress and prosperity.

It is also making tireless efforts for ensuring national reconsolidation, peace and stability of the nation, development of border areas and national races, proper evolution of the market-oriented economy, development of the private sector, emergence of capitalist class, working class, middle class and intellectual class, and progress of the race and religion. And the unprecedented developments in the political, economic and social sectors are the clear result of the endeavours. The most consequential outcome of the endeavours is the return to the legal fold of 17 armed groups that had opposed the successive governments for many years. The Government still keeps the door for the remaining groups to come back to the fold.

Only if a country can walk straight and develop well on its own way of political, economic and social systems, will it be able to build a democratic state.

The Government has laid down the seven-point Road Map, and is in the process of shaping a democratic nation. In addition, the convening of the National Convention, the first step of the Road Map, is in progress.

But there are foreign minions holding negative views and are always opposing the Tatmadaw Government, which has always been dutiful in launching the democratic revolution. However, Myanmar and the world know that they have done nothing good for the nation. The acts of those quarters are to cause unrest in the nation, violate the existing laws, ask major powers for imposing economic sanctions on Myanmar with the intention of destroying all the nation-building tasks, cut off all foreign assistance including humanitarian aids to Myanmar, bar tourists and foreigners who wish to see Myanmar by themselves from visiting

the country, tarnish the image of Myanmar, and trick the UN and some global powers into taking action against Myanmar that never yields to the domination of the West. They are also resorting to various perpetration detrimental to the Road Map and the National Convention, break up the Union and national solidarity, and put the sovereignty in harms way. Those minions are destructive to the democratic revolution as they are under the darkness of evil that wants to destroy all the good things on earth. Despite the well-planned economic sanctions the US has imposed on Cuba for nearly half a century, over 4,000 foreign companies are running businesses in the island state.

Years of economic sanctions on Cuba have failed to produce desired results as there is still no room for the western style democracy to play a role in the country. The sanctions cannot serve as the driving force for flourishing of democracy, but instead causing sufferings to the

nation relies on trade and production development. Because trade and production have started to develop since the emergence of the social division of labour in human history. Trade and production started to flourish when human beings entered professional jobs to earn their living.

"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", says the law of social science.

Violation of the law and imposition of sanctions and punishments that will lead to the destruction of democracy transition in Myanmar being materialized by the Tatmadaw Government, will push Myanmar people away from democracy and put them into jeopardy.

The internal and external anti-government elements which are holding negative views and supporting with great pleasure the sanctions and punishments inflicted on Myanmar by the US and its western allies are destroyers of democracy. In this regard, I would like to urge the entire people to fight against those elements trying to harm our nation's transition to democracy, with united strength.

(Translation: TMT)
Myanma Alin+Kyemon:
4.12.2004.

Because of the differences in the history of the global countries, the objective conditions of the world nations and human history cannot accept the US and its western allies' imposition of sanctions to jeopardize other economies. And that is the reason why a nation cannot copy other's model. Only if a country can walk straight and develop well on its own way of political, economic and social systems, will it be able to build a democratic state.

The social scientists say that the main reason behind the progress of a

District News

Salin Township gets sufficient drinking water

SALIN, 25 Nov — Salin Township Development Affairs Department has sunk a tube-well recently at a cost of nearly K 1 million in ThitHkauk Village in Salin Township, Magway Division.

The tube-well was sunk with the contribution of wellwishers Dr Hla Pe (Rector- Retd) and wife Daw Khin Khin Htwe (Lecturer) and the township development affairs Department.

Thanks to the tube-well, ThitHkauk Village and its environs located in arid region now get enough drinking water. Newly-sunk tube-well supplies 12,000 gallons of water per hour.

The Development Affairs Committees under the Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs are making concerted efforts for sinking tube-wells in order to get sufficient fresh water in rural areas in states and Divisions where water is scarce. — MYANMA ALIN

Aged veterans receive cash

MAWLAMYINE, 24 Nov — War Veterans aged 75 and over in Mawlamyine District were provided cash assistance.

At a ceremony held at the township Development Affairs Department on 17 November, Chairman of the supervisory committee for Mawlamyine District War Veterans Organization Lt-Col Tin Aung presented K 10,000 each to 33 aged veterans.

MYANMA ALIN(1-12-04)

School Health Course opened

Hsipaw, 23 Nov — School health multiplier course organized by Hsipaw Township Health Supervisory Committee was opened on 20 November at Basic Education High School in the township.

A total of 146 headmasters and headmistresses in the township attended the course. After the course, they will lead the school health activities at their schools. — MYANMA ALIN

An oxygen tank contributed to Mawlamyinegyun People's Hospital

MAWLAMYINEGYUN, 30 Nov — A wellwisher contributed an oxygen tank worth K 105,000 to Mawlamyinegyun Township People's Hospital on 27 November through Acting Head of Township Health Department Dr Yi Yi Khin who accepted it.

The oxygen tank will be used in an emergency room of the hospital. — KYEMON



Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan accepts K 1 million from UMFCFI General Secretary U Sein Win Hlaing at the fourth donation of publications to rural self-reliant libraries on 3-12-2004. (News reported) — UMFCFI

Japanese researchers produce rubber from edible, wild mushroom

TOKYO, 3 Dec—Japanese researchers say they have produced rubber from a natural substance extracted from an edible, wild mushroom commonly found in the country.

Researchers at Gunma University, west of Tokyo, have not only produced rubber from the chichitake mushroom but the end-product has the advantage of not containing a protein that can cause allergies, said Hiroshi Mitomo, head of the research team at the university's biological and chemical engineering department.

"We are working on this project with the aim of trying to commercialize the product," Mitomo told *Reuters* on Thursday.

Before that happens, however, there are a few issues to address—including the fact that it takes more than 10 kilos (22 pounds) of mushrooms to make one kilo of rubber.

Also, the mushrooms are not grown commercially, are found only at the height of summer and rot after only about 10 days. "The biggest obstacle will be trying to reduce production costs," Mitomo said.

Currently, producing rubber from the mushrooms is more than 10 times as costly as getting it by tapping rubber trees or making it from petroleum products.

MNA/Reuters



Toyota Motor Corp's new concept vehicle i-unit is driven in during its unveiling performance in Tokyo on 3 December, 2004.—INTERNET

China-Spain Forum promotes full cooperation

BARCELONA, 3 Dec—Participants attending a meeting of the China-Spain Forum agreed on Wednesday that the overall bilateral cooperation will enter a new phase as the two countries face a broad future in cooperation in various fields.

China and Spain have great potential for future cooperation in various fields, and the Forum will ultimately lead to the establishment of a necessary permanent institution, said a communique released at the end of the two-day meeting with the participation of more than 400 delegates from the two countries.

The communique said both China and Spain have a vigorous economy and witnessed a rapid economic growth in recent years, which created many business opportunities in further boosting cooperation between enterprises of the two countries in fields such as energy, infrastructure and tourism.

In addition, the Spanish Government said it will encourage Spanish enterprises, especially small and medium-sized companies, to invest in China and further cooperate with China in the financial and services sectors.

According to the communique, Spain will establish Cervantes institutes in China to improve Spanish teaching. The two countries will also add Spanish language and Chinese language programmes in their middle schools to facilitate language studies.

The two countries will also exchange experience in preparing and holding Olympic Games, promote visits between athletes, and strengthen exchanges in sports education and sports medicine.

The China-Spain Forum, an unofficial organization, was established in Beijing in July 2003 as a platform for a full-range development of friendly bilateral cooperation. Beijing hosted the first meeting in December 2003, and the third meeting will be held in China at the end of next year.—*MNA/Xinhua*

Pilot complains about bad weather, says Indonesian investigator

JAKARTA, 3 Dec—An air traffic controller at the Adi Sumarmo Airport in the Indonesian town of Solo revealed that the pilot in a plane that crashed Tuesday had complained about bad weather before landing, an investigator said Wednesday.

"We have interrogated the air traffic controller. He said the pilot had no complaint except for the weather," Nurcahyo, a member of the government investigation team, was quoted as saying by Detikcom online news service. "There was no complaint about technical problems in the plane and the plane was permitted for landing," he said.

Earlier in the day, the rescue team found two cabin voice recorders, or black boxes, of the MD-82 wreckage after a 20-hour search.—*MNA/Xinhua*

Chinese dancers perform during the Miss World Pageant rehearsal in Sanya, on China's southern resort island of Hainan on 3 Dec, 2004.—INTERNET

ပြည်တွင်းပြန်လှည့်အားပေးပါ

Study shows air pollution causes immediate damage to heart

WASHINGTON, 2 Dec—Air pollution clearly causes immediate damage to the heart, including heart attacks, but its short-term effects on asthma and other respiratory symptoms are harder to document, US researchers said on Wednesday.

The report from the Electric Power Research Institute also contradicts many other studies that have implicated airborne compounds known as sulphates for damaging health. Instead, the researchers said, carbon or metal-based compounds may be more dangerous, at least on a day-to-day basis.

"The pollutants of most concern are carbon monoxide and carbon-containing particles in the atmosphere," Ron Wyzga, an EPRI executive, told a news conference.

The EPRI is an independent, non-profit centre set up to study health effects associated with the power industry. Some environmental groups say it is biased because it receives industry funding.

The EPRI has been studying the health effects of air pollution over Atlanta, as a typical Eastern US city, since 1998. The study is epidemiological, meaning it looks at the population as a whole and not at individual effects and so far it has only looked at short-term effects.

Details have been given to the US Environmental Protection Agency, the group said. The more pollution, the higher the rate of heart-related deaths, emergency room admissions, visits to doctors and "events" forcing activation of defibrillators implanted in the chests of heart patients, the study found. "When you go from a relatively low-pollution 'clean' day... to an average day, you see an increase in heart deaths of about 7 per cent," Wyzga said.—*MNA/Reuters*

Internet service on board SIA flights next year

SINGAPORE, 3 Dec—Singapore Airlines (SIA) will provide its passengers with high-speed inflight Internet services next year.

According to local media reports, the wireless broadband services, which include Internet surfing and e-mail receiving and sending on the initial stage, will be available on three SIA Singapore-London flights from the first quarter of 2005.

SIA said that more than 40 aircraft will be

equipped with this inflight technology in total and the services will also be expanded to include "live" global television news channels in the middle of next year.

However, the convenience is not free of charge. Six-hour plus unlimited access to the Internet will cost a passenger 29.95 US

dollars, while 19.95 US dollars and 14.95 US dollars are prices for Internet access between three and six hours and less than three hours respectively.

Passengers may also choose to pay on a metered basis with 7.95 US dollars for the first 30 minutes and 25 cents for every extra minute.—*MNA/Xinhua*

OPEC president says oil price moves to "reasonable level" in 2005

JAKARTA, 3 Dec—World oil price will have the opportunity to stabilize and arrive at a "reasonable level" due to the declining world demand next year, president of the Organization of Petroleum-Exporting Countries (OPEC) has said.

Purnomo Yusgiantoro was quoted Thursday by the *Bisnis Indonesia* newspaper as saying that prediction on a slowdown in global economic growth would lead to a decline in oil demand to 83.23 million barrels per day.

"The demand is lower than the original prediction of 83.41 BPD," said Purnomo, who is also Indonesia's Energy Minister. A decline in global crude oil consumption will deliver positive impact to the market, he said. "World oil

price will be more stable and stay at reasonable level in 2005," he said without elaborating. The 11-member OPEC has the estimated oil reserves of 891 billion barrels, accounting for 78.3 per cent of global oil reserves.—*MNA/Xinhua*



မညာရေးဖြင့် ခေတ်မီပွဲပြီးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်ဆဲ

Having ultrasounds during pregnancy does not harm unborn baby

LONDON, 3 Dec — Having several ultrasounds during pregnancy does not harm the unborn baby or restrict the child's growth or development early in life, Australian scientists said on Friday.

An ultrasound scan is a non-invasive procedure done routinely during pregnancy to assess the size, growth, health and gestational age of the foetus.

Earlier research had suggested that having several ultrasounds could increase right-handedness and affect the growth of the foetus, but Professor John Newnham, of King Edward Memorial Hospital in Subiaco, Australia, said the children grow and develop normally.

"Exposure to multiple prenatal ultrasound examinations from 18 weeks' gestation onwards might be associated with a small effect on foetal growth but is followed in childhood by growth and measures of developmental outcome similar to children who had received a single prenatal scan," he said in a report in *The Lancet* medical journal.

Newnham and his team studied the progress of about 2,700 children. Half had been exposed to re-

peated ultrasounds before birth. None had any congenital abnormalities.

The researchers assessed the growth and development of the children up to eight years old. At one year, both groups of children were similar in size. By the end of the study, there was no difference between the two groups in their results of standard speech, language, behaviour or neurological tests.

"Our results also provide reassurance that multiple prenatal ultrasound scans are not followed by smaller body size in infancy or childhood," Newnham added.

Despite their reassuring results, Newnham and his colleagues said more research is needed.

"In view of the widespread and liberal use of this technology, we are responsible for ensuring the safety of its use," he added.

MNA/Reuters

Philippines calls off classes, work in Govt offices due to typhoon

MANILA, 3 Dec — Typhoon "Yoyong" (international codename: Nanmadol) has prompted the Philippine Presidential Palace to suspend classes at all levels and work in all government offices on Friday.

"On instructions of the President, classes at all levels and work in government offices are suspended tomorrow in Metro Manila," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye announced Thursday night.

The order was made by Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, who added that the suspension of classes is nationwide.

Arroyo visited the outskirts of Real in the northern Philippine province of Quezon where she distributed relief goods to shell-shocked survivors.

She left immediately as winds intensified and driving rain began to fall.

A Philippine Daily Inquirer online news report said storm "Winnie" has left more than 900 people dead or missing due to landslides and floods in the northern Philippines this week, quoting rescuers.

However, the Philippine National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC) told *Xinhua* by phone that their confirmed death toll is 407, while 142 people were missing and 33 injured.

MNA/Xinhua

US personal savings rate falls near lowest record

WASHINGTON, 3 Dec — US personal savings rate fell to its second-lowest level on record in October, a development that makes it harder for the United States to shrink its huge trade deficit, the Wall Street Journal reported Thursday.

In October, households saved 0.2 per cent of their disposable income, down from 0.3 per cent in September.

It was the lowest rate recorded since the US Government's monthly savings data began in 1959, with the exception of October 2001, when statistical quirks related to the prior month's terrorist attacks produced a small negative savings rate, according to the report.

The saving rate implies someone with take-home pay of 40,000 US dollars a year is on average saving 1.50 dollars a week, Drew Matus, an economist at

Lehman Brothers, was quoted as saying.

"Given the propensity of US consumers to want to buy imported goods, we could see a worsening of the savings rate and current account deficit," he said, adding that it will take some time for the weaker dollar and higher interest rates to change that.

The falling household savings rate is making it more difficult for the United States to rein in its current account deficit, the shortfall on all trade and investment income between the United States and the rest of the world, said the report.

MNA/Xinhua



A single Christmas tree decorates the Town Hall in Sydney on 3 Dec, 2004.—INTERNET

S-E Asian Water Symposium opens in Vietnam

HANOI, 3 Dec — The second International Symposium on Southeast Asia Water Environment kicked off here on Thursday, featuring discussions about water-related issues and solutions to them.

The huge population in Southeast Asia is on the rise, especially in mega cities, greatly affecting water environment and availability of good water supply services, symposium chairman Shinichiro Ohgaki said when addressing the two-day meeting.

All stakeholders, including researchers and policy makers should beef up their cooperation, putting forth and carrying out technical and managerial measures to preserve, exploit

and use water sources in a more effective and sustainable way, he stressed.

During the symposium, local and foreign experts are to centre their discussions on four areas, namely groundwater, water and wastewater management, water environment monitoring and water environment management, trying to find out best solutions to the issues at both regional and national scales.

MNA/Xinhua



Bravo, a 7-month-old male cheetah cub, takes a break with CJ, a 5-month-old Anatolian shepherd puppy, on 3 Dec 2004, at the Cincinnati Zoo in Cincinnati. The two just arrived at the zoo from Cape Town, South Africa, along with another cheetah cub.—INTERNET

China, Iraq to strengthen energy cooperation

BEIJING, 3 Dec — Visiting Iraqi Oil Ministry chief Thamir Abbas Gadhban assured Chinese Vice-Premier Zeng Peiyan here Thursday that Iraq and China share good prospects for energy cooperation.

Gadhban said that Iraqi people cherish their traditional friendship with the Chinese and welcome Chinese enterprises to actively take part in the country's oil industry reconstruction and economic development.

He said that Iraqi Government would take measures to protect the legitimate interests of all foreign enterprises and strive to create a peaceful and safer environment for the development of both indi-

viduals and businesses.

Zeng said that Chinese Government would like to enhance its friendly relationship with Iraq in an all-round way under the principle of mutual respect, equality and mutual benefits.

"Iraq is an important energy power in the Middle East. Restoration of its oil production will help stabilize the world's turbulent oil market," he said.

After decades of years of development, Chinese

oil industry has accumulated plenty of good experiences in the exploration and the utilization of refining equipment. China also enjoys advantages in funding, technology, skilled technicians and equipment, Zeng said. To help Iraqi people quicken their economic development and become well-off fast, Chinese Government will encourage domestic business to participate in the reconstruction of oil industry in Iraq.—MNA/Xinhua

SPORTS

Barthez will be out of action for two weeks

PARIS, 4 Dec—France goalkeeper Fabien Barthez will be out of action for at least two weeks after undergoing skin surgery, his club Olympique Marseille said on Friday.

"I spoke to Fabien and the operation went well," Marseille's new coach Philippe Troussier said in a statement on the club's website. "His recovery will need time but we hope he will be back soon."

Troussier did not reveal the nature of the operation which took place on Thursday.

Provincial newspaper La Provence reported on Monday that Barthez' operation was to remove a non-malignant skin tumour. Barthez will definitely miss his team's first game under Troussier on Saturday at Caen and their home match against AJ Auxerre on 11 December. —MNA/Reuters

Ferguson calls for FA to show clarity over disciplinary procedures

MANCHESTER (England), 4 Dec—Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson has called on the Football Association (FA) to show greater clarity over disciplinary procedures.

Ferguson was speaking after the FA decided not to take action against Arsenal's Robin van Persie following an incident involving United's Kieran Richardson in a League Cup match on Wednesday.

"It is not a matter of being disappointed, we just need clarification," Ferguson told a news conference on Friday.

"There is a lot of puzzlement about how it works, how it is conducted and how they come to their conclusions."

"(Aston Villa's) Lee Hendrie was given a three-match for intent and all managers are confused."

"They don't know how the procedures are working and what is taken to be brought before the disciplinary procedures. We just need clarification."

Fourth-placed United face Southampton at Old Trafford on Saturday looking for a seventh straight win in all competitions.

Ferguson believes his team's improved form is much to do with the resurgence of attacking midfielder Paul Scholes, who has ended a long run without a goal with three in his last two league games.

"Hopefully, we are on a run now. There are goals in the team again with the return to form of Paul Scholes," Ferguson added.

"We overused him at the start of the season because of the demands of the club."

"He, the two Nevilles and (Mikael) Silvestre were overused without question so having got the break when he did he has come back fresh and he is looking the player we all know he is."

United will again be without French striker Louis Saha and Brazilian midfielder Kleberson is ruled out with an ankle injury sustained in the game against Arsenal.

MNA/Reuters



Manchester United's Kleberson (R) fights for the ball with Arsenal's Mathieu Flamini. Kleberson has been ruled out of action until the New Year after incurring an ankle injury in Manchester United's midweek League Cup win over Arsenal.—INTERNET

Arsenal may consider signing Emmanuel Petit

LONDON, 4 Dec—Arsenal may consider signing French midfielder Emmanuel Petit as a stop-gap solution to their midfield injury problems, manager Arsene Wenger says.

Petit and compatriot Patrick Vieira formed a formidable partnership for the Gunners in the 1997-98 season when they won the league and FA Cup double. Petit is currently rehabilitating after knee surgery and training with Arsenal.

"It has crossed my mind to help Emmanuel. He is here to get back to full fitness and find a club. It isn't in my mind at the moment to sign him but maybe he could help us for a few months," Wenger told the London Evening Standard on Friday. "I haven't ruled it out."

Champions Arsenal have suffered a sharp loss of form since losing to Manchester United on October 24 and have also lost Brazilian midfielders Edu

and Gilberto to injury.

Captain Vieira is suspended for two important games, against league leaders Chelsea on December 12 and Tuesday's final group match against Rosenborg Trondheim in the Champions League.

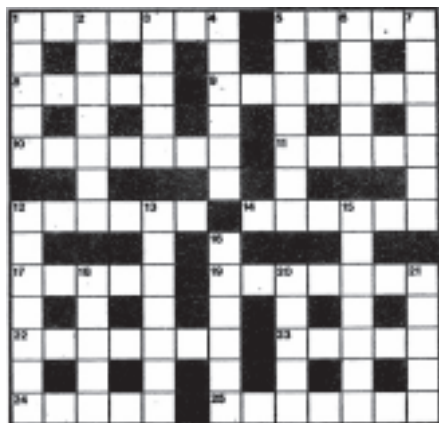
Petit, 34, left Arsenal in 2000 to join Barcelona before returning to English soccer with Chelsea a year later. He was released by Chelsea at the end of last season after a series of knee operations.

Wenger ruled out giving Petit a full contract.

"I am just interested in helping him find a club where he could play for one or two years and he will not find that with us," he said.

MNA/Reuters

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

- 1 Increasing
- 5 Sheets of windowglass
- 8 Corner
- 9 Unyielding
- 10 Vest
- 11 Deathly pale
- 12 French poet
- 14 Feverishly active
- 17 Piece of bullion
- 19 Slope
- 22 Fortified position
- 23 Penetrate
- 24 Incorrect
- 25 Compunction

DOWN

- 1 Pasture
- 2 Vital
- 3 Perfect
- 4 Concedes
- 5 Conciliate
- 6 Town in West Glamorgan
- 7 Diabolical
- 12 Iris
- 13 Nil
- 15 Chirp
- 16 Transgressor
- 18 Zest
- 20 Best part
- 21 Weird

Liverpool stands at crossroads following traumatic week

LONDON, 4 Dec—Once an all-conquering force in European football, Liverpool stand at a crossroads following a traumatic week off the pitch.

The very identity of a club that holds the record of 18 English league title wins but no longer possesses the financial muscle to compete with England's best teams, let alone Europe's, is at stake.

Chairman David Moores, whose family have controlled the club for more than half a century, must decide whether to sell up to one of several investors circling the club.

Liverpool must also resolve urgently their plans to move to a new bigger stadium, either via a controversial groundshare with city rivals Everton or alone.

Both decisions have prompted much soul-searching and at Thursday's stormy annual general meeting the anguish was laid bare. Moores, who has resisted several offers to buy his 51-per-cent stake, sounded like a beaten man when he declared that the last 12 months had been "unbearable".

Businessman Steve Morgan, who has stalked the club for months, has offered a 70-million-pound (135.7 million US dollars) cash injection. Two bids have emanated from Thailand while a US-based consortium and another as yet unidentified foreign party have also declared an interest.

Morgan, whose wife Didy begged the Liverpool board to accept her husband's offer in a dramatic twist at Thursday's AGM, appears to be in pole position, although he seems to have few friends on the Liverpool board. Moores, though, appears close to capitulating. "I can't compete with Mr. Morgan's millions," he said.

Liverpool cannot compete either with the likes of Manchester United, the world's richest soccer club, Roman Abramovich-funded Chelsea and Arsenal, whose new 60,000-capacity stadium is already half-built. On Thursday Liverpool announced record losses of 21.9 million pounds for the last financial year.—MNA/Reuters

Chelsea in no danger of becoming complacent

HARLINGTON (England), 4 Dec—With the prospect of a first English title for 50 years and a fit, finely tuned squad competing for starting spots, Chelsea are in no danger of becoming complacent, assistant manager Steve Clarke said.

The London side qualified for the second round of the Champions League with two games to spare, have reached the semifinals of the League Cup and are five points clear at the top of the Premier League. Clarke says manager Jose Mourinho will not be allowing his expensively assembled squad to feel secure when they meet Newcastle on Saturday, however.

"We don't feel complacent at all. We can't afford to be complacent. That comes all the way from the top," Clarke said after training on Friday.

"It's nice to be at the top. It's a good feeling and we want to keep that feeling. We believe we can stay there but you've still got to go out every week, every match and win."

Clarke said keeping the squad of top international talent happy when many of them did not play regularly was vital.

"We work at team spirit. You have to show you believe in them and trust them. (Mourinho) makes all the players feel important," Clarke said.—MNA/Reuters

Indonesia urged to take advantage of ASEAN-China FTA

JAKARTA, 4 Dec— Indonesia must take advantage of the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between China and the 10-member Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and develop specialization and expertise in production, the trade minister has said.

"We can and must take full advantage of the increasing tendency of East Asia to become a regional production centre where China is the core," Trade Minister Mari Elka Pangestu said in an interview with *The Jakarta Post* newspaper published Friday.

"China becomes the centre due to its big exports and big domestic market. Indonesia, however, could become an alternative supply source or become a complement to China," she said.

She underlined that the spirit of ASEAN Economic Community and the ASEAN-China Free Trade Area is participation of all countries in the region in the production network.

"Eventually, all countries will move towards de-

veloping specializations or expertise in producing certain goods," she said.

Mari said Indonesia has potential in electronics, noting that electronics export growth is the highest among the country's non-oil and gas exports. Electronics, she said, "is our future industry."

Mari said Indonesia can specialize most of its natural-based goods. For example, she said, the country's textiles are very competitive, especially synthetic yarns and fabrics, but lack of new investment in the past few years has hampered the sector's productivity.

"In the textile and clothing industry we must no longer play in the low end products, as China already maintains a stranglehold in that segment. We have to enter medium end market, which means that we must be more concerned about designs and brands, which will deliver higher added value," she said.

MNA/Xinhua

ADB approves loans to protect Bangladesh towns from floods

MANILA, 4 Dec— The Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved Thursday an 80-million-US-dollar loan for a project to protect Bangladesh's secondary towns from the devastating effects of floods.

The project, the second phase of the Secondary Towns Integrated Flood Protection Project, covers nine secondary towns that are prone to river flooding, river erosion, waterlogging, and flash floods, the ADB said in a statement.

The integrated approach of the project, which is due for completion in June 2009, will combine river protection works with drainage and basic sanitation services to create better environmental conditions and more hygienic living conditions for the poor in the slums.

Flooding is a perennial problem in Bangladesh and urban areas are more prone to economic and human losses due to their high population density and concentration of industrial and investment sites.

MNA/Xinhua

PM urges to build Singapore into exceptional metropolis

SINGAPORE, 4 Dec — Singapore on Friday outlined its strategies to cement its status as a thriving metropolis and cosmopolitan hub-city.

Opening the Shaping Singapore Exhibition at the City Gallery on Friday, Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said that the government needs to come up with imaginative concepts and implement the right policies to upgrade the city state into a truly exceptional metropolis.

"Moving forward, what should distinguish our city is boldness, experimentation, setting new standards and pushing new frontiers. We have to find ways to unleash the creativity and energy of our people," Lee said.

To realize this goal, Lee asked the Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA) to cope with various sectors to adopt newer and bolder development concepts, constantly review and relax the building rules, actively promote good design and go for excellence but not ostentation or false grandeur.

He said that Singapore should stand a chance of acquiring the "X-factor", the quality that brings pride to its people and at the same time excites visitors.

MNA/Xinhua

Large amount of illegal drugs burnt in Thailand

BANGKOK, 4 Dec— The Thai Government Thursday burned more than 8 billion baht worth of confiscated illegal drugs, according to local newspaper reports Friday.

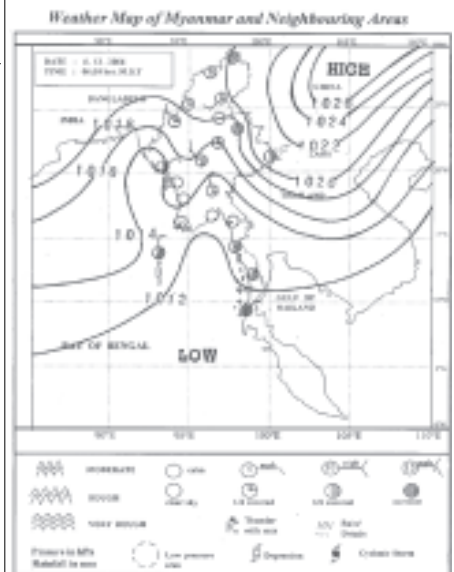
The drugs, weighing over 3.5 tons, were burned at the Bangpa-in Industrial Estate in Thailand's central province of Ayutthaya, the *Bangkok Post* reported. The event was presided over by Deputy Public Health Minister Suchai Charoenrattanachai.

The confiscated drugs include 35 million methamphetamine pills, over 200 kilos of heroin and other quantities of opium and ecstasy.

The Thai Government destroys confiscated illegal drugs twice a year. In June this year, more than 2.5 tons of illegal drugs were burned.

There are still 20 tons of illegal drugs in the Food and Drug Administration's high security room waiting to be destroyed, the report said.

MNA/Xinhua



WEATHER

Saturday, 4 November, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been fair in the whole country. Night temperatures were (5°C) below normal in Chin State and Yangon Division, (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Kachin, Rakhine and Kayin States and about normal in remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Mindat and Hakha (4°C) each, PynOoLwin (6°C) and Namsam (7°C).

Maximum temperature on 3-12-2004 was 94°F. Minimum temperature on 4-12-2004 was 58°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 4-12-2004 was 63%. Total sunshine hours on 3-12-2004 was (8.7) hours approx. Rainfall on 4-12-2004 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 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 (15:30) hours MST on 3-12-2004.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 5-12-2004: Possibility of isolated light rain in Taninthayi Division and weather will be partly cloudy in Kachin, Shan, Kayin and Mon States and generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (40%).

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

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

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 5-12-2004: Fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 5-12-2004: Fair weather.



Sunday, December 5

View on today:

7:00 am

1. Recitation of Parittas
by Missionary Sayadaw U Ottamathara

7:25 am

2. To be healthy exercise

7:30 am

3. Morning news

7:40 am

4. Nice and sweet song

7:50 am

5. ယဉ်ကျေးလိမ္မော်(၃၀)ပြာမင်္ဂလာ

8:05 am

6. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:15 am

7. ဓမ္မလောကဇာတ်တော်

8:30 am

8. International news

8:45 am

9. Islands of Dhamma

11:00 am

1. Martial song

11:10 am

2. Musical programme

11:25 am

3. Round-up of the week's International news

11:35 am

4. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ
"သဗ္ဗညုဗုဒ္ဓ" (အပိုင်း-၅၀)

12:15 pm

5. သင်ပုန်းရေးသားတံခွန်

12:25 pm

6. "အိမ်ကပ်တစ်ခုတော့
မဟုတ်ဘူး"
လွင်နိုး၊ အိမ်ကပ်တစ်ခုတော့
ခါရံကတော့-ဟိန်းနိုး

2:00 pm

7. Musical programme

2:15 pm

8. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ

2:30 pm

9. ကော့ကံကြီးပေါက်တံတား

2:45 pm

10. International news

4:00 pm

1. Martial song

4:15 pm

2. Song to uphold
National Spirit

4:30 pm

3. အဆေးသင်တန်းသို့လ် ပညာရေး
ရရှိခြင်းကြားသင်ခန်းစာ
-တတိယနှစ် (ရုပ်ပေးအထူးပြု)
(ရုပ်ပေး)

5:15 pm

4. Dance of national
races

5:00 pm

5. Musical programme

5:15 pm

6. မြန်မာစား၊ မြန်မာကောင်း

5:30 pm

7. Agricultural Source
Country's Development

5:45 pm

8. Sing and Enjoy

6:30 pm

9. Evening news

7:00 pm

10. Weather report

7:05 pm

11. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ
"ရုစီတြီးသွယ်တံလင်းပိုင်လယ်"
(အပိုင်း-၃၀)

7:45 pm

12. တိတိခပ်ငြိမ်းချမ်း ခိတ်ချမ်းမြေ့
ဓရာ ဓမ္မစွမ်းရည်သာသနာ့ရိပ်သာ

8:00 pm

13. News

14. International news

14. Weather report

15. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ
"ရုစီတြီးသွယ်တံလင်းပိုင်လယ်"
(အပိုင်း-၂၃)

17. The next day's
programme

Aid provided for rural development in Sagaing Division

YANGON, 4 Dec — Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council, North-West Command Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye and Secretariat Member of Union Solidarity and Development Association (Central), Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan met officials, townsenders, members of social organizations and students totalling over 400 from 23 villages of Pale Township at Pale Yadana Hall in Pale, Monywa District, on 29 November, and coordinated matters related to rural development tasks.

At the meeting, officials of respective vil-

lages reported on condition of their villages and the requirements to be fulfilled. After hearing the reports, the commander and the minister attended to the needs through coordination with departmental officials concerned.

Speaking on the occasion, the commander said local authorities were responsible to ensure the prevalence of law and order in their regions in accord with the motto that goes 'no one is above the law'. He also called for increased production of crops to meet the target the government had set.

Next, Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan gave a brief account of

rural development tasks, which cover the tasks for public welfare; for the development of social, education, health, economic and education sectors; and for the opening of libraries in rural areas in line with the guidance of the Head of State. He also explained matters related to the holding of the National Convention in a systematic way in line with the guidance of the Head of State for the emergence of a modern, developed, discipline-flourishing democratic nation in accord with the seven-point future policy programme.

Next, he called for active participation of (See page 10)



Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye presents gift to an outstanding student of the Basic Education High School in Pale Township on 29-11-2004. — MNA

Foreign Minister leaves for Malaysia

YANGON, 4 Dec — At the invitation of Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar, a Myanmar delegation led by Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win left here by air today to attend the Second East Asia Forum to be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from 5 to 6 December.

The delegation was seen off at the airport by Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung and Minister at the Prime Minister's Office U Than Shwe.

Minister U Nyan Win was accompanied by Director-General U Tint



Minister U Nyan Win being seen off at the airport. — MNA

Dai and Deputy Director-General U Pe Than Oo of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Prof Dr Daw

Myint Kyi of the Department of International Relations of the University of Yangon and Central

Executive Committee member of UMFCCI Dr Sein Myint.

MNA

INSIDE

We wish that more visitors may come and share these benefits of spiritual richness (the Great Machine work all time and answers to everyone who touches) while, at the same time, they may witness the unique natural beauties that make Myanmar well-known as the Golden Land.

Myint Maung
(Religious Affairs)

Page (7)

Violation of the law and imposition of sanctions and punishments that will lead to the destruction of democracy transition in Myanmar being materialized by the Tatmadaw Government, will push Myanmar people away from democracy and put them into jeopardy.

Aung Moe San

Page (11)

First CLMTV-ECS Trade Fair-2004 packed with visitors

YANGON, 4 Dec — The First CLMTV-ECS Trade Fair-2004 continued for the second day today and was packed with visitors.

At the Myanmar booth on the ground floor, Myanmar products, medicines developed from Spirulina (algae) and personal goods, Myanmar fruits, products of Myanma Sugarcane Enterprise, rattan products, traditional sculpture and mosaic, sea food and traditional bags were on display.

At the Cambodian booth on the right side of the hall, Cambodian traditional loom decorated with artistic work, gems and jewellery from Cambodia were on display.

At the booth of Lao People's Democratic Republic, Thad Luong Stupa replica handicrafts, textiles and silvery work, traditional costumes, jewellery and scenic photos were displayed.

At the booth of Vietnam on the left side of the hall, home decoration items, make-up and lubrications, fertilizer, personal goods and industrial equipment were displayed.

(See page 9)



The CLMTV-ECS Business & Investment Forum-2004 in progress. — MNA