

# The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Wednesday, 8 December 2004

## Four political objectives

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

## Four economic objectives

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

## Four social objectives

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

## Senior General Than Shwe receives Lao PDR Prime Minister and party

YANGON, 7 Dec—Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar Senior General Than Shwe received Prime Minister of Lao People's Democratic Republic Mr Bounnhang Vorachith and party at the Credentials Hall of Pyithu Hluttaw Building here at 3 pm today.

Also present on the occasion were Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann, Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay, Myanmar Ambassador to LPDR U Tin Oo, Director-General of the State Peace and

Development Council Office Lt-Col Pe Nyein and Director-General of Protocol Department Thura U Aung Htet.

The Laotian Prime Minister was accompanied by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Somsavat Lengsavad and senior officials and Laotian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Chanthavy Bodhisane.—MNA



Senior General Than Shwe and party pose for a documentary photo together with visiting Laotian Prime Minister Mr Bounnhang Vorachith and party at the Credentials Hall of the Pyithu Hluttaw Building. — MNA

## Lao PDR Prime Minister arrives on official visit

YANGON, 7 Dec — At the invitation of Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar Lt-Gen Soe Win, a goodwill delegation led by Prime Minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic Mr Bounnhang Vorachith arrived here on an official visit by special aircraft this morning.

The delegation was welcomed at the Yangon International Airport by Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Yangon Division PDC Chairman Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Minister for Religious Af-

fairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay, Myanmar Ambassador to Lao PDR U Tin Oo, Ambassador Mr Chanthavy Bodhisane and embassy staff, Protocol Department Director-General Thura U Aung Htet and officials.

Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and party accorded a warm welcome to the Prime Minister of Lao PDR and his entourage on their arrival at the airport at 9.50 am.

Next, Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win and his counterpart of Lao PDR, from the dais, took the salute of the Guard of

Honour at the airport. Meanwhile, the State Band played the national anthems of Lao PDR and Myanmar.

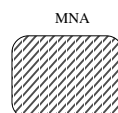
Afterwards, the Prime Ministers inspected the Guard of Honour. Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win cordially greeted the members of the goodwill delegation. The Laotian Prime Minister cordially greeted Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and party and staff and their families of the Laotian Embassy.

Later, the visiting Prime Minister and his entourage, together with Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win and party, went by car to the hotel where they will put up.

MNA



Prime  
Minister  
Lt-Gen Soe  
Win greets  
his Laotian  
counterpart  
Mr  
Bounnhang  
Vorachith at  
the airport.



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

## PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 8 December, 2004

## World Buddhist Summit for perpetuation and propagation of the Buddha Sasana

The World Buddhist Summit is going to be held in full swing in the Union of Myanmar, the nation where Theravada Buddhism flourishes, from 9 to 11 December. It is to take place in the Maha Pasana Cave at Kaba Aye where the Sixth Great Buddhist Council (Synod) was held. Now preparations are well under way.

The Maha Pasana Cave is a historic place. It was in 1956 that venerable elders from five Theravada Buddhist nations, namely, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Laos and Cambodia, attended the Council to recite and verify the scriptures of the Buddha. Therefore, the Government is planning to hold the World Buddhist Summit at this place.

A rehearsal of the World Buddhist Summit took place at the Maha Pasana Cave on 6 December. Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win, also Chairman of the Leading Committee for Holding the World Buddhist Summit, attended the ceremony and left necessary instructions to all those responsible.

Myanmar has a Sangha population of nearly 400,000 and Sangha Nayaka Committees at different levels, together with the Ministry of Religious Affairs, are taking care of the Sasana. And the Government and the people are very religious and they are always ready to support the Sasana and provide four necessities to the Sangha. Therefore, Buddhism is flourishing very well in Myanmar.

Heads of State and Government, delegates, Buddhist leaders, participants and observers from 37 nations have been invited and they are going to attend the World Buddhist Summit. At the Summit, there will be talks on the teachings of Buddha, seminars and paper-reading sessions. Moreover, a joint declaration will be issued at the end of the Summit.

We believe that the World Buddhist Summit will contribute a lot to perpetuation and propagation of the Buddha Sasana and peace and stability of the world and that it will be a total success.

## ပဉ္စမအကြိမ်

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ကျိုက္ကဆံကွင်း ပြည်ထောင်စုခန်းမ

## ပဉ္စမအကြိမ်

တိုင်းရင်းဆေးနှင့် ဆေးပစ္စည်းပြပွဲ

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တပ်မတော်ခန်းမ

## 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

## Ambassador calls on F &amp; R Minister

YANGON, 7 Dec — Singaporean Ambassador Mr T Jasudasan called on Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun this afternoon at the latter's office at 3pm today.

Also present at the call were Deputy Minister Col Hla Thein Swe, Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar U Kyaw Kyaw Maung and officials.

MNA



Minister Maj-Gen Hla Tun receives Singaporean Ambassador Mr Thambynathan Jasudasan. — F & R

## Foreign Minister returns from Second East Asia Forum

YANGON, 7 Dec — A Myanmar delegation led by Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win arrived back here

by air yesterday evening after attending the Second East Asia Forum held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from 5 to 6 December, at

the invitation of Malaysian Foreign Minister Mr. Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar.

The Myanmar del-

egation was welcomed back at Yangon International Airport by Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office U Than Shwe, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu, the directors-general and responsible officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Chargé d' Affaires of Malaysian Embassy.

The Myanmar delegation member Deputy Director-General of Ministry of Foreign Affairs U Pe Than Oo also arrived back on the same flight.

MNA



Minister U Nyan Win and party being welcomed back at the airport. — MNA

## On-job Training Course No 17 for Auditors concludes

YANGON, 7 Dec — The On-job Training Course No 17 for Auditors concluded at the Auditor-General's Training School this afternoon, with an address by Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Auditor-General Daw Thin Thin, Director-Gen-

eral of the Auditor-General's Office U Myo Myint, the deputy directors-general, officials of the training school, faculty members and trainees.

The one-month course was attended by 85 auditors from the Auditor-General's Office and regional auditor offices.

MNA

## Sarsodaw Day commemorative Book Fair continues

YANGON, 7 Dec — Myanmar Sarsodaw Day commemorative Book Fair organized by Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association continued today at Yangon Trade Centre in Pazundaung Township.

A total of 48 publishing houses participated in the fair and there are 76 book shops. Over 7,000 bookworms today visited the fair and the sale fetched over K 2.1 million.

MNA



Book lovers browsing and choosing publications at the book fair. — MNA

## Tiger Cup soccer live on TV

YANGON, 7 Dec — Myanma Radio and TV will telecast live all the matches the Myanmar team plays at the Tiger Cup soccer tourney to be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, which begins 7 December.

The broadcasting of Myanmar's fist match against the Philippines will begin at 4.30 pm on 8 December. — MNA



## Arroyo suspends all logging permits

**MANILA, 6 Dec**— Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo on Sunday suspended all logging permits nationwide and urged tougher measures to crack down on illegal logging through legislations.

Arroyo made the decision following landslides and logging torrents together with flash floods killed hundreds of people during the series of typhoons that battered the Luzon region over the past two weeks.

Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman disclosed over ABS-CBN News Channel on Saturday that Arroyo had ordered the cancellation of all logging permits in Infanta, Real and General Nakar in Quezon. The three towns were reportedly among the worst-hit areas as mud and giant rocks cascaded down from surrounding mountains.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources announced on Thursday the imposition of a total logging ban in Quezon Province, as well as in the towns of Dingalan and San Luis in neighbouring Aurora Province, after killer

flash floods buried several communities in the two provinces and killed hundreds of people.

Arroyo also urged Congress to amend existing environmental laws to impose stiffer penalties against illegal loggers and their cohorts.

Senator Richard Gordon has suggested a bill according to which prisoners who are not hardened criminals be enlisted to plant trees as part of the reforestation plan to be launched by the government, while Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr has called for a 25-year total log ban.

Environment officials estimate the country's actual forest cover as seven million hectares, while about 200,000 hectares of forest areas are destroyed annually through legal and illegal logging.—MNA/Xinhua

ထုတ်ဝေမှုနှင့် ဆက်သွယ်ရေး



A customer reads comics on a computer at a Tokyo Internet cafe. Fujitsu and Cisco Systems have teamed up to provide routers and switchers that will enable businesses to build advanced Internet Protocol networks.—INTERNET

## Pakistan seizes 2.3 tons of morphine

**QUETTA (Pakistan), 6 Dec**— Pakistani authorities seized 2.3 tons of morphine worth millions of dollars and a large quantity of arms from a remote southwestern village near the Afghan border, a paramilitary officer said on Sunday.

The drugs and arms such as rocket launchers, mortars and anti-aircraft rounds smuggled from Afghanistan were found dumped in a village after a raid by paramilitary Frontier Corps near the town of Chaghi in Baluchistan Province on Saturday, Lieutenant-Colonel Rizwan Malik told reporters.

Chaghi lies some 185 miles west of Quetta, capital of Pakistan's Baluchistan Province.—MNA/Reuters

## Singaporean couples may face HIV tests before marrying

**SINGAPORE, 6 Dec**— Couples in Singapore may face mandatory HIV tests before marrying, Singapore media reported on Sunday, a week after the government said all pregnant women would be screened for HIV/AIDS to stem a rise in new infections.

Health Minister Khaw Boon Wan said Singapore planned to seek public feedback on the pre-marital HIV tests in the wealthy, tightly controlled city-state, where the number of new HIV infections reached a record high this year.

"If you ask me as a parent, I think there is no

harm. I have three girls and you do not know what their boyfriends will be like," Khaw was quoted by The Straits Times as telling local reporters on Saturday.

"I think we are more likely to succeed if we treat this as a purely public health problem, so let's take away the morality and religion

from all this," he said.

Although the South-east Asian island has one of Asia's lowest levels of HIV infection, it is tightening defences after data from health workers showed women and girls in Asia increasingly at risk of becoming infected with the deadly disease.

Khaw said Singapore

was at the beginning of a second wave in the development of HIV, where more women are becoming infected. The number of new infections are already at a record high this year with 257 cases reported in the first 10 months of 2004, topping the 242 new cases reported for all of 2003.—MNA/Reuters

## HK to upgrade fire safety standards for better protection

**HONG KONG, 6 Dec**— Hong Kong's Fire Services Department (FSD) is committed to upgrading the fire safety standards of old buildings for better protection. Director of Fire Services Lam Chun-man said on Saturday at a ceremony for the annual Fire Prevention Campaign 2004/05 that this year's campaign will focus on upgrading fire safety measures. He urged owners and occupiers of commercial buildings to improve the fire safety standards of their buildings for better protecting all residents.

He stressed that the scope of fire

safety work included the improvement of hardware like fire services installations and equipment, as well as the support of software such as building management and fire prevention publicity.

The Fire Safety (Commercial Premises) Ordinance was brought into operation in 1997 and implemented in phases.

The ordinance requires the owners and occupiers of pre-1987 commercial buildings and prescribed commercial premises to upgrade their fire safety standards.—MNA/Xinhua

## 1,276 US troops killed since beginning of Iraq war

**WASHINGTON, 6 Dec**—As of Monday, 6 December, 2004, at least 1,276 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 998 died as a result of hostile action, the Defence Department said. The figures include three military civilians.

The AP count is six higher than the Defence Department's tally, last updated at 10 am EST Monday.

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 one death each. Since 1 May, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had

ended, 1,138 US military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 889 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

Three Marines were killed in action in two separate incidents Sunday in Anbar province. Two Marines were killed Friday in fighting in western Anbar province.—Internet

## Two Filipinos hurt in Iraq raid

**BAGHDAD, 6 Dec**—Two Filipinos working in two US military camps in Iraq were injured when terrorists attacked the two camps late last week.

Reports reaching the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) confirmed that Adolfo Adrea, 25, a mechanic working for Prime Product Inc, a US-owned subcontractor of Kellogg Brown and Root (KBR), was injured in the thigh when a rocket-propelled grenade hit Camp Victory on 3 December.

Another Filipino, Mark Reyes, who was working at Camp Anaconda, was also injured in a mortar attack. The report came from Philippine chargé d'affaires Eric Endaya, who is now based in Baghdad, along with two remaining embassy officers. He said that the two workers are now out of danger.

Acting Foreign Affairs Secretary Jose Brillantes said efforts to locate Filipino kidnap victim Roberto Tarongoy are still ongoing. Tarongoy was among the foreign workers of a Saudi-based company in Iraq who were kidnapped inside the villa where they hold office on 1 November.—Internet



A US Marine patrols the central Iraqi city of Yusufiyah on 6 Dec, 2004.

INTERNET

## Chinese Premier meets Italian President

**BEIJING, 7 Dec**— Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao said here Monday that China and Italy can strengthen their cooperation in a number of areas to “enrich bilateral relations”.

During a meeting with visiting Italian President Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, Wen proposed that China and Italy can advance their cooperation in political, economic, cultural, educational, tourism and media sectors.

China and Italy established diplomatic relations 34 years ago. Earlier this year, Beijing and Rome agreed to set up “full-range strategic partnership relations” and formed a China-Italy governmental commission to guide the growth of relations.

“Two-way visits at different levels between the two countries have been frequent, and bilateral cooperation vig-

orous,” Wen noted. “We have had close coordination in international arenas.”

On his first state visit to China as President of Italy, Ciampi said he agreed with Wen’s proposals on developing bilateral ties.

The President compared the current visit with his first visit to China in 1983 as governor of the Central Bank of Italy and said Italy-China cooperation has had fruitful results.

The Italian President said his current visit to China aims to enhance relations with China in areas of politics, culture and economy.

MNA/Xinhua

ဝက်ဟူမ်းအား ခေတ်ကျော်သွား



Window work : Window cleaners work on a highrise building in Beijing on 5 Dec 2004.—INTERNET

## Vietnam, Singapore agree to forge economic link

**HANOI, 7 Dec**— Along with Singapore, Vietnam will take concrete measures to link the economies of the two countries, and strive for brighter future of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Vietnamese Prime Minister Phan Van Khai made the statement when holding talks with his visiting Singaporean counterpart Lee Hsien Loong on Monday, *Vietnam News Agency* reported.

During the talks, the prime ministers focused on measures to implement the initiative to link the two economies proposed by Singapore during Khai’s visit to the island state in March 2004. In the short term, the two countries will join hands in six areas, namely investment, trade, transport, information technology and telecommunications, finance and banking, and education and training.

Khai affirmed that Vietnam always treasures and wants to beef up multifaceted cooperative and friendly relations on the win-win basis with Singapore, considering the foreign country one of its reliable and important partners.

He also stressed that Vietnam and Singapore, in the current international situations, should promote mutual support, solidarity, cooperation and consultation under the ASEAN framework for peace, stability and prosperity in the region as well as the world.

MNA/Xinhua

## Eight US soldiers sue Pentagon over extended Iraq tours

**WASHINGTON, 6 Dec**—Eight US soldiers on Monday sued the Pentagon, claiming the military extended their tours of duty in Iraq although their contracts had expired, their attorneys said.

It is the only known court challenge by active-duty soldiers against the Defence Department’s so-called stop-loss policy, said attorney Staughton Lynd.

Seven of the soldiers in the lawsuit have asked to remain anonymous, but one of them, David Qualls, said at a news conference in Washington that the court challenge is over “a question of fairness.”

“I enlisted in July 2003. I completed and served that one year,”

Qualls said. “I feel it is time to let me go back to my wife.”

Qualls, 35, signed a “Try One” contract on 7 July, 2003, which allows a soldier to serve for one year before deciding whether to extend service. Qualls says no one told him about the stop-loss policy. Pentagon paperwork said Qualls was on the hook until 2031, when Qualls will be over 60 years old, according to court papers.

Internet

## China-Germany cooperation aim at long-term, win-win results

**BEIJING, 7 Dec**— The cooperation between governments of China and Germany aim at long-term and win-win results, visiting German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder said here Monday.

The Chancellor made the remarks while visiting the China-Germany joint venture of Aircraft Maintenance and Engineering Co., Beijing (Ameco Beijing), the first stop immediately after he arrived in Beijing afternoon.

Schroeder came here for a three-day working visit to China at the invitation of Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao. He cited Ameco as a successful example of cooperation between businesses of China and Germany. “How should the cooperation be carried out between the two countries, Ameco can tell us,” Schroeder told dozens of reporters both from China and overseas in Ameco’s huge hangar with a capacity to accommodate four Boeing 747 aircraft that began operation in 1996.

Located at the Beijing Capital International Airport and succeeding the old Beijing Aircraft Maintenance Base of Air China, Ameco was established on August 1, 1989 with Air China holding 60 per cent and Lufthansa 40 per cent of the registered capital.

Ameco engages in maintenance, repair and overhaul services for airframe, engines and components of commercial aircraft. Line maintenance services cover nearly all Boeing and Airbus aircraft models. The company also offers aircraft painting services, engineering services and technical training.

Yang Yuanyuan, director of China’s General Administration of Civil Aviation, spoke positively of Ameco’s outstanding performance over the past decade and a half.— MNA/Xinhua

## 640 people infected with TB in southern Iraqi city

**BAGHDAD, 7 Dec**— A total of 640 people were infected with tuberculosis in the city of Diwaniyah, 180 kilometres south of Baghdad, local newspaper *Azzaman* reported on Monday.

“Most of the cases are of the ages between 15 to 45 years old, and most of them are residents of the villages near the city,” doctor Hassan Sharif Hussein, director of the consultative clinic for chest and respiratory diseases in Diwaniyah, was quoted as saying.

He pointed out that the hospitals

and the health centres in the city were suffering acute shortage in medicine and vaccines for this disease. The US-led invasion and the following waves of violence have left Iraq with great damage in its infrastructure and a dire need for basic necessities such as clean water and medicine. — MNA/Xinhua



A US soldier takes pictures of a crater caused by a car bomb at al-Jaderiyah bridge in Baghdad. US troops detonated an abandoned car packed with explosives on the bridge.—INTERNET

## Jordan-EU economic forum opens in Amman

**AMMAN, 7 Dec**— Jordan-EU economic dialogue forum started here Monday with an eye to promote economic development between the two sides, the *Jordan Times* reported on its web site.

Officials of the Jordanian planning and finance ministries and a European Commission delegation attended the three-day forum.

They would discuss the implementation of an economic and social development project to be launched soon.

Jordanian and European Union (EU) officials will also exchange views on fiscal policy, social development, poverty reduction, monetary policy and structural reforms, the report said.

MNA/Xinhua



## Singaporean PM to arrive in Philippines Thursday

MANILA, 7 Dec — Singaporean Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong will arrive in Manila Thursday for a two-day official visit that will be highlighted by discussions on trade and counter-terrorism cooperation.

Coming from Vietnam, Lee, who is on a series of introductory visits to the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) capitals, will meet Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, Senate President Franklin Drilon and House Speaker Jose de Venecia, the Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs said Monday.

The two sides are likely to discuss issues of bilateral cooperation, tourism, investments, and the current regional situation.

Singapore's bilateral relationship with the Philippines is on a firm footing and officials note that progress has been made in its framework for cooperation, under the Philippines-Singapore Action Plan.

MNA/Xinhua

## Ciampi calls for further Sino-Italian exchanges

BEIJING, 7 Dec — Visiting Italian President Carlo Azeglio Ciampi Monday called upon more exchanges between Italy and China on language and culture.

"I wish once again to encourage all of you, particularly the young people of China, to make the Italian language and culture a part of your lives, a bridge to bring us closer," Ciampi said.

Facing over 100 Chinese scholars who are engaged in Italian language teaching and research, Ciampi said more and more Chinese show interest in learning Italian language, but the total number of the learners is still small.

"A broader cultural interchange and a wider spreading of Italian are beneficial to the development of the Italy-China relations of mutual interest," he said.

According to Francesco Sisci, culture counsellor of the Italian Embassy in China, China has more than 1,000 Italian language learners and researchers, and only seven universities have offered the specialty of Italian language. More than 800 Chinese students are studying in Italy at present.

Ciampi made the proposals to improve the language and cultural exchanges between the two countries, including building up a China research centre in Turin, setting up a college of China in Bocconi University, and establishing friendly relationship between the certain Universities of the two countries.

Ciampi said both China and Italy have inherited great civilization and traditional friendship, and this will be the important basis for the exchanges and cooperation between the two countries.

Ciampi arrived in Beijing Saturday for a six-day state visit. He said before he left for China that the visit will inject dynamics for the cooperation in all fields. He also hoped to enhance the friendly relations between the two countries and the two peoples through the political, economic and cultural exchanges.

MNA/Xinhua

## China's "IT" industry to maintain rapid growth

BEIJING, 7 Dec — China's information technology (IT) industry will maintain rapid and healthy growth in 2005, which will render a good start for the 11th Five-Year Plan that follows the 10th Five-Year Plan ending in 2005.

The prediction was made by Chen Wei, deputy director of the Economic Operations Department under the Ministry of the Information Industry (MII), at the 2004 Annual Economic Conference of China's IT Industry over the weekend in Beijing, *China Daily* reported on Monday.

China's IT industry is expected to see a sales revenue of 2.68 trillion yuan (322.3 billion US dollars) in 2004, up 42.3 per cent year-on-year, becoming the country's leading driver for economic growth, MII sources indicate.

Chen estimated that the industry's

added value is expected to hit 578 billion yuan (about 70 billion US dollars) for the entire 2004, up 44.5 per cent. Tax revenue is likely to reach 143.1 billion yuan (some 17 billion US dollars), up 37.9 per cent; and exports totalling to 180 billion US dollars, roughly 34 per cent of country's total exports.

China's IT industry witnessed a 40.5-per-cent rise in added value to 363.2 billion yuan for the year through the third quarter, which compares to 15.5 per cent for all the country's industries during the same period.

MNA/Xinhua



Macaws play inside their cage in a zoo in Delhi on 30 Nov, 2004. The Delhi zoo houses six macaws, which are found in the tropical south and central America, and feed on fruits, seeds and nuts that they crack open with their strong beaks.—INTERNET

## Jetstar Asia to start flights from Singapore next week

SINGAPORE, 7 Dec — Jetstar Asia, the Singapore-based budget carrier, will launch its operations in the island state by flying to Hong Kong on 13 December. According to local media reports on Monday evening, flights on the initial stage also include destinations of Taipei and the resort city of Pattaya in Thailand.

The one-way fare to Hong Kong will start from 88 Singapore dollars (about 54 US dollars) with an attractive price of 48 Singapore dollars (about 29 US dollars) in the promotional period.

Jetstar Asia, the newest budget carrier in the city state, is planning to start flights to Shanghai, Jakarta, Surabaya and Manila at a later date.

The reports said that the Qantas-backed low-cost carrier also hopes to have more routes to cities in China and India so as to differentiate itself from its competitors in the local market. —MNA/Xinhua

## Kuwait urges OPEC to check output quota

KUWAIT CITY, 7 Dec — Kuwait on Saturday urged members of the Organization of Petroleum-Exporting Countries (OPEC) to stop producing above the output quota as it was seriously concerned about the falling oil prices, the *Arab Times* reported on Sunday.

"We have to take this decline very seriously. We are worried about the fall in the oil price," Kuwait's Energy Minister Sheikh Ahmad Fahad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah was quoted as saying at the symposium "The Outlook for the Global Oil Industry" hosted by National Bank of Kuwait.

"If this price slide of the last 48 hours were to

continue, we would have to cut all over production, which is currently between 1.5 million to two million barrels," Sheikh Ahmed added.

Global crude prices have fallen over 13 per cent over the last three days due to an increase in US inventories of crude oil.

"OPEC members must try and stick to the

OPEC official production ceiling to avoid a steep price decline in the second quarter of the next year," the minister said.

"OPEC will be meeting in Cairo next week to assess the situation and will take positive steps to avoid a shortage, and work for the stability of the market," he added.

MNA/Xinhua



US Army soldiers conduct a raid against guerrillas in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul in this picture released on 5 Dec, 2004.—INTERNET

## FAO wants Thailand to become regional base for battling bird flu

BANGKOK, 7 Dec — The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) wants Thailand to become the base for battling bird flu among the 10-member Association of South-East Asian Nations, an Agriculture Ministry spokesman said.

The spokesman said that the proposal was made during a recent meeting between Minister Wan Muhamad Noor Matha and He Chang Chui, assistant director of FAO's Asia and the Pacific regional office, the *Thai News Agency* reported on Monday.

The spokesman said the FAO had commended Thailand for its coopera-

tion with the UN body in controlling the disease.

The FAO also urged the Thai Government to provide agricultural and food production know-how to neighbouring countries under the South-South Cooperation programme to help solve hunger and nutritional problems there, the report said.

MNA/Xinhua

## Three more US Marines killed in western Iraq

BAGHDAD, 7 Dec — Three more US Marines were killed in two separate attacks in the restive province of Anbar, west of Baghdad, the US military said Monday.

Three soldiers from the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force were killed in two separate attacks while conducting security and stability operations in western Iraq on Sunday, the military said in a

statement.

Earlier on Monday, the military said in another statement that two US Marines were killed in action in Anbar Province on Friday.

MNA/Xinhua

## Chinese, French presidents converse via phone on M-E issues

**BEIJING, 6 Dec—** Chinese President Hu Jintao said here on Sunday in a telephone conversation with French President Jacques Chirac that China and France share similar views on international issues.

The two sides should make joint efforts to promote the resolution of Iraq issue and peace process in the Middle East region, Hu said. Hu said that China backs efforts made by the three European Union member states, France, Germany and Britain, to continue their talks with Iran on a long-term resolution to the nuclear issue. China will continue to play a constructive role on the issue.

The Chinese President also expressed China's deep concern on the current fluctuating situation

in Iraq. In the recent international conference that has helped promote consensus on the issue of Iraq's reconstruction reflects the supports from the international community for peace in Iraq.

On the Middle East issues, Hu said China supports the Middle East peace process and the relevant issues should be resolved by complying with the resolutions of the United Nations and through political negotiation based on the principle of "land for peace".

Hu expressed his

pleasure at seeing China-France ties maintain a good momentum of growth, saying that the consensus on the bilateral cooperation reached by the heads of the two states in Beijing summit has been thoroughly implemented. China is willing to join in hands with France to further promote the all-around Sino-French strategic partnership.

Chirac spoke positively on the remarkable results achieved in the friendly cooperation on various fields between the two nations.

MNA/Xinhua



A Vietnamese shrimp farm. Vietnam has hit out at a decision by the United States to uphold anti-dumping duties on imports of Vietnamese shrimp.

INTERNET

## Chinese Minister sees Sino-Egyptian cooperation potentials

**CAIRO, 6 Dec—** Visiting Chinese Minister of Commerce Bo Xilai said on Sunday that China and Egypt, as two important developing nations, have great potentials in bilateral economic cooperation.

Addressing the Egypt-China Economic and Trade Cooperation Seminar, Bo said that trade exchanges between the two countries are expected to reach some 1.5 billion US dollars this year, more than 50 per cent up from 2003.

"China has achieved great economic success during the past two decades, which enables it to secure more and better business deals with our Egyptian friends," he said.

The minister said that the Chinese Government encourages Chinese companies to buy more Egyptian goods, including crude oil, cotton and other "fine Egyptian products," which drew applause from his Egyptian audience.

Bo said that the Chinese Government expects

more Chinese companies to invest in Egypt, adding that he hopes the Egyptian government, working with the Chinese side, would help those companies find new opportunities in the country.

Egyptian Minister of Industry and Foreign Trade Rasheed Mohammad Rasheed Hussein, told the seminar that the Egyptian Government has taken "specific measures" to attract more direct foreign investment, especially from China.

Some 500 Egyptian and Chinese businessmen and officials attended the seminar, which provided a platform for both sides to discuss ways of promoting bilateral economic and trade cooperation.

MNA/Xinhua

## Afghanistan seeks world support to fight drug

**KABUL, 6 Dec—** Afghanistan on Sunday called upon the international community to help fight against the booming poppy cultivation in the post-war country, a ranking Afghan official said Sunday afternoon.

"Poppy plantation is illegal and defames Afghanistan. We are determined to fight against the menace and eliminate it but we will not achieve the goal unless the world community assists," Deputy Interior Minister on Narcotics Mohammad Daud told reporters at a gathering devoted to counter-narcotics strategy here.

The post-war Afghanistan with an output of

3,600 tons of opium in 2003 became the single largest supplier of the raw material used in heroin manufacturing in the world and the product would have hit an all time record if the climate cooperated in the outgoing year as more farmers devoted more lands to growing poppy.

"We urge the international community to help Afghan Government in

providing alternative crops to our farmers in order to replace the poppy," noted the top Afghan official-in-charge of anti-drug affairs.

Replying to a question, he confirmed that the United States had already pledged 780 million US dollars to help the Afghan authority in its war on illicit drugs.

To eradicate the alarming phenomenon of

poppy in the war-torn Central Asian state, he said that the transitional government had designed short-term and long-term plans and was hopeful to deliver within five years.

Under a counter-narcotics strategy launched in May last year, Afghanistan has planned to reduce poppy cultivation by 75 per cent by 2008.

MNA/Xinhua

## Russian President leaves India for Turkey

**NEW DELHI, 6 Dec—** After winding up his three-day visit to India, Russian President Vladimir Putin left India's southern city of Bangalore Sunday afternoon for Turkey.

Before his departure, Putin visited software company Infosys on the outskirts of the city and defence undertaking Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).

At HAL, the Russian President watched the display of the prowess of three home-grown aircraft — advanced light helicopter, the intermediate jet trainer and the light combat aircraft. Putin will reach Moscow on Tuesday after his visit to Turkey. — MNA/Xinhua

## Sri Lanka optimistic over textile industry

**COLOMBO, 6 Dec—** Sri Lankan Secretary-General of the Joint Apparel Associations Forum MPT Cooray has expressed his belief that the island country can reap benefits from textile industry following the expiration of a preferential trade agreement, the *Sunday Observer* reported on Sunday.

Cooray projected that Sri Lanka will be able to raise its annual textile and garment ex-

port earnings from the present 2.3 billion US dollars to 4.5 billion dollars in 2007 by following the five-year strategy started in 2002.

The strategy includes transforming the industry from a manufacture to provider of a fully integrated services facility, penetrating the premium market segment, becoming internationally recognized in specific product categories and consolidating and strengthening the industry.

In addition to the strategy, he also stressed that after being in the industry for several decades, Sri Lanka has achieved the strength to face the world competition.

MNA/Xinhua

## Nepali overseas job seekers get 83 more options

**KATHMANDU, 5 Dec—** The Nepali Government has decided to allow the country's overseas work aspirants to seek employment in 83 more countries in addition to the earlier 25, a senior official has said.

"A decision to this effect was taken in a Cabinet meeting held Monday," *The Himalayan Times* newspaper on Saturday quoted Minister for Labour and Transport Management Raghuji Pant as saying.

Those new countries opened for foreign employment include France, China, Russia, Japan, Egypt, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Brazil and Canada, among

others.

Earlier, Nepali citizens were allowed to work in 25 countries, mostly in the Middle East and Southeast Asia.

"These countries can provide employment opportunities to skilled workers such as security guards and nurses," Pant said, adding that multi-national companies prefer retired Gurkha soldiers as security guards. — MNA/Xinhua



(From L) Miss China Yang Jin, Miss Chinese Taipei Xu Yi-hui and Miss Malaysia Gloria Ting model evening wear during the 54th Miss World Final 2004 in Sanya on China's tropical island of Hainan on 4 Dec, 2004.—INTERNET



# Hindrance to positive developments runs counter to national interest

*Aung Moe San*

It is natural that human society develops gradually. Everyone makes mistakes accidentally or ignorantly and so does the human society. So, human beings have to always struggle for positive development.

No one is perfect and to err is human. Therefore, people are to struggle constantly for progress and it is necessary to welcome and encourage all the positive changes.

For example, the Tatmadaw government offered a warm welcome to the armed groups who had returned to the legal fold. Forgiving their past misdeeds, the government provided necessary assistance to fulfil their basic needs to enable them to take part in the nation-building endeavours for regional and national development. That indicates the government's loving kindness and sympathy to the people.

Each and every government has to represent respective human societies. They have strengths and weaknesses. Up to now, there has never been a perfect government, and what is different among them is "committing many or few mistakes and faults". They are remedying their mistakes and errors through various ways and means. Of them, some failed to remedy their mistakes in time in

Human beings and social problems always go together. Here, what is important is to employ a correct solution to the problem. Only correct approaches to the problems can contribute towards the improvement of human beings. Opposition parties are to show positive attitude in criticizing respective ruling governments for improvement of the latter. If the policy is very common — to make ruling governments get themselves into a fix by pointing out all their mistakes and faults with negative views, the constant attempt to overthrow ruling governments will continue to exist.

The government and the people have to bear the effects, good or bad, since they coexist in a single society. Therefore, finding reasonable solutions to one's own problems will enable the practice of constructive practices and oppositions to thrive.

The incidents of upheaval and political instability will have a direct or indirect effect on public property, thereby exhausting the five strengths of society: brawn, wealth, fraternity, morality, and brain. Modernization and democratization will then be a distant reality.

With stability reigning in border areas, the government standing in solidarity with the entire national people has added new momentum to the drive for the establishment of a discipline-flourishing democratic nation. In Myanmar, which is now in the process of transition to democracy in a peaceful way, changes considered necessary were also made in the government structure. As part of these measures, 3,937 prisoners were released on 18 November this year.

The State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) released 5,311 more prisoners for the second time on 25 November. The government released 9,248 prisoners in total. The dailies also reported these stories. According to the papers, the SPDC abolished the National Intelligence Bureau (NIB) on 22 November this year. The investigation into the NIB's activities found that some of them were done with impunity, the papers reported.

Peoples within and without the country welcomed the approach. So did the United Nations

Organization. The noble measure the ruling Tatmadaw government had taken received an open-hearted welcome. So auspicious is the news that it deserves the welcome of people from all walks of life.

Yet, some egoists disparaged the Tatmadaw

**It is necessary for the people to see the good as good and the bad as bad. Only then will they have a correct outlook. Anyone trying to disturb the government's efforts will be branded as destructionists and crushed in view of public interest. Action will be taken against them according to law.**

government's endeavours which was made in genuine goodwill in the interest of the country. The destructive elements in exile criticized that the release of prisoners by the government was due to foreign pressure, that the government was finding an exit out of the difficulties, and that it was merely a political stunt. In this context, the motto "Do good, and never mind to whom" has proved right.

It is necessary for the people to see the good as good and the bad as bad. Only then will they have a correct outlook. Anyone trying to disturb the government's efforts will be branded as destructionists and crushed in view of public interest. Action will be taken against them according to law. Priority will be paid to the welfare of the country rather than that of a handful of persons. Even some democracy-oriented western countries have to run a check on entry visas by promulgating security laws to curb terrorism.

This being the case, it is an act of disrupting the national interest to deter the release of 9,248 prisoners including political prisoners and to hamper the current Tatmadaw government's drive for national reconsolidation and democratic reforms.

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**Translation: MS+KTY**

*Myanma Alin, Kyemon: 6-12-04*

**The government and the people have to bear the effects, good or bad, since they coexist in a single society. Therefore, finding reasonable solutions to one's own problems will enable the practice of constructive practices and oppositions to thrive.**

their machinery, while some found their mistakes having grown to a certain degree beyond remedy, resulting in their fall as their failure served as an invitation to external instigation and intervention. Yet, some governments managed to remedy their mistakes in time by means of thorough reviews of their weaknesses and self-criticism.

Anyhow, the most important characteristic of a government is to honestly serve the interests of its people. Therefore, social scientists said "Honesty is the best Policy".



**EDUCATIVE TALKS ON AIDS:** The Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation organized educative talks on AIDS to mark World AIDS Day at Sangyoung Township Basic Education High School on 7-12-2004. Deputy Director of AIDS Control Project Dr U Min Thwe gives educative talks.

MNA

## China, Germany sign 22 cooperative documents

**BEIJING, 7 Dec — China and Germany signed 22 cooperative documents here Monday evening at the Great Hall of the People, aiming at promoting bilateral cooperation in various fields.**

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao and German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder, who is on a three-day working visit to China, attended the signing ceremony after their talks. These documents cover the cooperative fields of railways, finance, bank supervision, aviation, cars, agricultural products and digital communication.

Major documents deal with the establishment of a hot line between the two governments, and the future cooperation in railways and bank supervision and between small and medium-sized enterprises. Both Wen and Schröder spoke highly of the bilateral cooperation when meeting with home and overseas reporters after the ceremony.—MNA/Xinhua

*Chairman of the State Peace and  
Development Council of the Union of  
Myanmar Senior General Than Shwe  
cordially greets Laotian Prime Minister  
Mr Bounnhang Vorachith.  
(News on page 1) — MNA*

*Senior General Than Shwe receives  
Laotian Prime Minister  
Mr Bounnhang Vorachith and party at  
the Credentials Hall of the Pyuthu  
Hluttaw Building.  
(News on page 1) — MNA*



## Commander, ministers attend opening of new tennis court, respects paying ceremony in Bago Div

YANGON, 7 Dec — The opening ceremony of new tennis court of No 3 Basic Education High School in Bago city was held in conjunction with respects paying to the retired teachers at the school this morning.

Present on the occasion were Chairman of Bago Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Southern Command Maj-Gen Ko Ko, Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-

Gen Aung Min, officials of the Ministry of Sports and the Ministry of Education and Myanmar Tennis Federation, heads of departments at division, district and township levels, members of social organizations, teachers, students and fans.

During the ceremony, Commander Maj-Gen Ko Ko, Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint and Chairman of the MTF U Zaw Zaw formally opened it and delivered addresses on the occasion.

Next, Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint

presented K 5 million and sports gear donated by the Ministry of Sports; and Chairman of MTF U Zaw Zaw, K 10 million donated by Max Myanmar Co Ltd and related documents to the tennis court to the Commander who later presented certificates of honour to them.

During the respects paying ceremony held at the same venue, old student Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint explained the purpose of the ceremony. The guests and old students of the school offered cash and kind to 82 retired teachers. Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint and family presented K 100,000 to the education funds of the school; and five wellwishers, K 863,000. Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint and family also presented K 100,000 to the health funds of the school; and eight wellwishers, K 900,000. Schoolhead Daw Tin Nwe Oo expressed thanks. *MNA*

## Construction of roads inspected

YANGON, 7 Dec—Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, accompanied by Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Myint Thein and officials, inspected road maintenance tasks along NyaungU-Myingyan Road on 5 December.

The senior engineer of Myingyan District reported on target for construction of NyaungU-Myingyan Road in 2004-2005 and work progress the Minister and party inspected Myingyan-Myotha-TadaU Road.

Officials concerned reported on work progress of construction of Myingyan-Myotha section. The Minister

gave instructions on meeting the standards set.

Yesterday, the Minister and party left Bagan through Pakokku-Pauk-Htilin-Gangaw Road for the site chosen for construction of Yaw Creek (Yaypya) Bridge. Deputy Superintending Engineer of Bridge Special Group-13 U Soe Myint and officials reported on facts about the project. The Minister called for further details on the project. Afterwards, the Minister and party inspected the chosen site for implementation of Yaw Creek (Ohndaw) Bridge on Seikphyu-Kandaw-Pauk Road, and Pauk -Kandaw-Seikphyu Road. — *MNA*



*Minister Maj-Gen Saw Tun inspects the site chosen for construction of Yaw Creek Bridge (Ohndaw).*

CONSTRUCTION

## Myanmar delegation leaves to study locomotives in India

YANGON, 7 Dec — A Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation Thura U Thauw Lwin left here by air for India yesterday to study locomotives and services there.

The aim of the delegation is to study the technology of improving the power of MTU locomotives, engine production, and rail signaling equipment and system. The delegation was seen off at Yangon International Airport by Deputy Minister for Rail

Transportation U Pe Than, officials and families.

Members of the delegation General Manager (Locomotive Shed/Yahtaung) of Myanma Railways U Myint Khaing, Deputy General Manager (Coach and Waggon Shed/Myitnge) U Myo Myint, Deputy General Manager (Mechanical) U Nyi Htut and Assistant General Manager (Communications) U Ba Myint left here on the same flight.

*MNA*





Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win welcomes Laotian Prime Minister Mr Bounnhang Vorachith at the airport. (News on page 1) — MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein greets Laotian Prime Minister Mr Bounnhang Vorachith at the airport. (News on page 1) — MNA



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win and Laotian Prime Minister Mr Bounnhang Vorachith take the salute of the Guard of Honour. (News on page 1) — MNA



## Rules for Armed Forces Day commemorative poem contest announced

YANGON, 7 Dec—Hailing the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day which falls on 27 March 2005, the Poem Contest Organizing Sub-committee under the Poem and Arts Competition Organizing Work Committee, chaired by Deputy Minister for Culture Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung, has announced plan to hold the Poem Contest to mark the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day.

The contestants can compose objectives of the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day, matters related to fine traditions of

the Tatmadaw, historic events occurred in the periods of Konbaung Era (AD 1824), Independence Era (1948-1988) and the State Peace and Development Council, endeavours of the State Peace and Development Council in religious affairs, construction, peace negotiation and drug elimination sectors.

The entries will be scrutinized with three sectors—theme style, presentation and composing. The poem contest will be divided into two categories.

Those who have won the first second or third prizes in the Poem Con-

test to mark the Armed Forces Day and the National Motto Contest, Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award Contest and the Poem Contest of the Pakokku U Ohn Pe Literary Award Contest and National Literary Award winners may participate in the level-1 and those who did not win the prizes may take part in the level-2.

Those who did not win the prizes can participate in the level-1. However, one contestant may take part in one level only, and the level number must be written on the entry.

There will be two

events at the level-1—the long poem and the short poem. The contestant can participate in both or one of them. However, it must be one entry for one event.

The short poem must be between 100 and 300 stanzas and the long one between 1,000 and 2,000 stanzas. The entries must be in line with the rules. The free verse and modern poems will not be absolutely accepted.

The poem must be paper on one side of the paper and the two copies of the entry must be submitted. And, the entry must be attached with the name of the contestant, pen-name, names of parents, education, occupation and address together with three 2" x 2.5" size colour photos. The entry must be own creation and has not been featured in any publication yet. The State has authority to use the prize-winning works.

The entries are to be sent to Lt-Col Ohn Maung (Retd) (Myinmu Maung Naing Moe), Chief Editor, Naingngan Gonyi Literary House, Sarpay Beikman, 531, Merchant Street, here, Tel: 374532, not later than 31-1-2005. — MNA

## Mayor inspects tarring of roads

YANGON, 7 Dec—Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Yangon Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and officials inspected tarring of 6,243 feet Bagaya Road in Sangyoung Township, on Bayintnaung Road in front of Agricultural Mechanization Department in Insein Township, paving of road from Bogoyoke Aung San Road to University of Computer Studies in Shwepyitha Township and upgrading of the road in front of Thadukan industrial zone and Khayaybin Road in Insein Township this morning.

Head of Engineering Department (Roads and Bridges) U Bo Htay and officials reported on progress of work and tasks to be done.

The mayor gave instructions on quality meeting the set standard in work, speedy implementation of the work, supervision and road safety.

The mayor also inspected construction of Hanthawady golf driving range at the corner of Kyundaw Road and Nanattaw Road in Kamayut Township by Gardens and Sports Ground Department. — MNA

## Wellwishers invited for sinking tube-wells

YANGON, 7 Dec—The Development Affairs Committees under the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs are making concerted efforts in sinking tube-wells in order to get sufficient clean water in rural areas in States and Divisions where water is scarce. One 200 feet deep two-inch diameter tube-well costs K 250,000; one 400 feet deep two-inch diameter tube-well costs K 500,000; and one 200 feet deep four-inch diameter tube-well costs K 500,000.

Those wishing to donate cash for the tube-well sinking projects for rural areas may contact the Director-General (Tel: 01-245420 & 253088) and the Deputy Director-General (Tel: 01-240118). — MNA



Minister Maj-Gen Sein Htwa addresses the plenary meeting for forming Myanmar Disabled People's Organization at International Business centre on 7-12-2004. — SOCIAL WELFARE



Most Ven Dr Vichit Singharaj and party of Laos being welcomed at the airport by Sayadaw Ashin Nanissara (D Litt) and Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung. — MNA

## Most Ven Dr Vichit Singharaj of Laos arrives

YANGON, 7 Dec — A delegation led by Most Ven Dr Vichit Singharaj of Lao People's Democratic Republic arrived here this morning to attend the World Buddhist Summit.

Chancellor Sayadaw of Sitagu International Buddhist Academy Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma

Jotika Dhaja Maha Dhamma Kathika Dr Nanissara and Secretary of Leading Committee for holding the World Buddhist Summit Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung and officials welcomed the delegation at Yangon International Airport.

MNA

## Mass sports activities launched in Mandalay

YANGON, 7 Dec — Mass sports activities (2004) were launched in Mandalay on 4 December in which Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council

Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint and wife participated.

In the morning, Departmental

personnel, members of social organizations and the people totaling over 15,000 took a walk starting from the junction of 26th and 73rd streets.

On 4 December, the people in 31 townships in Mandalay Division also participated in sports activities and took physical exercises.

MNA



U Kyaw Sein (Mogok)-Daw Nan Kham Hsa and family present K 100,000 and traditional medicines worth K 100,000 to MWJA Vice-Chairman U Than Maung. — MNA

## Crude oil prices rise ahead of OPEC Meeting

NEW YORK, 7 Dec — Crude oil prices rose from a three-month low Monday amid increased expectations that the Organization of Petroleum-Exporting Countries (OPEC) would cut production at its meeting this week.

On the New York Mercantile Exchange, crude oil for January delivery rose 44 cents to end at 42.98 dollars per barrel. Meanwhile, on London's International Petroleum Exchange the January Brent crude-oil futures contract climbed 29 cents to settle at 39.65 dollars a barrel.

OPEC should consider cutting production to end a slide in prices at its meeting in Cairo this week. Kuwait's Oil Minister said OPEC meeting might discuss production for the first quarter of 2005.

OPEC members cut their output by 570,000 barrels, or 1.9 per cent, to an

average 29.97 million barrels a day from their record highs of 30.54 million reached in October.

Meanwhile, an attack on the US Consulate in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, boosted concern that a revival of terrorism might threaten oil shipments from the world's largest oil exporter.

A weather forecast released by the US National Weather Service showed lower-than-normal temperatures in most of the eastern half of the nation from December 11 to December 15. Colder weather further weighed on traders that concerned about tight heating supplies.

MNA/Xinhua

## Buddha images conveyed for public obeisance in Mongnaung

YANGON, 7 Dec — With the donations of Commandant of the National Defence College Maj-Gen Moe Hein and wife and wellwishers, 108 Buddha images from Mongnaung Mingala Yan Aung Monastery were conveyed for public obeisance around Mongnaung Township, Shan State (South), on 2 December morning.

It was attended by members of the Sangha, Brig-Gen Thaung Aye of

Mongnaung Station and wife, Tatmadaw members, departmental officials, and local residents.

The congregation offered alms to members of the Sangha. Brig-Gen Thaung Aye and wife conveyed the images for obeisance of service personnel and locals in the township.

The Sayadaws delivered a sermon, followed by sharing of merits gained.

MNA

## First CLMTV-ECS Trade Fair-2004 concludes



Visitors at the First CLMTV-ECS Trade Fair-2004. — MNA

YANGON, 7 Dec — The First CLMTV-ECS Trade Fair continued for the last day at the Myanmar Convention Centre on Mindhamma Road in Mayangon Township here today.

Eight local ministries, 135 local companies and 21 foreign companies

staged 162 booths at the trade fair, drawing attention of more than 40,000 visitors today.

The trade fair was exhibited from 3 to 7 December. From the opening day to 6 December, the trade fair realized K 55,092,432. — MNA

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## China to continue fight against “HIV/AIDS”, TB, Malaria

BEIJING, 7 Dec — China's Vice-Premier Wu Yi said here Monday that the country will step up its efforts to take precautions against HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria in order to secure the health of all the people.

Wu made these remarks at a meeting with Richard Feachem, executive director of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

China has an estimated 840,000 HIV carriers and 4.5 million people suffering from tuberculosis. Malaria was occasionally reported in the southern parts of China. Feachem said China has made significant progress in curbing the three major communicable diseases, especially in eliminating malaria. The international community was also greatly encouraged by the Chinese Govern-

ment's strong commitments in fighting against HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis, he said. He expressed the satisfaction with China's implementation of the projects sponsored by the Global Fund, saying that the Global Fund is willing to improve cooperation and exchanges with China in the prevention and control of the diseases. Established in 2002, the Global Fund has so far raised 5.4 billion US dollars for the prevention and control of the three communicable diseases with its projects covering 128 countries around the world. — MNA/Xinhua



## Commerce Minister receives Pakistani Ambassador, Australian guests

YANGON, 7 Dec — Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein received Ambassador of Islamic Republic of Pakistan to Myanmar Mr Muhammad Nawaz Chaudhry at 10 am and Consultant of Capital Marketing Centre Co Ltd, Australia, Mr Clive Murray and party at 11 am respectively.

Also present during the call were Deputy Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Aung Tun and departmental officials. — MNA

## Initiation of bilateral FTAs is Thai foreign policy cornerstone

BANGKOK, 7 Dec — The initiation of bilateral FTAs with countries all around the world has become one of the foreign policy cornerstones of the Thai Government, *The Nation* newspaper said in a commentary on Monday.

Impatient with slow progress of multilateral trade talks, the Thai Government in recent years has turned to pursue regional free-trade deals to enhance export opportunities.

In early July, Thailand signed its first FTA with Australia after one-year negotiation.

Thailand's FTA with India is taking shape, with an "early harvest" scheme cutting duties on more than 80 items. Despite early concerns by India over the possible influx of Thai vehicles, both sides decided to proceed with the talks to support India's Look East policy and Thailand's similar vision for the Subcontinent.

The kingdom's FTAs with Peru and New Zealand are expected to be concluded this month.

After two rounds of negotiations, Thailand's FTA talks with the United States look likely to be drawn out due to sticky issues on labour,

intellectual property rights and environmental protection among others.

"The government did not give us a deadline but it is prepared to wait for the best agreement," Nitya Pibulsongkram, chief negotiator was quoted as saying on Monday. Singapore and Thailand boast of the highest number of completed free-trade agreements (FTA) among Asian countries, according to the Asia News Network.

Reports by the members of the Asia News Network, an alliance of 14 newspapers in 12 Asian countries, said that more than 80 FTAs have been completed, under negotiation and under study, in Asia so far.

The number of FTAs around the world has risen remarkably from 79 in 1995 to 208 in 2004.

Currently, India, Singapore, Thailand and Sri Lanka are the Asian countries in the process of negotiating FTAs.

MNA/Xinhua

## IBM to fade from PC Market, quit China PC business

BEIJING, 7 Dec — The top computer provider worldwide, IBM, is likely to quit its PC business in China, as it gradually withdrawals from the personal computer (PC) market.

"IBM will focus on game machines in the future," *China Business News* quoted Bernard Meyerson, vice-president and chief technologist with IBM System & Technology Group, was quoted as saying on Thursday at a Press conference.

Meyerson's statement echoes Gartner's recent report, which predicted the global PC market will step into a period of sluggish growth and three of the world's top ten PC providers will be squeezed out of the market. He said IBM and HP have the highest possibility of not making the cut. Nigel Beck, who is accountable for product management and marketing of IBM, acknowledged that PC profits have kept dropping, and IBM holds that game machines will become the next-generation advanced platform. A staff member with IBM System & Technology Group, who declined to be named, noted that IBM has decided to quit the PC business in China.

"We had planned to transfer our portable PC technology to International Information Products (IIPC), as reported by some media, but have cancelled the decision because of IIPC's limited capacity," he said.

Merrill Lynch Analyst Steve Milunovich said in his latest report that game machines will be the next generation in computing. IBM will become a beneficiary of the trend since it is moving its micro-electronic technology away from the ebbing PC business. Fang Xingdong, chief analyst of Internet China lab, was pessimistic about IBM's manufacture of games machines, saying that games products do not suit the company's culture, it would be a wise choice for IBM to supply high-quality chips for major games producers like Sony.

As a matter of fact, IBM, teaming up with Sony and Sony Computer Entertainment Inc. (SCEI) introduced the first cell-based work station prototype machine on November 29. The optimized "cell" chip is suited precisely for various broadband media, including games, films and other digital medium.

MNA/Xinhua

## Philippines in urgent need of relief goods after typhoons

MANILA, 7 Dec — The calamity-stricken towns in the northern Philippine province of Quezon is running out of relief goods, a local television reported Monday.

Distribution of relief goods in the area remained slow, resulting in insufficient supply of food and medicine for the residents of town General Nakar, the ABS-CBN News Channel reported.

Authorities said only helicopters can reach the area as roads leading to the town were still impassable due to landslides and the relief efforts are hampered by rain.

Local officials are appealing for more aid to the typhoon victims while many evacuees were down with fever, coughs and colds.

Residents also asked for reconstruction materials for them to begin rebuilding their homes, most of which are still buried deep in mud.

MNA/Xinhua

## News from the Districts

### Extempore talks held to mark 60th Armed Forces Day

Hsipaw, 24 Nov — As a gesture of hailing the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day, Hsipaw Township Union Solidarity and Development Association organized the Extempore talks on 19 November at Hsipaw Basic Education High School.

Secretary of Hsipaw Township Peace and Development Council U Sai Tha Hlaing delivered an address and township USDA Secretary U Sai Sein Lin first briefed on the rules and regulations regarding the talks.

Basic education middle and high school students participated in it. Officials of the township USDA and Assistant Township Education Officer U Thein Oo awarded the winners. — MYANMA ALIN

### Low-cost rural houses built

MAUBIN, 30 Nov — Maubin Township Development Affairs Department has implemented rural housing project in the township.

As part of the project, six low-cost rural houses were built in Malatto Model Village on Maubin-Twantay Road in the township.

Officials of Maubin Township DAD and Chairman of the village Peace and Development Council U Aung Naing supervised the project.

MYANMA ALIN

### Irrigation canals dug in Wakema

WAKEMA, 21 Nov — Under the arrangement of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council, Irrigation Department on 19 November dug the irrigation canals to supply water to the summer paddy fields along the Wakema-KyonMaNge Road.

Officials of the township Peace and Development Council closely supervised the tasks.

It is expected that Wakema Township will reach its target of 126,947 acres of summer paddy in 2004-2005. — KYEMON

### Libraries inaugurated on self-reliant basic

NYAUNGU, 3 Dec — With the assistance of NyaungU Township Information and Public Relations Department and local people, a self-reliant library was opened on 21 November in Myinkapa Village in NyaungU Township.

Wellwishers provided furniture and over 2,000 books on knowledge for the library.

Officials of the township Peace and Development Council and Head of the township IPRD formally inaugurated the library.

Similarly, on 6 November a library was opened on self-reliant basic in Tattwin Village in Labutta Township.

The head of the township IPRD opened the library. So far, IPRD has set up self-reliant libraries in 10410 out of more than 60,000 villages across the nation.

KYEMON



This photo, released by the Zhiqing Zhang on 6 Dec, 2004, Institute of Cultural Relics and Archaeology of Henan Province, Zhengzhou, China, shows jars from Jiahu, Henan province, China, ca. 7000-6600 B.C. with high flaring necks and rims, which were well-suited for serving a fermented beverage. — INTERNET



An opening ceremony of a self-reliant library at Tattwin Village in Labutta Township. — KYEMON

## Turkey-Russia trade volume to reach \$10b in 2004

ANKARA, 6 Dec — The bilateral trade volume between Turkey and Russia is expected to reach 10 billion US dollars by the end of this year, semi-official *Anatolia News Agency* reported Sunday.

Russian President Vladimir Putin will arrive here later in the day to pay a two-day official visit to cement economic relations between the two countries after 32 years' interval.

The two countries are also expected to sign six documents in fields of security, information, intellectual property rights, research and investment.

Putin's trip, originally scheduled for September, was postponed.

Turkey exported goods worth 1.6 billion dollars in 2003, while this figure was recorded as 1.5 billion in the first seven months of 2004.

Turkish imports from Russia was 5.4 billion US dollars last year, while Russia exported goods worth 2.7 billion US dollars to Turkey in the first seven months of this year.

In the meantime, bilateral trade volume, which was 6.8 billion US dollars last year, is expected to reach 10 billion by in 2004.

Direct investments of Turkey in Russia exceeds one billion dollars. Turkey is mainly making investments in areas

such as shopping malls, food and beverages, textile, banking, telecommunication, glass and machinery in Russia.

Turkish entrepreneurs are mainly active in the construction area in Russia. Turkish contracting companies have undertaken 785 projects, worth 13.2 billion US dollars, in Russia so far.

Economic relations between Turkey and Russian Federation are based on the trade agreement signed on 8 October, 1937 and the trade and economic cooperation agreement signed on 25 February, 1991.

Under the natural gas agreement signed on 17 April, 1984, Turkey purchases natural gas from the former Soviet Union for 25 years, starting from 1987. And, the former Soviet Union agreed to use 70 per cent of the income it obtains from this agreement to buy goods and services from Turkey.

There are other agreements such as on prevention of double taxation, encouragement of investments and energy cooperation protocol between two countries. — *MNA/Xinhua*

## Tremor hits area near Algerian capital

ALGIERS, 6 Dec — A tremor measuring 4.5 on the Richter Scale shook a region near the Algerian capital on Sunday, state radio said, days after an earthquake injured about 100 people and caused slight damage.

The tremor hit at about 9:30 am (0830 GMT) in the coastal town of Zemmouri, the same area as a devastating quake killed 2,300 people in May last year.

Zemmouri is located in the seismically active Boumerdes Province, 30

miles east of the capital. The aftershock was also felt in Algiers.

Frightened local residents fled their homes but there were no reports of injuries.

A 5.7-magnitude earthquake in Boumerdes on Wednesday did not

cause any serious injuries or damages but temporarily cut off the coastal area from electricity and communications.

Algeria is a member of the OPEC oil producing cartel and is a leading natural gas exporter.

— *MNA/Reuters*

## Romania demands US to return embassy guard to face trial

BUCHAREST, 6 Dec — Romania demanded on Sunday the United States return an embassy guard involved in a deadly car accident to face trial in the country after he returned home.

The police said a US Marine working as a guard at the embassy was apparently intoxicated when he crashed into a taxi killing a Romanian musician and injuring the driver.

"The Foreign Ministry expresses its consternation at finding out that the person who is guilty of causing the car accident

which killed Teo Peter left the country," the Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

It said it had sent an official protest to the US Embassy and asked that the US national be brought back to Romania and his diplomatic immunity be lifted to face trial.

— *MNA/Reuters*

## Elephants, buffaloes killed by anthrax in Botswana

HARARE, 6 Dec — About 33 elephants and 21 buffaloes have died in the past two weeks as a result of an anthrax outbreak in the Chobe area in Botswana, Zimbabwe's official media *New Ziana* reported Sunday.

The outbreak, the second in two months, has spread to Pandamatenga and Nogatshaa areas.

Wildlife officer Sennye Neo-Mahupeleng was quoted as saying that

in the past two weeks, 31 elephants died in the Poha-Nogatshaa area while in the Pandamatenga area, 21 buffaloes and two elephants died.

— *MNA/Xinhua*

## Poland's airline grounded due to financial problems

WARSAW, 6 Dec — Poland's first budget airline Air Polonia has been grounded due to financial problems, stranding 53,000 passengers, its chairman said on Sunday.

But Jan Litwinski, who pioneered Air Polonia after leaving national Polish carrier LOT [LOT.UL], said he had ironed out a deal with another low-cost airline, Bratislava-based SkyEurope, to help most passengers reach their destinations.

"SkyEurope will provide flights for the roughly 53,000 passengers who have purchased Air Polonia tickets," he told a news conference in Warsaw, announcing a suspension of all flights.

Privately owned Air Polonia signed a partnership agreement with Italy's

budget Volare Group in March, and in June Litwinski insisted the Polish carrier was in good financial shape.

But Volare was forced to ground its planes in November due to cash problems. Litwinski said his aircrafts' leases may lapse if Air Polonia fails to gain new financing.

SkyEurope, a pioneer no-frills airline which revolutionized air travel in the post-Communist region that joined the European Union this year, said it had no plans to take over Polonia.

— *MNA/Reuters*

## Mideast ranks second in world tourism growth in 2004

ABU DHABI, 6 Dec — Middle East has been the world's second biggest growth region in tourism in 2004, enjoying a 24-per-cent increase in tourist arrivals in the first eight months of the year, local *Gulf News* reported Sunday.

Despite the ongoing tensions in Iraq and Palestine, the region continues to attract record numbers of tourists, according to the World Tourism Organization (WTO), with the total number of tourists reaching 43 million.

The statistics showed that Syria experienced a 52-per-cent rise in arrivals in the first eight months of 2004, compared with the same period a year ago.

Egypt's overall tourist number rose by 49 per cent, Lebanon's by 30 per cent, Bahrain and Jordan by 19 per cent and 18 per cent respectively.

Dubai, one of the seven emirates in the United Arab Emirates, witnessed a 9-per-cent hike. It has become the commercial, convention and shopping centre of the region.

— *MNA/Xinhua*

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## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

### MV SEA BRIGHT VOY NO (675)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SEA BRIGHT VOY NO (675) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8.12.04 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11.20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm upto Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT  
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY  
AGENT FOR: MS ADVANCE CONTAINER LINE**  
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

## In Memoriam (Dr. U San Baw)

In sad and ever loving memory of  
Dr. U San Baw who passed away  
20 years ago today on  
7 December 2004.

Dr. Daw Myint Myint Khin and son Myint Zan.

## Egypt to provide COMESA with technical assistance

LUSAKA, 6 Dec — The Egyptian Fund for Technical Cooperation with Africa (EFTCA) will provide technical assistance expertise to the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) to enhance COMESA's capacity under a letter of intent the two sides signed here Sunday.

COMESA said in a statement that both parties (COMESA and

Egypt) recognized the need for the promotion of cooperation especially intra-COMESA cooperation to enhance economic development in the region.

The statement stated that COMESA has recognized the need to strengthen the technical and human capacities of the member states in various fields using the existing strong institutions within the region.

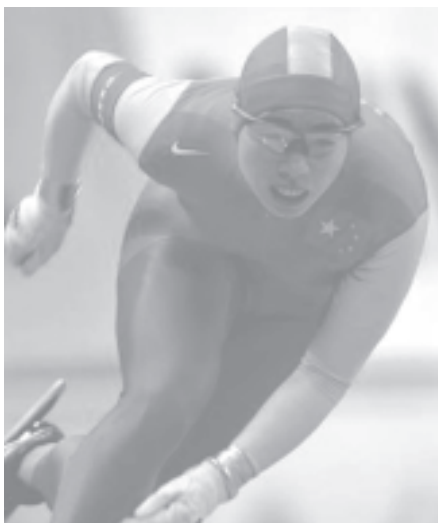
"Both parties do recognize the crucial role COMESA and EFTCA can jointly play in building the capacities of COMESA member states in the areas of agriculture, irrigation, water development, industry, tourism, transport, communication and data technology," said the statement.

Egypt has a long experience in agriculture, irrigation, health, infrastructure, information technology and many other areas, which would benefit other member states through the fund. — *MNA/Xinhua*

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Wang Manli of China skates on the way to win the women's 500-metre of the ISU World Cup speedskating at M-Wave in Nagano, central Japan on 5 Dec, 2004. Wang clocked 38.13 seconds, the same time as Sailing Osuga of Japan, to win the race. —INTERNET

## Health report says obesity more prevalent in New Zealand

WELLINGTON, 7 Dec — New Zealand is in the midst of an obesity epidemic with the condition now twice as common in adults as it was 25 years ago, said a Health Ministry report released Monday.

Launching the report "Tracking the Obesity Epidemic: New Zealand 1977-2003," Under-Secretary for Health Mita Rininui said "obesity has long been recognized as a major health issue, but this confirms what we have long suspected. New Zealand is in the midst of an obesity epidemic."

Ririnui said the report was one of the most thorough and comprehensive descriptions of a national obesity epidemic produced for any country. The report contains data from four national nutrition and health surveys.

It tracks changes to

the body mass index of New Zealanders aged 15-74 from 1977 to 2003.

Ririnui said the report provided a solid evidence base for future policy and planning and information that will be critical in further implementing and evaluating the ministry's Health Eating-Healthy Action strategy.

"Excess body weight is one of the most important modifiable risk factors in major diseases such as Type 2 diabetes, heart disease, stroke and several cancers," he said.

"We need to be concerned and we need to take action," he added.

MNA/Xinhua

## Researchers say new leukaemia drugs working better

WASHINGTON, 7 Dec — Next-generation leukaemia pills, designed to help patients not cured by the successful drug Gleevec, work even better than doctors had hoped, researchers said recently.

One new drug, made by Bristol-Myers Squibb, put 80 per cent of patients who tried it into remission — meaning signs of their cancer disappeared, the researchers said.

Although they were only Phase I trials, meant to show the drug was safe, the affects were dramatic, the doctors told a meeting in San Diego of the American Society of Haematology.

"Certainly it is wonderful. It will save lives", said Dr Alan Kinniburgh, senior

vice president of research for the Leukaemia and Lymphoma Society.

Oncologists hope the approach may work in many other cancers, too. Kinniburgh said it is likely that the new pills will be used in combination, like old-fashioned chemotherapy.

"I know of no cancer where one single drug has ever cured the cancer", he said.

The new drugs are being tested in patients with chronic myeloid leukaemia (CML), which affects about 4,400 Americans a year and 10,000 people around the world.

The Bristol drug is known by its experimental name BMS-354825. During the trial, also financed by Bristol-Myers, 31 of 36 patients with advanced CML, who had not been helped by Gleevec, had a complete hematologic response, meaning their bodies stopped producing leukaemia cells.

MNA/Reuters

## NEC to reenter Malaysian cell phone market

TOKYO, 7 Dec — NEC Corp. said Monday it will introduce two models of camera-equipped mobile phones Tuesday in Malaysia, reentering the country's mobile phone handsets market since its exit there in 2000. NEC, which had been selling analog-type mobile phone handsets in Malaysia until 2000, will launch the e238 and e101 models equipped with 300,000-pixel digital cameras, amid growing demand for digital mobile phones based on the global system for mobile communications format.

MNA/Xinhua

## NASA hoping techniques for crew to repair damages

HOUSTON, 7 Dec — NASA is hoping techniques that would enable a crew to repair damages to a space shuttle in flight will be ready for the shuttle's planned May 2005 return to space, officials with the agency said on Monday.

The shuttle's launch, which has been delayed several times, would be the first flight since the *Columbia* broke apart as it re-entered the Earth's atmosphere in February, 2003.

That disaster, which killed the seven astronauts aboard the shuttle and rained debris down on east Texas, was caused by cracks in the protective tiles that were struck by a piece of foam during the shuttle's launch.

NASA hopes that closer-in-flight inspections and repairs — once thought impossible — could prevent a repeat of that incident. "It still is a challenge in front of us. We still have a long way

to go," Bill Parsons, space shuttle programme manager, told a news conference.

NASA will use new sensors that could detect potential problems and has been developing materials and procedures to repair the tiles and reinforced carbon panels during flight.

However, the launch of *Discovery*, currently planned for between 12 May to 2 June, 2005, would not be delayed if those techniques were not perfected.

"I think in a state of emergency we would have a technique we would be ready to put forth," Parsons said.

MNA/Reuters

## Death toll of flood rises to 11 in East Java, Indonesia

JAKARTA, 6 Dec — The death toll of the flood which took place in a number of districts in East Java Province in Indonesia has increased to 11 up to Sunday, mainly residents of Blitar District. Thousands of disaster-related victims from Blitar are now living in the location of refugees, according to the official Antara news agency.

The local officials in the province said the districts of Blitar and Kediri are the two worst areas hit by the flood which was caused by heavy rain in East Java as tens of villages in the two districts are still submerged in a 40 to 50 centimetre deep water. —MNA/Xinhua

## JVC develops corn starch DVD

TOKYO, 7 Dec — Victor Co of Japan said Monday it has succeeded in manufacturing an environmentally friendly DVD with a special plastic synthesized from corn starch.

Unlike conventional DVDs made from oil, the new DVD, made mainly from polylactide resin, will help reduce the consumption of oil and the quantity of carbon dioxide emitted in the process of incinerating used DVDs for disposal, JVC said.

Polylactide resin has been applied to the body of personal computers and other electronics devices.

But it has been difficult to apply it to DVDs as the material is vulnerable to high temperatures inside DVD players.

JVC said it succeeded in creating the corn-based polylactide resin capable of withstanding temperatures up to 55 Centigrade.

It is possible to apply the new substance not only to a DVD, but to a CD and blue ray disk, which is a next-generation memory storage device, the company said.

However, the production cost of the new DVDs is three times that of conventional ones. JVC has yet to decide a schedule for commercializing the technology. — MNA/Xinhua



Well trained cat : Russian State Circus animal trainers perform with a cat during a show in Kolkata. —INTERNET

## SPORTS

## Bordeaux record 10th draw of season at AJ Auxerre

PARIS, 7 Dec— Girondins Bordeaux recorded their 10th draw of the season at AJ Auxerre on Sunday in a goalless Ligue 1 encounter played in zero-degree temperatures.

The only real chance of the game went to Auxerre in the 70th minute but Luigi Pieroni hit the post from close range.

The Burgundy team, who crushed Poland's Amica Wronki 5-1 last Thursday in the UEFA Cup and destroyed Bordeaux 5-0 last season, have now played three league games without a win.

They are fifth on 26 points sandwiched between Sochaux and Monaco on goal difference. Bordeaux are seventh on 25 points.

Olympique Lyon are top with 37 points after being held to a 1-1 draw at second from bottom AC Ajaccio that prevented them becoming "Autumn champions" with two games to spare.

The French champions are five points ahead of Lille, who snatched a 1-1 draw at Paris St Germain. Olympique Marseille, who recorded a 3-2 victory at Caen on Saturday in their first match under new coach Philippe Troussier, are third.

MNA/Reuters

## Real held to 0-0 draw at Villarreal

MADRID, 6 Dec— A lacklustre Real Madrid lost further ground to Barcelona at the top of the table when they were held to a 0-0 draw at Villarreal in the Primera Liga on Sunday.



Real vs. Villareal: Real Madrid Brazilian Ronaldo cries out after being fouled by a Villareal player in a Spanish League match in Villarreal.—INTERNET

The home side, who had lost their previous three league games, dominated the encounter against Real who appeared to have their minds on next week's decisive Champions League clash against AS Roma.

Real Madrid headed to Villarreal without a string of first-choice players as they kept one eye on Wednesday's match against Roma.

Zinedine Zidane remained in Madrid to receive treatment on a back injury. Raul and Roberto Carlos spent the game on the bench.

Although it was Villarreal who dominated the early

exchanges it was Real's Michael Owen who created the first clear chance of the game midway through the first half.

The England striker darted into the area, went past two defenders and then slipped a neat pass through to the unmarked Ronaldo, but the Brazilian took too long over his shot and was closed down by the defence.

England team mate David Beckham hit the bar with a trademark free kick from two metres outside the area on the half hour, but Real never looked comfortable against their more organized opponents.

New signing Luciano Figueroa combined well with fellow Argentine Juan Roman Riquelme on several occasions as the two created problems for the Real defence and forward Antonio Guayre sliced wide 10 minutes before the break.

The home side continued to dominate in the second half and Real had keeper Iker Casillas to thank for keeping them in the game when he blocked a sharp volley from young midfielder Santi Cazorla after some fine work from Riquelme.

Beckham and Ronaldo were taken off midway through the half but Real continued to stutter and Villarreal thought they had grabbed the win 11 minutes from time when Figueroa had the ball in the net only to find the goal was disallowed for a borderline offside.

MNA/Reuters

## Primera Liga match reports

MADRID, 6 Dec— Brief reports of Primera Liga matches played on Sunday:

### Atletico Madrid 3 — Osasuna 2

Atletico made their fans suffer right to the end despite going 2-0 up in the first half hour after well-taken goals from strike partners Fernando Torres and Salva Ballesta. Osasuna pulled one back on the stroke of half-time when forward Valdo ghosted in at the far post, only to see substitute Gonzalo Colsa restore Atletico's two-goal lead with a fine glancing header 10 minutes after the break.

The visitors looked to be out of it when midfielder Pablo Garcia was dismissed midway through the half, but they set up an exciting finale when striker Richard Morales scored his fourth in four games with a close-range header. Atletico were also reduced to 10 men when midfielder Marcelo Sosa received his marching orders in injury time.

### Levante 0 — Getafe 0

Honours even in the battle between two of the sides new to the top flight this season although it was Bernd Schuster's Levante who did more to try and win the game against their ultra-defensive opponents.

Midfielder Felix Ettien was a constant threat on the right and substitute Gustavo Reggi had a goal disallowed for a handball in the closing minutes.

### Racing Santander 2 — Deportivo Coruna 2

Deportivo Coruna hung on to their eight-year unbeaten record at Racing Santander by the skin of their teeth when a last-gasp free kick from Uruguayan centre-forward Walter Pandiani earned them a point.

Israeli international Yossi Benayoun put Racing ahead when he side-footed home in the 23rd minute, but Depor got back into the match at the start of the

second half when Albert Luque scored from the penalty spot after Mario Regueiro was penalized for a handball.

The home side looked as if they were on course to grab a rare victory over the Galicians when striker Javi Guerrero scored after some neat control in the area on 86 minutes, but Depor scrambled a point when Racing's Israeli keeper Dudu Aouate failed to hold Pandiani's injury-time free kick.

### Real Mallorca 3 — Numancia 2

The islanders produced the fightback of the season when they scored three goals in the final 10 minutes to claim an important win over fellow strugglers Numancia that lifted them off the bottom of the table.

Numancia looked to be on course for their first away points of the season after forward Luis Tevenet opened with a spectacular lob from the right-hand touchline and Juan Carlos Moreno made it 2-0 with a thundering 25-metre drive.

But striker Andrija Delibasic sparked the comeback when he scored with a diving header at the near post, fellow forward Luis Garcia made it 2-2 almost straight from the restart and then snatched the winner with a sharp shot on the turn just three minutes from time.

### Real Zaragoza 0 — Espanyol 1

Raul Tamudo marked his return from a month-long injury lay-off by scoring the winner that allowed his side to draw level with Real Madrid in the standings.

The Spanish international plucked a cross from Dani out of the air with his foot and then cracked home past keeper Luis Garcia on the half volley in the 30th minute to condemn Zaragoza to a third defeat in a row.

MNA/Reuters

## Serie A match reports

ROME, 6 Dec— Reports of Serie A matches played on Sunday:

### Fiorentina 1 — Bologna 0

Enzo Maresca floated in a 62nd minute free-kick to give Fiorentina a precious win over struggling Bologna. Fiorentina attacked from the outset but finally broke the deadlock midway through the second half when midfielder Maresca sent a harmless looking free kick in the area that went untouched past Bologna keeper Gianluca Pagliuca.

### Lecce 3 — Livorno 2

Lecce twice fought back from a goal down to beat Livorno. A fine solo run by Luca Vigiani gave Livorno an unexpected lead on the half hour mark. Nine minutes later an Erminio Rullo volley from outside the box levelled the score but within a minute Tomas Danilevicius restored Livorno's lead with a close range effort.

After the restart Zdenek Zeman's Lecce side poured forward and grabbed the equaliser through Samuele Dalla Bona's 56th minute penalty after Marco Cassetti was dragged down. Three minutes later Guillermo Giacomazzi completed the comeback by volleying home the winner.

### Palermo 1 — Atalanta 0

Franco Brienza's fine solo effort one minute before halftime lifted Palermo to their third consecutive win of the season.

Brienza flicked a Luca Toni pass over on-coming keeper Massimo Taibi and slotted into an empty net. Winless Atalanta had a chance to level the score but Antonino Bernardini had his 54th minute penalty superbly saved by Matteo Guardalben.

### Reggina 1 — Brescia 3

Brescia notched their third away win of the season with a convincing victory over struggling Reggina.

Lithuanian Marius Stankevicius gave the visitors an 18th minute lead before Costa Rican Gilberto Martinez rocketed home Brescia's second from over 20 metres out. Reggina cut the deficit in the 75th minute thanks to a Marco Zamboni free kick but Brescia striker Andrea Caracciolo slotted home his sixth goal of the season 10 minutes from time.

### Udinese 1 — Siena 0

A 17th minute Antonio Di Natale close-range header gave in-form Udinese their seventh win of the season.

The Italy international striker nodded home after a Vincezo Iaquina volley had been parried out by Siena keeper Marco Fortin to secure all three points for Udinese who remain third, six behind AC Milan and 10 behind leaders Juventus.

Udinese's Giampiero Pinzi was sent off two minutes into injury time for his second bookable offence.

### AS Roma 1 — Sampdoria 1

Biagio Pagano put Sampdoria in front in the 81st minute with a but the lead lasted just three minutes.

Referee Daniele Tombolini spotted some pushing inside the Sampdoria area and awarded a penalty which Francesco Totti rattled home to equal Roberto Pruzzo's club record of 106 Serie A goals.

MNA/Reuters



Juventus' Zlatan Ibrahimovic, left, of Sweden, celebrates after scoring his side 2-1 goal, during the Italian first division soccer match between Juventus and Lazio, at the Turin delle Alpi Stadium, Sunday, Dec. 5, 2004. Juventus won 2-1 and leads the Italian League.—INTERNET



## First SARS vaccine primarily proved safe and effective

BEIJING, 7 Dec — The Chinese Government announced here on Sunday that the world's first vaccine for severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) emerged from the phase-one clinical test as both safe and effective.

The Ministry of Science and Technology, the Ministry of Health and the State Food and Drug Administration are organizing the joint research programme to develop and possibly manufacture the inactivated SARS vaccine.

Wang Xiaofang, a senior official with the Ministry of Science and Technology, said at a news briefing that all 36 volunteers, after being injected with the vaccine 56 days ago, did not report any abnormal physical reactions. Antibodies were found in 24 volunteers.

Yin Weidong, director of the research programme, said the clinical test was strictly secured. The phase-one test was aimed at verifying the safety of the vaccine.

He said his research team has already set technical standards for manufacturing the vaccine.

Lin Jiangtao, a professor at the Sino-Japanese Friendship Hospital who coordinated the clinical test, said that the test involved healthy people, 18 men and 18 women, who are aged from 21 to 40.

The first four people were given the vaccine on May 22, 2004. On September 29, medical observation of all 36 tested was completed.

The Chinese Government began the research for a SARS vaccine last year. More than 100 scientists and researchers from Beijing Sinovac Bio-products Company, the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences, the Chinese Centre for Disease Control and Prevention and the Sino-Japanese Friendship Hospital joined the programme.

Phase-one clinical test was carried out after successful animal tests. Experts estimated that the drug will not be ready for commercial use until the completion of both phase-two and phase-three clinical tests. — MNA/Xinhua

## Shandong Province to build China's largest geothermal base

JINAN, 7 Dec — East China's Shandong Province plans to build the country's largest geothermal research and development base in Qihe County, on the northern bank of the Yellow River, where ample geothermal resources have been spotted.

Shandong Provincial Geology and Mineral Resources Bureau will invest some 180 million yuan (21.7 million US dollars) of start-up fund to build the 40-hectare geothermal base, which will consist of a sci-tech park, a production zone for geothermal air-conditioners and rust proof tubing, a hot spring bathing and therapeutic centre, an aquatic breeding centre and a plantation of green farm products.

Sources with the bureau noted that the plan has got the green light from the Ministry of Land and Resources, China Geological Survey Bureau and Shandong provincial government.

A preliminary survey shows the exploitable geothermal resources within 3,000 metres underground Shandong Province are equal to 10 billion tons of standard coal. Earlier

this year, prospectors drilled what they believed to be one of the largest geothermal wells in the province, one that has groundwater measuring 57 degrees Celsius and can supply 120 cubic metres of water per hour. Laboratory tests show the groundwater contains enough strontium and fluorine for medication purposes and is rich in lithium, bromine and other trace elements helpful for human health.

Experts cite geothermal energy as an alternative energy resource that has a brighter future than hydropower and fossil fuels, and say it can be used in heating, health care and manufacturing industries.

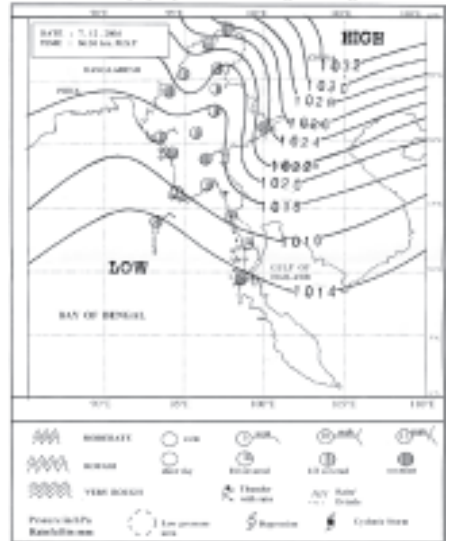
MNA/Xinhua

## Tianjin city sees larger wetlands

TIANJIN, 7 Dec — The total acreage of wetlands in Tianjin, a north China port city, is 2,488 square kilometres, approximately 20 times the figure 10 years ago, thanks to local government efforts to protect wetlands resources, according to the city forestry bureau.

Tianjin has established four wetland projection zones, covering 150,000 hectares or 60.3 per cent of the city's total wetland, at Beidagang, Qilihai, Tuanbowa and in coastal areas, statistics released by the bureau show. Tianjin was once dotted with numerous rivers, water puddles and pools, shallow and deep lakes and reservoirs. The area of the city's wetlands has decreased drastically over the past several decades due to deterioration in local environment and increasing human activities. The city's more than 5,000 water ponds and pools have been reduced by 50 per cent. — MNA/Xinhua

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



## WEATHER

Tuesday, 7 December, 2004

**Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:** During the past 24 hours, light rain has been isolated in upper Sagaing Division and weather has been generally fair in the remaining areas. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Kachin and Chin States, Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions, (3°C) below normal in Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and about normal in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant night temperatures were Hakha (7°C), Mindat (8°C) and Pyin Oo Lwin (9°C).

Maximum temperature on 6-12-2004 was 94°F. Minimum temperature on 7-12-2004 was 60°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 7-12-2004 was 67%. Total sunshine hours on 6-12-2004 was (7.3) hours approx. Rainfall on 7-12-2004 were nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 were 112.28 inches at Yangon Airport, 106.77 inches at Kaba-Aye and 109.68 inches at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 7 mph from East at (08:40) hours MST on 7-12-2004.

**Bay inference:** Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy in the South Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal. **Forecast valid until evening of 8-12-2004:** Weather will be partly cloudy in Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions.

**State of the sea:** Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. **Outlook for subsequent two days:** Likelihood of slight decrease of night temperature in the eastern Myanmar areas.

**Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 8-12-2004:** Fair weather. **Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 8-12-2004:** Fair weather.

## Earthquake report

(Issued at 23:30 hours MST on today)

An earthquake of strong intensity (6.7) Richter Scale with its epicenter outside of Myanmar about (3,000) miles Northeast of Kaba-Aye seismological observatory was recorded at (20) hrs (53) min (34) sec MST on 6th December 2004.



Wednesday, December 8

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

7:55 am

5. မြန်မာ့မြေယာကြီးကြီး

8:10 am

6. အချစ်မြေပုံ

8:20 am

7. ဂရုနိဂရုဏေတံ

8:30 am

8. International news

8:45 am

9. Let's go

4:00 pm

1. Martial song

4:05 pm

2. Songs to uphold National Spirit

4:20 pm

3. Tiger Cup ဘောလုံးပြိုင်ပွဲ တိုက်ရိုက်ထုတ်လွှင့်မှုအစီအစဉ် (ပြန်မူ နှင့် ဖိလစ်ပိုင်)

6:15 pm

4. ရွယ်လုံလင် အာစီယံ အစီအစဉ်

6:30 pm

5. Evening news

7:00 pm

6. Weather report

7:05 pm

7. Strong and Healthy Myanmar

7:15 pm

8. တောင်ဆူမြို့နယ် မြတ်ဘုရား ရွှေတိဂုံ (အပိုင်း-၁)

7:30 pm

9. Union of Myanmar
10. Islands of Dhamma

8:00 pm

11. News
12. International news
13. Weather report
14. စေတီပေါ်ကတင် တေးဂီတ အစီအစဉ်
15. မေ့မရသောအလင်း (အပိုင်း-၁)

"မည်သူ့လင်မယ့်" ဇိုးသားကြီး၊ မျိုးကဲ၊ စော်ဘွား၊ ရတနာခင်၊ စမ်းစမ်းအေး၊

ခင်မိုးမိုးအေး၊ ဒါရိုက်တာ-သက်တင်

16. The next day's programme

Radio Myanmar

Wednesday, December 8

Tune in today:

8.30 am Brief news

8.35 am Music: Feel good

8.40 am Perspectives

8.45 am Music: I can see it in your eyes

8.50 am National news/Slogan

9.00 am Music: I breathe again

9.05 am International news

9.10 am Music: -All the small things

1.30 pm News/Slogan

1.40 pm Lunch time music -Give me love -The tide is high -Rock & roll music

9.00 pm Variations on a tune -Always on my mind

9.15 pm Article/Music

9.25 pm Music at your request -Baby once more time -A place called home -I need love

9.45 pm News/Slogan

10.00 pm PEL



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win hosts a dinner in honour of Laotian Prime Minister Mr Bounnhang Vorachith and party. — MNA

## Prime Minister hosts dinner in honour of visiting Laotian counterpart

YANGON, 7 Dec — Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar Lt-Gen Soe Win hosted a dinner in honour of visiting Prime Minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic Mr Bounnhang Vorachith and members of the goodwill delegation at the reception hall in the Pyithu Hluttaw Building at 7.15 pm today.

The dinner was also attended by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council

Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Chairman of Yangon Division PDC Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, the ministers, the Yangon mayor, the deputy minister for energy, the Myanmar Ambassador to Lao PDR, the director-general of the SPDC Office and departmental heads. Together with the Laotian Prime Minister were the Deputy Prime Minister, the Minister of Foreign Affairs Somsavat Lengsavat and delegation members and Ambassa-

dor of Lao PDR to Myanmar Mr Chanthavy Bodhisane. Before and during the dinner, artistes entertained the guests with songs to the accompaniment of the modern music troupe of Myanmar Athan.

After the dinner, artistes of the Fine Arts Department entertained the audience with Myanmar traditional songs and dances. Later, the visiting Prime Minister presented bouquets to the artistes, and posed for a documentary photo together with them. — MNA

## Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win meets with Laotian counterpart

YANGON, 7 Dec — Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win of the Union of Myanmar received Laotian counterpart Mr Bounnhang Vorachith at Mingalar Hall of Pyithu Hluttaw Building at 7 pm today.

Present at the call together with both Prime Ministers were Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay, Myanmar Ambassador to Laos U Tin Oo, Director-General of Protocol Department Thura U Aung Htet and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Lao People's Democratic Republic Mr Somsavat Lengsavat and senior officials and Laotian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Chanthavy Bodhisane.

MNA



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

### INSIDE

*The most important characteristic of a government is to honestly serve the interests of its people.*

*Therefore, social scientists said "Honesty is the best Policy".*

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Aung Mo San

## Summit opening live on TV

YANGON, 7 Dec — The opening ceremony of the World Buddhist Summit will be telecast live by Myanmar Radio and TV beginning 7.45 am on 9 December.

The three-day Summit will be held in Maha Pasana Cave in Thiri Mingala Kaba Aye Hill, Yangon, from 9 to 11 December. — MNA



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win meets with his Laotian counterpart. — MNA