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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



Laotian Prime Minister Mr Bounnhang Vorachith paying homage to Kyaikhtiyoe Pagoda in Kyaikto Township. — MNA

Laotian Prime Minister and party visit Kyaikhtiyoe Pagoda in Kyaikto

YANGON, 8 Dec — Visiting Prime Minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic Mr Bounnhang Vorachith and party who are here at the invitation of Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar Lt-Gen Soe Win, paid homage to Kyaikhtiyoe Pa-

goda in Kyaikto Township, Mon State, this morning. They were accompanied by Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay, Myanmar Ambassador to LPDR U Tin Oo, Laotian Ambassador Mr Chanthavy Bodhisane and officials of the Ministry

of Foreign Affairs, .

On arrival at the pagoda, they were welcomed by Chairman of Mon State Peace and Development Council Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung, Brig-Gen Myint Soe of Thaton Station, senior military officers, (See page 8)

Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister arrives



Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister Mr Lu Lay Sreng and party being welcomed at Yangon International Airport. — MNA

YANGON, 8 Dec —

Deputy Prime Minister of Cambodia Mr Lu Lay Sreng and party arrived here today by air to attend the World Buddhist Summit in Myanmar.

The Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister and party were welcomed at Yangon International Airport by Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Ambassador of Cambodia to Myanmar Mr Hul Phany and wife, and staff, Director-General of Protocol Department Thura U Aung Htet and officials. — MNA

Agricultural tasks inspected in Lashio

YANGON, 8 Dec—Chairman of Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Commander of North-East Command Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing inspected the 5,000-acre model farm project in Highland No 4, Tazon Region, Lashio Township, on 6 December.

The commander also inspected progress of land reclamation, macadamia plantations, and water supply measures. In charge of the farm Lt-Col Thung Sein Oo reported on reclamation of land and progress of planting perennial crops. The commander provided assistance for the farm and inspected the agricultural tasks.

Afterwards, the commander viewed the model farms of Highland Nos 3 and 1.

The farm in charge reported on cultivation of corn, sugarcane, pigeon pea, sunflower, niger and hemp. The commander instructed the officials to make arrangements for seasonal crops, boost per acre yield of respective crops and provide agricultural methods for the farmers. He inspected the agricultural undertakings for the farm and left necessary instructions to the officials concerned. — MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 9 December, 2004

Strive for development and dissemination of Myanmar traditional medicine

The Government of the Union of Myanmar is striving to build a peaceful and developed nation through the implementation of twelve political, economic and social objectives. One of the four social objectives is "Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation".

To achieve the health objective, all the requirements for providing public health care services are being fulfilled by laying down national health plans. Myanmar traditional medicine plays an important role in public health care services and it has stood the test of time. It has developed since the civilization of ancient Myanmar and we Myanmar people have relied on it for ages.

Head of State Senior General Than Shwe has given guidance on revitalization, preservation and scientific development of Myanmar traditional medicine.

In accordance with the Head of State's guidance, traditional medicines and therapies that were on the verge of extinction are being systematically revitalized.

The Government is taking all the necessary steps for the scientific development of Myanmar traditional medicine. Research on effects of potent traditional medicines is being done, production of traditional medicines for treatment of diseases common in Myanmar encouraged and courses on diploma in traditional medicine conducted.

Moreover, the Traditional Medicine University has been opened to offer opportunities for those who wish to study Myanmar traditional medicine widely.

Now is the time when the Government is encouraging the development of Myanmar traditional medicine and the national people rely more and more on traditional medicines.

At a time like this, practitioners and producers of traditional medicines are to try to the best of their ability to ensure the dissemination and wider use of traditional medicines.

We would like to urge all traditional medicine practitioners to strive for the development of Myanmar traditional medicine and to provide public health care services more and more widely through their knowledge and skills.

နိုင်ငံတော်အစိုးရ ဌာနပိုင်
မော်တော်ယာဉ်များမသုံးစွဲရန်
လစဉ်လ၏ ဒုတိယပတ် (တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့) နှင့်
နောက်ဆုံးပတ် (တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့)တို့သည် ရုံးလုပ်ငန်း
အတွက် မဖြစ်မနေ သွားလာရန်လိုအပ်သည် ကိစ္စရပ်
များမှအပ မော်တော်ယာဉ်များ မသုံးစွဲရန်ဖြစ်သည်။
၂၀၀၄-ခုနှစ်၊ ဒီဇင်ဘာလအတွက်
(၁၂-၁၂-၂၀၀၄) ရက်နေ့
နှင့်
(၂၆-၁၂-၂၀၀၄) ရက်နေ့

All this needs to be known

- * Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
- * Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
- * Do not be softened whenever appeased

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

Computer Professional Training Courses to be opened at MICT Park

YANGON, 8 Dec—With the aim of developing Information Technology (IT), the Advanced ICT Professional Training Course and Basic ICT Professional Training Course co-organized by Myanmar Computer Federation (MCF) and Myanmar Economic & Management Institute (MEMI) will be opened at e-learning Centre of MICT Park on Hline Universities' Campus. It is the 10-week courses to be started on 11 January 2005.

Those wishing to join this course must have a degree and at least two years experiences in IT.

The enthusiasts can apply not later than 5 January. Inquire at MCF, Tel: 652307 and 707503 for detailed information.

MNA

POEM

Contribution of goodness

- * World Buddhist Summit, Convention Is in progress
Mentor and laity
In concert, with tenacious goodwill
It's being hosted by Myanmar.
- * For Myanmar to be peaceful, prosperous
We all aspire
For the world to be peaceful
We all aspire
With State patronage
Citizens playing pivotal role
Contribution of goodness.

May Yu (Trs)

Myanmar Delegation leaves for India

YANGON, 8 Dec — The Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Phone Swe left here this evening by air to attend the first meeting of Joint Task for Prevention against Violence in BIMSTEC region to be held in New Delhi, the Republic of India, on 9 and 10 December.

The delegates were seen off at Yangon International Airport by Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo, officials from the Indian Embassy to Myanmar, officials of Myanmar Police Force and departments and



Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Phone Swe and party being seen off at the airport. — MNA

their families.

The Deputy Minister was accompanied by Head of the Transnational Crimes Department of

MPF Police Col Sit Aye, Director at the Attorney-General's Office U Kyaw Sein and Director of International Organizations

and Economic Department under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs U Nyunt Swe.

MNA

266 drug-related cases exposed in October

YANGON, 8 Dec—A total of 266 drug-related cases were exposed in the nation in October 2004 due to the joint efforts of the Tatmadaw, the Myanmar Police Force and the Customs Department.

The authorities seized 66,4861 kilos of opium in 30 cases, 4,7651 kilos of heroin in 98 cases, 0,6773 kilo of opium oil in two cases, 253.734 kilos of low

grade opium in 20 cases, 10,5106 kilos of marijuana in 27 cases, 0,4 litre of phensedyl in one case, 300,761 stimulant tablets in 49 cases, 0,0069 kilo of stimulant powder in two cases, 5,2635 kilos of speciosa in six cases, 40 diazepam tablets in one case, 87 bottles of diazepam injection in three cases, 26,4 liters of acetic anhydride, 475.2 litres of chemical liquid, and 476 kilos of chemical powder,

14 cases for failure to register and other 13 cases. Action was taken against 352 people in the 266 cases — 297 men and 55 women in October.

A combined anti-drug team searched a Toyota Hilux with the number plates of 3 Kha/5870 driven by Khun Tun with Aung Kyaw at the Taunggyi-Loilem check point on 15 October this year. The search led to the seizure of 189,120

stimulant tablets. Loilem Police Station filed the case and took action against the two.

Acting on information that there was raw opium carried on the brake coach of No 41 up-train, a similar team searched the train at Mogaung Station on 21 October. The authorities discovered 33,5894 kilos of raw opium in the possession of Kyaw Lay, the train clerk, and arrested him. — MNA

Myeik Open Golf Championship 16-19 Dec



YANGON, 8 Dec — The Myeik Open Golf Championship, co-organized by Myanmar Professional Golfers Association and Myanmar Golf Federation, will be held at Myeik Golf Course

in Myeik from 16 to 19 December.

Three divisions — the professionals, the scratch event (handicap 0-12) men's amateur golfers division, and the handicap event (13-24) men's amateur golfers division — will be categorized. Those wishing to participate in

the championship are to enlist at Han Event Management, Tel: 542989, 723221 and 706788, not later than 2 pm on 14 December. Tour sponsor is Rothmans of Pall Mall Myanmar Pte Ltd together with co-sponsors Air Mandalay, Myanmar Brewery Ltd, Alpine Drinking Wa-

ter, KM Golf Centre, Maruman, Tour Stage, Wilson, Srixon, Grand Slam, Munsing Wear, Accel International Co Ltd, Sunfar Travels and Tour (Hole-in-one sponsor) and Myeik Golf Club. The championship is being organised by Han Event Management. — MNA

China stresses urgency of strengthening BWC

GENEVA, 7 Dec—A Chinese diplomat to the United Nations Conference on Disarmament stressed here Monday the urgency of strengthening an international convention on controlling biological weapons.

"The Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) plays a key role in eliminating the threat of and preventing proliferation of biological weapons," said Hu Xiaodi, the Chinese Ambassador on disarmament affairs to the United Nations office here.

The increasing threat of bio-terrorism and transboundary prevalence of infectious diseases is a reminder to the world of the necessity and urgency of strengthening the effectiveness of the BWC, he said. Hu made the remarks at the annual meeting of signatories to the convention which began Monday and will run through Friday.

He pointed out that a sound and effective system of disease surveillance and

response is conducive to minimizing the impact of infectious diseases on people's work and living and contributes to the early detection, active prevention and effective response to bio-terrorism.

"China upholds that States Parties (signatories) should establish and improve related laws and institutions, pool more resources to enhance the surveillance and response capabilities, taking into account of national situation and international standards and guidelines," said Hu. He called on all signatories to actively participate in and promote co-operation at international, regional and bilateral levels to enhance the international capability to combat infectious diseases.—MNA/Xinhua

ထုတ်ကုန်နှစ်ဆ တိုးမြှင့်



A Chinese woman examines a pamphlet near Lenovo computers on display at a computer shop in Beijing, China, on 8 Dec, 2004. — INTERNET

Chinese Minister vows to boost economic ties with Egypt

CAIRO, 7 Dec — Visiting Chinese Commerce Minister Bo Xilai has vowed to strengthen economic cooperation between China and Egypt, according to Chinese officials on Monday.

During his meeting with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on Sunday, Bo briefed Mubarak on China's side on pushing ahead with some Chinese-Egyptian joint ventures in North-west Economic Zone of the Gulf of Suez. Mubarak, for his part, said that the Egyptian Government has at-

tached great importance to the projects and pledged "100 per cent" support to them. In a separate meeting with Egyptian Prime Minister Ahmed Nazef on Sunday, Bo said that under a huge plan of cooperation agreed upon during a summit between Chinese President Hu

Jintao and President Mubarak in January, China will work with Egypt to develop the economic zone.

Bo, who is leading a high-ranking delegation of officials and entrepreneurs, said that his visit was aimed at deepening economic bilateral coop-

eration, as the two countries were working hand in hand to facilitate the development of the economic zone.

China hopes to turn the economic zone into a modern industrial park, with major manufacturers and service providers of the two countries operating in

it, he said.

For his part, Nazef said that Egypt, as an old friend of China, is willing to learn from China in terms of economic growth, adding his country is offering preferential policies toward Chinese companies which invest in the economic zone.—MNA/Xinhua

Moroccan PM arrives India

NEW DELHI, 7 Dec — Moroccan Prime Minister (PM) Driss Jettou arrived here Monday on a four-day visit to India, the first Arab leader to visit the country after Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's government assumed office seven months ago.

The Moroccan leader is heading a high-powered 100-member delegation, including seven ministers, senior officials and leading entrepreneurs, the *Indo-Asian News Service* reported.

He will hold talks with Manmohan Singh Tuesday. A number of cooperation agreements including in the fields of civil aviation, agricultural research and energy, and a cultural exchange programme are expected to be signed following the talks.

This is the second visit by a Moroccan Prime Minister to India in less than four years. Jettou's predecessor Abderahmane El Yousseoufi was here in February 2001.

India and Morocco have enjoyed cordial ties. Economically, India is the largest export market for the kingdom's single largest export commodity—phosphates.

Internet

MNA/Xinhua

1,279 members of US military killed since beginning of Iraq war

WASHINGTON, 6 Dec—As of Tuesday, 7 December, 2004, at least 1,279 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 999 died as a result of hostile action, the Defence Department said. The figures include three military civilians. The *AP* count is five higher than the Defence Department's tally, last updated at 10 am EST Tuesday.

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, 1,141 US military members have died, according to *AP*'s count. That includes at least 890 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers. Since the start of US military operations in Iraq, 9,765 US service members have been wounded in hostile action, according to the Defence Department's weekly tally. —Internet

Blair challenged to tally Iraq war dead

LONDON, 7 Dec—Diplomats and peers have joined scientists and churchmen to urge Prime Minister Tony Blair to publish a death toll in the US-led war in Iraq.

In an unusual open letter to the premier made available to *Reuters*, the 44 signatories said Blair had rejected other death counts from the war, figures span 14,000 to 100,000, without releasing one of his own.

Any totalling of the Iraqi war dead could embarrass Blair ahead of a general election expected in months in a country that opposed the US-led war.

The group urged Blair to commission an urgent probe into the number of dead and injured and keep counting so long as British soldiers remain in Iraq alongside their American allies.

"Your government is obliged under international humanitarian law to protect the civilian population during military operations in Iraq, and you have consistently promised to do so," they wrote in the letter to be published on Wednesday.

"However, without counting the dead and injured, no one can know whether Britain and its coalition partners are meeting these obligations."

The inquiry, they added, should be independent of government, conducted according to accepted scientific methods and subjected to peer review.

Britain and the United States have suffered around 1,070 losses in the war so far. The Iraq-wide casualty count is not known, and a high tally could wreak political damage in Britain, where Blair is expected to win a 2005 election but with a reduced majority.



An Iraqi woman cleans the road outside her house as a US Marine patrols the central Iraqi city of Yusufiyah, south of Baghdad, on 7 Dec, 2004.—INTERNET

MSN preparing to tap Internet service business in China

BELING, 8 Dec — Microsoft so far has no immediate plans to tap the Internet service market in China, due to concerns over the market situation, and not speculation about policy restrictions, the *China Daily* reported.

"Our very focus in China is still offering free products... to help our consumers achieve a user experience with MSN, as we are doing in other emerging markets," said Sharon Baylay, general manager of Microsoft MSN ICAN section, responsible for MSN business in emerging markets including Asia, South America and Australia. Microsoft (China) Co Ltd last Friday unveiled its latest MSN product MSN Messenger 7.0 Chinese language test version, at the same time as the global launching of its 7.0 English language version.

The 7.0 Chinese language test version supports both simplified and traditional Chinese characters, with much improved features compared with the most commonly used 6.2 version in China. The new product is free of charge, and users can download it from web sites.

"We try to provide the best breed of services to our consumers," Luo Chuan, director of Microsoft MSN's Greater China region was quoted as saying.

In addition to MSN Messenger, Microsoft is in the process of launching a search service in simplified Chinese language, Luo said.

Answering a question whether MSN is prepared to provide profitable Internet services, Baylay said "we are very committed to the China market, but we will not rush into the business."

Several domestic newspapers including the *21st Century Economic Herald* reported that MSN is clinching deals with six Chinese web sites on partnership in MSN's six service channels attached to MSN Messenger this month, according to the newspaper.

The Chinese companies are said to be paying three million US dollars each for a channel, the newspaper said. Some of these partners are top Chinese language web sites such as taobao.com, well-known for online auctions; mop.com for its virtual community; and ourgame.com for online games, the media reported. Both Luo and Baylay declined to comment on the report.

It is speculated that partnership with local companies is a way out because foreign ISPs (Internet service providers) are not allowed to enter China for profit, and MSN will take this approach to comply with policy restrictions, the newspaper said.

MNA/Xinhua

ဝက်ဘ်ဆိုက်များ အသစ်တော်များ



Singapore Airlines staff smile at their booth in a Bangkok travel exhibition recently.

INTERNET

Norway's population records slight gain

STOCKHOLM, 8 Dec — Norwegian population has registered slight increase, with more than 4.6 million people living in the country, according to fresh figures released by the state's Central Bureau of Statistics on Monday.

Officials attribute the increase mostly to immigration. Norwegian women in general are giving birth to fewer children today than they were 20 years ago, although the birth rate has been rising in the past few years. It now stands at 1.8 children for every woman, as compared to 2.1 in 1974.

Immigrants now total 349,000, accounting for 7.6 per cent of Norway's total population. They live in all of the country's townships, with the largest number residing in the capital of Oslo. — MNA/Xinhua

BBC to cut at least 2,900 jobs

LONDON, 8 Dec — Britain's venerable public broadcaster, the BBC, plans one of the biggest shake-ups in its 82-year history by axing at least 10 per cent of its jobs and trimming 320 million pounds in costs, company sources said.

Director General Mark Thompson — who famously described the BBC as "basking in a Jacuzzi of spare public cash" when he ran rival broadcaster Channel 4 — will announce the cuts in a presentation to staff on Tuesday.

The BBC, one of the world's best-known media brands and home to shows like "EastEnders" and "The Office", will cut at least 2,900 of its 28,000 jobs over two to three years, according to an executive in the company.

The plan is part of Thompson's

strategy for safeguarding the licence fee — a tax on British television-owning households that brings in some 2.8 billion pounds per year for the BBC — after a year when the broadcaster's relationship with Tony Blair's government has come under extreme strain.

A judge savaged a BBC report that the government "sexed up" evidence of Iraqi weapons of mass destruction, forcing the resignation of Thompson's predecessor Greg Dyke and Chairman Gavyn Davies. — MNA/Reuters

British retail sales fall

LONDON, 8 Dec — British retail sales fell at their fastest annual pace in nearly a year in November, the *British Retail Consortium* said on Tuesday.

The retailing lobby group said that sales, measured on a like-for-like basis, fell 0.2 per cent on the year last month, their worst annual performance since Christmas last year. October saw growth of 0.5 per cent.

Total sales, which include new floorspace, rose by 2.4 per cent on a year earlier after growth of 3.0 per cent in the previous month. November's total sales growth was also the weakest rate since last December.

Kevin Hawkins, BRC director general, said the data was proof that five interest rate rises in a year and fears over a housing market crash were hurting consumers' appetite for spending.

But he noted that there had been a tendency for the bulk of Christmas shopping to happen later in the year.

MNA/Reuters

Indonesia buys 16 used carriages from Japan

JAKARTA, 8 Dec — The Indonesian state-run railway company KAI has bought 16 used carriages from Japan worth around 1.1 million US dollars with the last eight arriving here Monday.

Manufactured in 1979, the passenger carriages will be used for KAI's commuter trains in Jakarta, head of KAI's

Greater Jakarta Division Rachmadi was quoted by state news agency Antara as saying.

He claimed that the carriages arriving at the Tanjung Priok Seaport were in good condition and ready for operations next week.

The first eight carriages arrived on October 21 and have since entered service, he said.

Rachmadi said a new Japanese passenger carriage was priced at around one million US dollars.

MNA/Xinhua

1,000th US soldier killed in action in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 8 Dec — The number of US troops killed in action in Iraq hit 1,000 Tuesday when the military said a soldier had been shot dead on patrol in Baghdad.

"One Task Force Baghdad soldier died of wounds received at about 11:30 am on 7 December. The soldier was on patrol when the unit came under small arms fire," the military in Iraq said in a typically brief routine statement.

"The name of the soldier killed is being withheld pending notification of next of kin." Earlier in the day, the Pentagon had issued a revised combat casualty toll of 999, a figure which had risen sharply last month during the US assault on Sunni Muslim insurgents in the city of Fallujah. At least 71 Americans were killed there.

In all, 1,275 US service personnel have died during the Iraq operation, launched with the invasion on March 20 last year. This figure includes accidents, suicides and other deaths not classed as being killed in action. A total of 9,765 US troops have been wounded.

No official figures are available for the numbers of Iraqi dead. Estimates have ranged from some 14,000 to tens of thousands of civilians and around 5,000 troops in the war. A US soldier was killed in Baghdad Tuesday when his patrol came under fire, the US military said in statement. — Internet



Iraqi detainees hold a fence at Abu Ghraib prison on 6 Dec, 2004. — INTERNET



Two Mainland Chinese tourists look at a prehistoric Chinese scene recreated in a Hong Kong museum. A 9,000-year-old prehistoric preserved wine dug up from the Neolithic village of Juahu in northern China could be the ultimate vintage for wine snobs keen to impress.—INTERNET

China to buy 23 Airbus aircraft

BEIJING, 8 Dec—The China Aviation Supplies Import and Export Group Corporation (CASGC) and Airbus Monday signed a General Terms Agreement (GTA) for the purchase of 23 Airbus aircraft.

"CASGC has enjoyed an excellent cooperative relationship with Airbus for many years. Through our joint efforts, Airbus can provide more modern and economic aviation products to Chinese airlines, while CASGC can offer high quality and value-added services to Chinese airlines," CASGC president Li Hai said.

"Airbus considers China as a very strategic and important market," said Noel Forgeard, Airbus president and chief executive officer.

The A320 Family is the world's fastest selling single-aisle family, made up of the A318, A319, A320 and A321.

Airbus' A320 Family is the acknowledged technological leader in the single-aisle class, with advanced features such as fuel-saving wingtip fences, weight-saving composites, and the reliability that comes from its modern de-

sign and ease of maintenance.

Airbus' A320 Family is the most successful aircraft family in the world, having been chosen by more than 160 customers and operators around the world, including many in Asia. Firm orders for the Airbus A320 Family stand at more than 3,200 aircraft, some 2,300 of which have been delivered to date.

Airbus's business in China has been steadily expanding since it first entered the country in 1985. The Airbus fleet in service in the Mainland, Hong Kong and Macao has grown to more than 260 today from just 29 in 1995. A training and support centre which represents an 80-million-US-dollar investment by Airbus, is fully operational in Beijing. Five Chinese companies are involved in producing parts for Airbus aircraft.

MNA/Xinhua

China's Neolithic people may be world's first winemakers

PHILADELPHIA, 7 Dec—Neolithic people in China may have been the first in the world to make wine, according to scientists who have found the earliest evidence of winemaking from pottery shards dating from 7,000 BC in northern China.

Previously the oldest evidence of fermented beverages was dated to 5400 B.C. and was found at the Neolithic site of Hajji Firuz Tepe, in Iran.

But in a study published in the science journal *PNAS* on Monday, Dr. Patrick McGovern of the University of Pennsylvania said laboratory tests on pottery jars from the village of Jiahu in Henan Province had shown traces of a mixed fermented drink of rice, honey, and either grapes or hawthorne fruit.

"This evidence appears to suggest that the Chinese developed fermented beverages even earlier than the Middle East, or perhaps at the same time," McGovern

told *Reuters*. "Maybe there were some indirect ties between the Middle East and Central Asia at that time in ancient civilization." The archaeological site of Jiahu, in the Yellow River Basin, is renowned for its cultural and artistic relics. Among those discovered are ancient houses, kilns, turquoise carvings, stone tools and flutes made from bone, thought to be the earliest examples of musical instruments ever found.

McGovern also analyzed samples of 3,000-year-old wine from hermetically sealed bronze vessels found in Shang Dynasty burial tombs from the Yellow River Basin.

The liquid was pre-

served because a thin layer of rust had sealed the bronze jars completely, he said.

A small sample of the remains of the wine, a clear colourless liquid, gave off a faint aroma similar to nail polish remover or varnish. McGovern said when he first smelled the wine it was floral scented.

The ancient wine was flavoured with herbs and flowers or tree resins, and placed in the tombs of high-ranking individuals to sustain them in the afterlife.

One of the ancient jars contained a liquid that had traces of wormwood, suggesting the beverage might have been an early version of absinthe.

MNA/Reuters

Italy, China share a common future

BEIJING, 8 Dec—Italian President Carlo Azeglio Ciampi said here Tuesday that Italy and China not only share a long and glorious past, but also a common future.

The 84-year-old President, who made the remarks while delivering a speech at China's prestigious Qinghua University, showed his confidence in the relationship between Italy and China through elaborating the "common future".

"I am convinced that the future will be built up by relations between our

societies and our governments, by cooperation between increasingly more integrated regional areas, and by the development of joint efforts in the multilateral institutions," he said.

Reviewing the long past of the two nations, Ciampi said China and Italy are both the cradle of millenia-old civiliza-

tions. Their relationships dates back to ancient times, through contacts between China's Han Dynasty (206 BC - 220 AD) and eastern provinces of the Roman Empire. It was these contacts that introduced Chinese people to Marco Polo, Matteo Ricci and others.

MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam to build more expressways in next years

HANOI, 8 Dec—Vietnam will annually build 150 kilometres of expressways to bring its total length of expressways to 3,000 kilometres in the next 20 years, *Vietnam News* reported on Tuesday.

The country plans to construct 13 routes with a combined length of 1,354 kilometres between 2005 and 2015 with a total investment of some 100 trillion Vietnamese dong (VND) (nearly 6.4 billion US dollars), said the report.

Next year, Vietnam is scheduled to start the construction of its first two expressways with a total investment of 11 trillion VND (700.6 million US dollars) from government bond issuance.

The roads will facilitate traffic from northern Ha Tay Province to northern Ninh Binh Province, and from southern Tien Giang Province to southern Vinh Long Province.—MNA/Xinhua

Iraq violence will get worse, says CIA chief

WASHINGTON, 8 Dec—The CIA's station chief in Baghdad has sent a bleak cable to Washington, giving warning that the situation in Iraq is getting worse and may not improve any time soon.

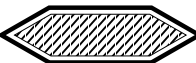
The senior undercover operative, whose 300-man post represents the largest CIA presence abroad since the Vietnam War, offered his blunt assessment that the political, economic and security situation in Iraq was deteriorating and was likely to get worse in coming months, with more violence and clashes between ethnic and religious groups, the New York Times reported.

A man examines a church which was attacked in Mosul. The only hope lay in a dramatic improvement in the capacity of the interim Iraqi authorities to stamp their authority on the country and rebuild the economy, he wrote in the classified cable - a valedictory address from a station chief returning from a year-long posting.

Another senior CIA official, Michael Kostiw, visited Iraq recently and returned with a similarly "mixed" picture of the situation, it was reported.

News of the CIA's warning came as Iyad Allawi, the interim prime minister, told the Belgian newspaper *Le Soir* that the elections scheduled for Jan 30 were likely to be spread over 15 to 20 days to enable security forces to concentrate on volatile areas.

He acknowledged that the level of violence in Iraq meant forces could not spread themselves wide enough to ensure a peaceful and fair vote.—Internet



An Iraqi man is treated in hospital after being injured in an early morning explosion in Baghdad on 8 Dec, 2004.

INTERNET



New Zealand Parlt to adopt NZ-China consular agreement

WELLINGTON, 8 Dec— A consular agreement to be tabled in Parliament on Tuesday will support the rapidly growing links between New Zealand and China, Foreign Minister Phil Goff said here on Tuesday.

The agreement comes at a time when the number of people travelling between the two countries is increasing dramatically. Last year more than 100,000 Chinese citizens travelled to New Zealand for tourism, business and study purposes while about 50,000 New Zealanders visited China, Goff said in a statement.

According to Goff, the agreement deals with practical matters ranging from travel facilitation, the detention of individuals and the authentication of documents, to assistance to ships and aircraft.

It spells out the rights of citizens, including dual nationals, to access a range of consular services and the circumstances in which they may call upon the assistance of their governments.

"As a result, the agreement will reinforce and extend the ability of our posts

in China to help New Zealanders who may run into difficulties, and also better protect the consular rights and interests of Chinese visiting New Zealand," Goff said.

The agreement, signed last October during Chinese President Hu Jintao's visit to New Zealand, was New Zealand's first country-to-country consular agreement.

"Both the New Zealand and Chinese Governments see it as a sign of the importance we attach to developing the relationship further through greater understanding and contact at the community and business levels," Goff said.

The agreement will now go to Parliament's select committee for consideration and public submissions, and is likely to come into force in the first half of next year. — MNA/Xinhua

Hun Sen calls for regional cooperation in disaster management

PHNOM PENH, 8 Dec— Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen on Tuesday called on ASEAN member countries to enhance regional cooperation and help each other in all type of disaster management to reduce its negative impacts to the economies and societies of member countries.

Hun Sen made the remarks at the first ASEAN (Association of South-East Asian Nations) ministerial meeting on disaster management held here on Tuesday.

The Premier said that in order to enhance sustainable development and transform the whole region into a safe and secured community, "it requires cooperation among state institutions, national and regional stakeholders

including those vulnerable and communities".

He, meanwhile, put forward some priorities for adoption: to further enhance working networks and exchange of information; to invest in human resource, budget and materials; to enhance media propaganda to raise public awareness; to help building capacity and provide resources to member countries; and to strengthen the willing-

ness, commitment and responsibility for all national and regional leaders.

The meeting will review the achievements and identify measures to reduce disasters and to exchange ideas on disaster management at national and ASEAN regional levels.

At the same time, the meeting will discuss and adopt the draft documents to manage and timely respond to reduce disasters in ASEAN region and other issues related to disaster management to contribute to sustainable development of ASEAN countries. "We in ASEAN have the willingness to help each other in the region during 'crisis'," Hun Sen stressed. — MNA/Xinhua

China-Italy business mediation centre set up in Beijing

BEIJING, 8 Dec — China signed a cooperation agreement here Tuesday with Italy on establishing a bilateral business mediation centre, the first of its kind between China and European Union countries.

The agreement was signed by the Mediation Centre of the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT) and the Italy-China Chamber of Commerce and Milan Mediation Association.

This business mediation centre will adopt a co-chairing system with one chairman from China and the other from Italy, and there are two secretaries-general as well, CCPIT vice chairman Liu Wenjie said. "Two offices will be set up in Beijing and Milan to deal with the daily cases."

The centre will formulate mediation rules and regulations by targeting the trade disputes and giving consideration to business characteristics of the two countries, according to Liu.

Experts from related sectors and departments in the two countries will be chosen as mediators, Liu said. "The two sides have agreed to commit themselves to promoting the centre and its mediation services."

The trade disputes are unavoidable as Italy and China have witnessed the continued trade growth in recent years, said Antonio Marzano, Minister of Production Activities of Italy.

MNA/Xinhua



India models showcase outfits by Italian designer Valentino during a fashion show in Bombay on 5 Dec, 2004. The show was part of the Italian festival in Bombay. Picture taken on 5 December.—INTERNET

Vietnam alert to bird flu reoccurrence in winter

HANOI, 8 Dec— Vietnam remains highly alert to potential new outbreaks of bird flu this winter, local newspaper *Youth* on Tuesday quoted a deputy head of the country's Department of Animal Health as saying.

Cold weather favours the spread of the disease. Free raising of poultry, especially ducks in fields, and rampant transport and sales of fowls before the Lunar New Year, which falls on early February, are also contributing factors to the high risk of bird flu relapse, deputy head Dau Ngoc Hao said.

Although Vietnam has detected no new outbreaks for a month, it should strengthen anti-bird flu activities, such as frequent disinfection of farms, close surveillance on the transport of poultry and their eggs, and rapid construction of concentrated slaughter houses, he noted.

Since October, only 20 chickens in southern Can Tho City have been reported to have contracted the virus strain of H5. All of them were culled.

According to the department, having reappeared in 11 southern localities since June, bird flu no longer activated there, and that the reoccurrence of bird flu had either killed or led to the forced culling of over 44,000 poultry, mainly chickens and quails.

In late March, Vietnam declared an end to bird flu that had killed 17 per cent of its poultry population and claimed 16 human lives during the previous outbreak starting in December 2003.—MNA/Xinhua

Iran, France, Malaysia sign agreement on LNG project

TEHRAN, 8 Dec — Iran, France and Malaysia on Tuesday finalized and signed an agreement on a liquefied natural gas (LNG) project which will have an annual production capability of 10 million cubic metres, the official IRNA news agency reported.

IRNA quoted the Public Relations Department of Iran's Oil Ministry as saying that the agreement names Iran's National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC), French TotalFinaElf and Malaysian Petronas as partners.

The three companies will cooperate in the production, export and development in a part of the South Pars gas field in the southern Iranian province of Bushehr, IRNA said.

The NIOC, TotalFinaElf and Petronas will undertake 50, 30 and 20 per cent share respectively in the investment of the project, which will have an annual yield of 10 million cubic metres, the report said.

Iran stands at the second in the list of world gas reserves, with 26,800 billion cubic metres in proven reserves, which accounts for 18.6 per cent of the amount of the world.

MNA/Xinhua



Balloons in Beijing: Chinese employees hold a huge bunch of balloons prior to the ground-breaking ceremony for a Daimler Chrysler plant in Beijing, attended by German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder.—INTERNET

The World Buddhist Summit

U Kyaw Sein (Mandalay)

Preparations are well under way at Maha Pasana Cave where the World Buddhist Summit will be held. We read news about the World Buddhist Summit to be hosted in Myanmar in the newspapers. All the Buddhists in Myanmar welcome the news.

The Buddhist countries will enjoy the benefits of the summit.

1. Promotion of friendship, mutual understanding

Buddha Sasana has taken root in Myanmar since Tharekhittaya (Pyu) period. Nine years after King Anawrahta ascended the throne in Bagan, Shin Araham got there. Under the patronage of Shin Araham, Pitakat treatises were brought to Bagan from Thaton.

and cooperation among the Buddhist countries

2. Safeguarding of Buddhism and its practices
3. Promotion and propagation of Buddhism based on Pariyatti in the nations of the world
4. Contribution towards emergence of a peaceful world necessary for the entire people
5. Propagation of the teachings of the Buddha in the world without sacrificing its essence

The teachings of the Buddha are made up of 84,000 dhammakhandha (components) preached in Pali. The

summit aims for propagation of Pali to the world without changing its essence. After the third Buddhist Synod, five Arahats each went to nine countries. During their missionary trips, they used the languages of the respective regions to expound the teachings of the Buddha. As a result, the Buddha Sasana flourished in various countries.

Buddha Sasana has taken root in Myanmar since Tharekhittaya (Pyu) period. Nine years after King Anawrahta ascended the throne in Bagan, Shin Araham got there. Under the patronage of Shin Araham, Pitakat treatises were brought to Bagan, from Thaton. Thanks to Shin Araham and King Anawrahta, the people there held in esteem the teachings of the Buddha. From that time onwards, Theravada Buddha Sasana has been flourishing in Myanmar. Theravada means the preservation of the teachings as they are without making any amendment to them. Pagodas, stupas and monasteries were built everywhere in the country.

The texts of Tri Pitaka, the world's biggest book, were inscribed on stone slabs in Mandalay in Yadanabon period. The Fifth Sangha Synod was held in Mandalay of Yadanabon period at the time of King Mindon. The Sixth Sangha Synod took place in Maha Pasana Cave on Kaba Aye Hill, Yangon. The members of the Sangha of Myanmar who could recite the Tri Pitaka by heart were recorded on the Guinness Book of World Records, calling them "human computer". Up to this date, the

number of such learned monks has reached 11.

It can be said that there is no other country like Myanmar where the original texts of Pariyatti literature can be studied. Therefore, Myanmar is the origin of Theravada Buddhism. Moreover, Myanmar boasts as a single country where the most precise and complete

It can be said that there is no other country like Myanmar where the original texts of Pariyatti literature can be studied. Therefore, Myanmar is the origin of Theravada Buddhism.

texts of Buddha literature are preserved. All the world nations also agree to it.

Pariyatti schools, Dhammacariya universities, the International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University and meditation centres are the places Myanmar can take pride. So are the gilded pagodas, monasteries and other religious edifices.

Therefore, it is an encouraging sign that the World Buddhist Summit will be held at Maha Pasana Cave in Yangon. May the Summit be successful. May its objectives be realized. May Buddhism spread the world.

(Translation: NY)

Myanma Alin; 8-12-2004

Andean presidents discuss closer integration

Cusco (Peru), 8 Dec — The presidents of the Andean Community met in the ancient Inca capital on Tuesday to discuss ways to promote closer integration, economic and social development.

Peruvian President Alejandro Toledo, the host, inaugurated the Extraordinary Summit of the Andean Presidential Council, calling for promoting an integral-development strategy within the framework of the Andean Community (ANCOM) members.

Bolivian President Carlos Mesa attended the summit while President Alvaro Uribe and Hugo Chavez of Ven-

ezuela took part by teleconference. But President Lucio Gutierrez of Ecuador did not attend the summit.

Chilean President Ricardo Lagos attended the summit as an observer. However, Uribe and Chavez will fly in on Wednesday to attend a summit of South American nations.

The Peruvian President said the moment had come for defining long-

term social policies, taking into account the macroeconomic achievements and the average 4.0-per-cent average growth of the region.

"There remains plenty to do," he added, referring to the ANCOM poverty index of 53 per cent, with high levels of inequality and social-exclusion problems.

MNA/Xinhua

S Korean firm develops first mobile phone with "Zigbee" tech

SEOUL, 8 Dec — South Korean mobile phone manufacturer Curitel Communications Inc. said on Tuesday it has developed the world's first mobile phone that allows wireless connections between personal computers, home appliances and electric switches at home and office.

The phone incorporating "Zigbee" technology will enable users to activate electric switches and control other electronics devices from a short distance, the company said in a statement.

Curitel said it will demonstrate the Zigbee phone's capabilities at an industrial fair in Seoul on Wednesday, with the phone to go on sale as soon as the so-called ubiq-

uitous computing era arrives. Ubiquitous computing refers to a postulated future computer network that would allow users to approach the network anytime, anywhere and with any device. "Mobile phones will emerge as the core device in the upcoming age of ubiquitous computing," said Han Mi-hyang, a Curitel researcher who was in

charge of developing the Zigbee phone.

"Curitel aims to become a leader in ubiquitous computing by developing various mobile phones equipped with technologies such as Zigbee and Bluetooth," she said. Curitel is the third largest mobile phone producer after Samsung Electronics and LG Electronics in South Korea. — MNA/Xinhua



သွေးလှူရှင်များနေ့

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28th Blood Donors' Day

Great thanks to -
Generosity and respectable characters of yours.
You make the difference between life and death.

On behalf of those whose lives have been saved by yours.

National Blood Centre
Department of Health
Ministry of Health.



Lao PDR Prime Minister Mr Bounnhang Vorachith offers gold foils to Kyaikhtyoe Pagoda.

MNA



Laotian Prime Minister Mr Bounnhang Vorachith and party pose for documentary photo at Kyaikhtyoe Pagoda.— MNA

Laotian Prime Minister...

(from page 1)

departmental officials, members of the Pagoda Board of Trustees and social organizations, students and local people.

The visiting Prime Minister offered flowers, water and lights and paid homage to the Buddha image in the prayer hall in the precinct of the pagoda. Next, the Laotian

Prime Minister signed the visitors' book.

The commander presented a picture of the Pagoda as a Dhamma gift to the Laotian Prime Minister.

Next, the visiting Prime Minister made cash donations. He offered gold foils to the pagoda and participated in the taking of documentary photos.

The Laotian Prime Minister paid homage to other pagodas in the vicinity of Kyaikhtyoe Pagoda.

The visiting Prime Minister and the Commander also tolled the bell as a taken of friendly relationship between Laos and Myanmar. After enjoying the scenic surroundings, the visiting Prime Minister and party had group photos taken as mementos. Next, the commander hosted a lunch to the Laotian Prime Minister and party.

The Laotian Prime Minister and party returned here in the afternoon. — MNA



Commander Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung greets Lao PDR Prime Minister Mr Bounnhang Vorachith at Kyaikhtyoe Pagoda.— MNA



South-East Command Commander Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung hosts lunch to Lao PDR Prime Minister Mr Bounnhang Vorachith.— MNA

Laotian Prime Minister observes upgrading of Yangon City Kandawgyi Lake and its environs

YANGON, 8 Dec — The visiting Laotian Prime Minister Mr Bounnhang Vorachith of the Yangon City Kandawgyi Lake observed the upgrading tasks this evening.

The distinguished guest and party, accompanied by Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay, Myanmar Ambassador to Laos U Tin Oo, Laotian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Chanthavy Bodhisane and officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs arrived at Agriculture Museum this evening. They were welcomed there by Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Secretary of YCDC Col Myint Aung, No 3 Military Region Commander Col Tint Hsan, No 4 Military Region Com-

mander Col Yan Naing Oo, Managing Director of Myanmar Agriculture Service U Tun Than and officials.

At the hall of MAS, the visiting Prime Minister and party heard reports on measures being taken for upgrading of Kandawgyi Lake presented by Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and progress in upgrading tasks of respective zones in Kandawgyi Lake by Head of Parks and Playgrounds Department U Nyunt Pe. Next, the visiting Prime Minister and party viewed Myanmar natural orchid booth and herbal plantation around the Relaxation Zone. After Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein had welcomed the visiting Prime Minister and party, Deputy Director-General of Fisheries Department U Hla Win conducted them

around the Fish Garden. Next, they viewed around Central Forest Zone where they were conducted around by officials of the Ministry of Forestry and the YCDC. Afterwards, they viewed Myanmar Arts and Handicraft Shops in the Recreation Zone.

After that, Chairman of Zay Gabar Co Ltd Dr U Khin Shwe reported to them on measures being taken for upgrading tasks of Karaweik Garden and photo technician actor Lwin Moe of Zan Photo Art Gallery handed over Bagan City Gadawpalin Pagoda photo shot by himself to the visiting Prime Minister as a present.

After the visiting Prime Minister and party had observed the View Deck in Recreation Zone, they left there in the evening. — MNA



Lao PDR Prime Minister Mr Bounnhang Vorachith and party view all-round upgrading of Kandawgyi Lake.— MNA



Thai Sayadaws being welcomed at Yangon International Airport. (News on page 16)—MNA



The Chief of Maha Nikaya Gana of Cambodia and party seen at the airport. (News on page 16) —MNA

Commander inspects regional developments, agricultural tasks

YANGON, 8 Dec — Chairman of Mon State Peace and Development Council Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung together with officials concerned went to Chaukaing village, Mawlamyine Township, on 6th December. They viewed all round agriculture and breeding tasks there. And they were conducted around by peasant U Myo Min.

Next, the commander attended monsoon

paddy harvesting ceremony in Yedwinkon village, Kyaikmaraw Township, and watched measures being taken for land preparations to grow summer paddy and winter crops and attended to the requirements. Afterwards, the commander met with local peasants in Yedwinkon village. Chairman of Township PDC U Khun Soe Lwin reported on cultivation of monsoon paddy, arrangements to be made for cultivation of summer paddy and winter

crops and Mon State Manager U Sein Win of Myanmar Agriculture Service on harvesting of monsoon paddy and arrangements for double cropping.

After that, the commander gave instructions on efforts to be made for regional developments. He proceeded to Mawlamyine University and inspected measures being taken for construction tasks in front of the main building and left necessary instructions there. —MNA



Bookworms seen at Sarsodaw Day commemorative Book Fair.—MNA

Sarsodaw Day commemorative Book Fair continues

YANGON, 8 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 8,000 bookworms today visited the fair and the sale fetched over K 2.1 million.

MNA



Mongolian Sayadaws being welcomed at the airport. (News on page 16) — MNA

School Family Day from 27 Dec 2004 to 3 Jan 2005

YANGON, 8 Dec—The Leading Committee for Observance of School Family Day for 2004-2005 academic year held its co-ordination meeting at the Diamond Jubilee Hall on Pyay Road in Kamayut Township, this afternoon.

Present were Chairman of the Leading Committee for Observance of

School Family Day Minister for Education U Than Aung, Vice-Chairman Deputy Minister for Education Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min, members and guests.

The School Family Day will be observed from 27 December 2004 to 3 January 2005.

The opening ceremony

will start at the Diamond Jubilee Hall on 28 December. The exhibition and art skill demonstration will also be held there. Book-stalls will be opened and ICT showrooms will be put on display.

Prize presentation for outstanding students will be held at the same venue on 3 January 2005.—MNA



Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung presents prize to the coach of the golf team of Ministry of Forestry. — FOREST

Golfers of Ministry of Forestry honoured

YANGON, 8 Dec — Golf Team of the Ministry of Forest which stood third in the State Peace and Development Council Chairman's Cup Golf

Tournament was honoured yesterday at International Business Centre.

At the ceremony, Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung pre-

sented honorary prizes to the coach and golfers individually. Next, golfer U Myat Ko Ko spoke words of thanks.

MNA

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Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun inspects unloading of iron beams for Ayeyawady River Bridge (Yadanabon). — CONSTRUCTION

Unloading of iron beams for Ayeyawady River Bridge (Yadanabon) inspected

YANGON, 8 Dec — Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun together with Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Myint Thein and officials of Public Works this morning inspected unloading of iron beams weighing

4324.392 tons to be used at the construction site of Ayeyawady River Bridge (Yadanabon) from MV Jiang Pu Guan, at Bo Aung Kyaw Jetty-3, here at 2 pm today.

Today's unloaded iron beams were im-

ported from China CMEC Engineering Co Ltd of the People's Republic of China.

The minister instructed officials to send the beams to the work sites as soon as possible and to take care of work

sites safety.

A total of 10,601.891 tons of iron beams for Ayeyawady River Bridge (Yadanabon) have arrived.

MNA

Deputy Minister inspects rural roads

YANGON, 8 Dec — Deputy Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Tin Ngwe inspected the paving of a rural road linking Hsatthwa and Danonmyaung in Taungdwingyi Township yesterday.

Officials of the Magway Division Development Affairs Committee explained salient points of the road.

Accompanied by officials, the deputy minister met with officials of the rural road project in Hsinbaungwe. Officials explained the building of a dirt road between Danonmyaung and Thanbula. The deputy minister spoke of the need to use the heavy machinery effectively. He also met with villagers in Hsatthwa Village.

In Taungdwingyi and Myothit towns, he met with staff of the Township DAC. — MNA

IM-1 old students to pay respects to teachers on 26 Dec

YANGON, 8 Dec — The third ceremony of old students who joined the Institute of Medicine-1 in 1968 to pay respects to faculty members will be held at the auditorium of Myanmar Medical Association at 9.30 am on 26 December. — MNA

Prizes presented to winners in new generation youth golf tourney



YANGON, 8 Dec — The new generation youth golf tournament of Han Golf Masters was held at Myanmar Golf Club at 9th mile on Pyay Road, here, yesterday.

Among the spectators were President of MGF Maj-Gen Win

Hlaing (Retd), executives and guests.

President of MPGA and MGF Maj-Gen Win Hlaing (Retd), Executive of MPGA and MGF U Ko Ko Lay, Daw Myat Myat Cho of Wilson and officials presented prizes to the win-

ners of the various events. The tournament was sponsored by Han Golf Masters Pte Ltd together with co-sponsors Pan-West (Myanmar), Thaik Diamond Shop, Wilson, Alpine Purified Drinking Water, Star Ice-Cream, Myanmar Golf Club Restaurant, Myanmar Golf Club and Mya Yeik Nyo Royal Golf Driving Range.

The tournament was organized by Han Event Management.

MNA



Construction of Thityagauk-Sanmagyi-Koebin Road in progress in Magway Division. — CONSTRUCTION

Construction Minister inspects construction of roads in Magway Division

YANGON, 8 Dec — Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, to-

gether with Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Myint Thein, heard reports on progress in construction of Yangon-Pyay-Mandalay Highway, Taungdwingyi-Myothit-Natmauk Road, Zibyugon-Ywamon Road and Koebin-Sanmagyi-Thityagauk Road presented by the Magway District Senior Engineer at Anawrahta (Chauk) Hall in Mandalay on 7 December.

After hearing the reports, the minister gave

instructions on systematic management and use of quality materials.

The minister and party inspected expanding of Yenangyoung-Chauk section of Yangon-Pyay-Mandalay Road.

In the afternoon, the minister inspected preparations for construction of Koebin-Sanmagyi-Thityagauk Road. It will be 19 miles and three furlongs long.

MNA

Press conference on 10th Anniversary Thailand Exhibition' 2004 held

YANGON, 8 Dec — The press conference on the 10th Anniversary Thailand Exhibition' 2004 took place at the Kandawgyi Palace Hotel here this morning.

It was attended by Director (News) U Win Tin of the News and Periodicals Enterprise, the chief editor (External) of the Myanma News Agency, members of Myanmar Foreign Correspondents Club and guests.

Minister of Thai Embassy to Myanmar Mr Opas Chantarasap and Minister-Counsellor (Commercial) of the Office of the Commercial Affairs of Thai Embassy Mr Matyawongse Amatyakul delivered

speeches on the occasion, saying that the 10th Anniversary Thailand Exhibition' 2004 will be held at the Yangon Trade Centre from 15 to 18 December under the patronage of the Ministry of Trade of Thailand and the Office of the Commercial Affairs of Thai Embassy.

The purpose of the trade fair was to enhance friendly relations between the two nations and to enable Myanmar and Thai traders and entrepreneurs to directly make economic links.

Altogether around 140 companies would stage 175 booths. Next, the officials replied to the queries raised by the journalists. The trade fair will be available only for

traders and businessmen on 15 and 16 December and those wishing to attend the trade fair on these days may get tick-

ets at TTF Co Ltd on Bogalay Zay Street in Yangon. And it will be open to the public on 17 and 18.

MNA

The Minister Counsellor (Commercial) of Thai Embassy explains 10th Anniversary Thailand Exhibition 2004. — NLM



China, Italy ink MoU on intellectual property in Beijing

BEIJING, 8 Dec — China and Italy signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on intellectual property here Tuesday.

The MoU was signed between the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT) and the Italian Trade Commission.

This is the first time for the non-governmental Chinese trade promotion body to sign an intellectual property memo with other countries, said Liu Wenjie, CCPIT Vice-Chairman.

In an era of knowledge-based economy, Italy and China share the objective on the protection of intellectual property, Antonio Marzano, Minister of Production Activities of Italy, said at the signing ceremony. "It is in the common interests of the two countries."

Marzano is accompanying Italian President Carlo Ciampi on his China visit.

Ciampi's ongoing visit to China will surely give a mighty push to the China-Italy trade, CCPIT Chairman Wan Jifei said. "This memo is among

the fruits of Ciampi's China tour."

According to the statistics released by China Customs, the volume of China's trade with Italy in the first 10 months of this year reached 12.68 billion US dollars, up 31.6 per cent from a year earlier, with its exports and imports growing by 37.1 per cent and 24.7 per cent to 7.42 billion US dollars and 5.26 billion US dollars respectively.

"The signing of the document will promote the China-Italy cooperation on protecting intellectual property and cracking down on fake and pirated products," Liu said.

China and Italy are said to sign a detailed agreement soon. With this agreement, both sides will offer companies information on the related law, help with trade mark registration and hold seminars on intellectual property protection, laws and rules on fighting fake commodities. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Herbal medicine makes better prognosis for kidney transplant patients

NANJING, 8 Dec — A People's Liberation Army (PLA) hospital has used traditional herb alongside Western medicine to treat kidney transplant patients of acute reactions and infections after the operation.

Kidney transplants are taken as an effective cure for uremia and chronic renal failure, but quite a number of patients fail the surgery because of acute rejections to donor kidneys and many other complications.

The General Hospital of the Nanjing Military Area Command, based in east China's Jiangsu Province, has reduced patients' risks for complications with herbal medicine, particularly the rhubarb — a herb that is

often used as a laxative.

"We've used the combined therapy on 1,000 kidney transplant patients so far, the absolute majority of them have good prognosis," said Professor Li Leishi, head of the hospital's kidney disease institute and an academician of the Chinese Academy of Engineering. According to Li, the success rate of a hospital's kidney transplants is evaluated with the survival rate of the patients as well as that of the donor organs in a

given period of time. "The Nanjing hospital reported 60.9 per cent survival rate of its patients and 37 per cent of the donor kidneys in the 10 years between 1993 and 2003," he said.

Li said per centages are higher than the United States figures by three per cent and 0.6 per cent respectively. "Besides, the hospital has reported 100 per cent survival rates for all the 113 donor kidneys it transplanted this year," he added.

— *MNA/Xinhua*



A girl displays lotus flowers on her head at a Phnom Penh market on 8 Dec, 2004. — INTERNET

Vietnam to send more skilled workers abroad

HANOI, 8 Dec — Vietnam plans to increase the percentage of its skilled workers abroad to 75 per cent in 2010 from around 30 per cent in 2003, sources at the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs said on Monday.

Under a scheme worked out by the ministry, the country will send a larger number of workers and experts with better understanding and higher skills regarding professions, foreign languages, laws and Customs in the next few years. To this end, Vietnam will invest 55.7 million US dollars in developing major vocational training centres, and pay greater attention to selecting potential employees, which can be partly done by better managing labour export companies.

Vietnam exported 61,000 workers in the first 11 months of this year, down from 74,000 in the same period last year. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Anti-terrorism robot developed in China

SHANGHAI, 8 Dec — Chinese scientists at prestigious Shanghai Jiaotong University have succeeded in developing an anti-terrorism robot to help dismantle explosives after more than four years of strenuous effort. The robot, code named Super-D, is expected to serve at airports and in other public places.

The research, headed by Professor Yang Ruqing, was funded by the "863 Programme," China's first technology research and development funding programme initiated in March 1986.

The one-armed robot is controlled by an engineer via a remote controller, noted Yang. It is 120 centimetres tall, weighs 200 kilos and can move 40 metres per minute and can climb ladders or slopes above 40 degrees in gradient. — *MNA/Xinhua*

News from the Districts

Self-reliant libraries surge nationwide

MAGWAY, 30 Nov — The Ministry of Information is committed to the establishment of libraries on self-reliant basis in rural areas in the nation.

Information and Public Relations Department-IPRD under the ministry has also provided assistance for self-reliant libraries by joining hands with local people.

With the assistance of Gangaw Township IPRD together with efforts of the locals, a self-reliant library was inaugurated on 11 November in Pyar Village.

Similarly, the number of libraries opened from 11 to 20 November in Natmawk Township, Magway Division, reached 11. On 15 November, libraries were opened on self-reliant basis in YinNyeinTaung Village and PhyuBa Village in Paung Township, Mon State.

Now, local people of rural areas will be able to reap benefits of their own knowledge-banks (libraries).

Official statistic shows that the number of libraries has increased to 10,598 nationwide up to 7 December. There are 60,000 hamlets and villages across the country. Therefore, IPRD urged wellwishers to help the ministry provide books on general knowledge and cash assistance. — *KYEMON*



A self-reliant library being opened in TotSan Village in Kyaukse Township, Shan State (North) recently. — *KYEMON*

Talks on preventive dentistry held

PAUNG, 30 Nov — Talks on preventive dentistry was held on 22 November at the office of Paung Township Peace and Development Council.

Deputy Director of the Health Department Dr Kyaw Nyunt gave talks on dental health and dental hygiene, and shared ideas on how to take care of teeth.

Similarly, talks on preventive dentistry was also held in Zinkyaik the same day.

— *MYANMA ALIN*

Water supply tasks carried out in Dawei District

DAWEI, 30 Nov — Under the programme of supplying sufficient drinking water for rural areas where water is scarce, two tube-wells were sunk in NyaungZin Village in Thayetchaung Township, Dawei District, on 27 November.

On completion, two tube-wells will supply 24,000 gallons of water per day to locals.

Dawei District Peace and Development Council Chairman Lt-Col Khin Maung Nyo and officials concerned closely supervised the sinking of tube-wells.

Lt-Col Khin Maung Nyo and party also inspected the earth work done in KinShe Village in the township to supply irrigation water from ShweGu Creek to 200 acres of fields for summer paddy cultivation. — *KYEMON*

မင်းသားနှင့် မင်းမိသားစုတို့တက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တစ်နိုင်ငံလုံး

South Africa launches "Arrive Alive" campaign

JOHANNESBURG, 7 Dec — South Africa launched a nationwide 'Arrive Alive' campaign on Monday as the rush to holiday spots around the country began.

The organization, which campaigns for safer roads and the reduction of accidents, warned the country's three main highways — the N1, N3 and N4 highways — were expected to experience high volumes of traffic for the next two days.

With the N1 towards Cape Town, and the N6 and N9 towards the Eastern Cape expected to be busy on Sunday, it urged

parents to make sure their children are also properly buckled up.

"Arrive Alive has noted with concern the number of child fatalities in vehicle crashes. Many of these children had not been buckled up in child restraints. When you put on your seatbelt, please remember to do the same for your children," the organization said.

The organization gave

motorists various road safety tips and warned pedestrians that they are not allowed on freeways, and should wear light-coloured clothing and reflective items.

Motorists were urged to watch their speed, not to drink, buckle up and switch on their headlights at all times. "Be sensible and Arrive Alive," a statement from the organization read. —MNA/Reuters



Merry Christmas: A lightened merry-go-round, part of a Christmas market, is seen turning next to Berlin's Dome (C) and the TV tower (R). —INTERNET

The family around the world shrinking

SANYA (Hainan), 8 Dec — The family around the world has witnessed changes as family size turned smaller, gray population increases, more people are prone to migrant and more households should face the threat of spread HIV/AIDS, said deputies here at the World Family Summit on Monday.

The family is shrinking as the traditional big households are replaced by nuclear families, said Dr Deisi Kusztra, president of the World Family Organization.

Latest UN statistics show that the average family number in developed regions, East Asia, Southeast Asia, the Caribbean region and North Africa is 2.8, 3.7, 4.9, 4.1 and 5.7 persons, respectively.

Lower reproductive rates, a bigger migrating population, higher divorce rates and more old people are believed to be behind the family shrinkage.

Lower reproductive rates and longer life expectancy also resulted in a bigger portion of aging

population. The UN estimates put that by 2050, the global gray population, or those at 60 years old or above, will jump from the present 600 million to two billion, with the proportion in developed countries to reach 33 per cent and that of developing nations to stand at 20 per cent.

The increasing number of aged people has posed a special threat to China, said Jing Jun, professor with China's Qinghua University, as a lot of Chinese families depend on a single child to support the parents' old life in a country, where a sound social safety is yet to form.

MNA/Xinhua

May babies have higher than average risk of developing MS

LONDON, 8 Dec — People born in May in the northern hemisphere have a higher than average risk of developing multiple sclerosis, researchers said on Tuesday.

An analysis of data from studies of more than 42,000 people in Canada, Britain, Denmark and Sweden showed that May babies have a 13-per-cent increased chance of suffering from the illness later in life, but that having a November birthday decreased the average odds by 19 per cent.

"If you are born in May, your risk is higher than any other month and if you are born in November your risk is lower than any other month," Professor George Ebers, of Radcliffe Infirmary at the University of Oxford, said in an interview.

The effect was similar in all the countries but most prominent in Scotland which has the highest rate of multiple sclerosis (MS) in the world, according to Ebers.

Although the scientists cannot explain the correlation between birth month and MS, they suspect it could be linked to exposure to sunlight and the mother's Vitamin D levels, which could influence the child's development.

Shorter days during the winter months in the northern hemisphere limit the amount of sunlight women are exposed to during pregnancy. The body makes Vitamin D from sunlight. Foods such as oily fish and egg yolk are rich in the vitamin.

"It looks like something must be happening

very early, either in gestation or around the time of birth, that determines one's subsequent risk of getting MS," Ebers added.

MS occurs when immune system cells attack and destroy the myelin sheath that protects the nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord. The cause of the illness is unclear. Scientists believe it may be due to a combination of genetic, dietary and environmental factors.

The illness is rare in Africa and most common in people living in colder countries. Most people are diagnosed with the disorder

between the ages of 20-50.

More women than men suffer from MS, which can be difficult to diagnose because symptoms such as tingling, fatigue, loss of balance and slurred speech are intermittent.

Ebers and his colleagues compared birth months of 17,874 patients in Canada and 11,502 in Britain with their unaffected siblings and the general population.

They pooled their findings with data from studies in Denmark and Sweden. —MNA/Reuters

Colombian police seize one ton of cocaine

BOGOTA, 7 Dec — The Colombian police seized one ton of cocaine during a weekend operation in the country's northern harbour of Cartagena, local media reported Monday.

The drug, worth of 15 million US dollars, was found hidden inside 15 barrels supposedly containing motor-oil in a private dock, the reports cited police sources as saying. No one was detained during the operation.

According to the police, the drug will be shipped to a Colombian island in

the Caribbean Sea before arriving its final destination of the United States.

Colombia is the world's top cocaine producer, with an annual output of 580 tons. It supplies about 80 per cent of the world's cocaine market, most of which ends up in the United States and Europe. —MNA/Xinhua

"Air car 500" debuts in E China city

Nanjing, 8 Dec — A five-seat aircraft AC500 or Air Car 500 made its first flight in Nanjing, capital of east China's Jiangsu Province, Tuesday.

Two AC500 aircraft made a 22-minute aerobatics flight.

"The functions are pretty good," said a veteran pilot surnamed Wang who piloted a AC500, "it's just as convenient and comfortable as driving a car".

With independent intellectual rights, the light aircraft was developed by the Nanjing Light Aircraft Company Limited and the Nanjing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics (NUAA).

It was produced by the Hongdu Aviation Industry Group based in Nanchang, capital of east China's Jiangxi Province.

The General Administration of Civil Aviation of China accepted the develop-

er's application for certification of the new aircraft models and set up a committee to monitor and examine the production and quality of the aircraft in 1998.

The craft currently has two prototypes including a business model and a trainer model with dual control system.

The craft are 10.2 metres in wing span, 8.4 metres long and 5.2 metres high. It can fly 1,000 kilometers non-stop with a maximum speed of 289 kilometres per hour and a maximum flight elevation of 5.5 kilometres.

An efficient and economic vehicle, light aircraft is in use worldwide and the United States alone has about 200,000 light aircraft. —MNA/Xinhua

US to purchase flu vaccine from Canada, Germany

OTTAWA, 7 Dec — The US Government is planning to purchase 5 million doses of flu vaccine from Canadian and German plants to deal with their shortages, the Canadian Broadcast Corporation (CBC) reported Monday.

Canadian flu shot manufacturer ID Biomedical will provide over a million doses while British drug manufacturer GlaxoSmithKline is expected to provide four million doses from its German plant.

The US Food and Drug Administration approved the vaccines after inspect-

ing the facilities where they were made.

US health officials had planned to have more than 100 million doses of the vaccine this season. But Chiron Corp, the drug company that makes about half of all the flu vaccine for the United States, said it would not be producing any more for this current flu season. —MNA/Xinhua

SPORTS

Panathinaikos beat PSV 4-1

ATHENS, 8 Dec—Two goals from German midfielder Markus Munch led Panathinaikos to a 4-1 win over PSV Eindhoven but it was not enough to see the Greek side through to the knockout stage of the Champions League.

Arsenal's win over Rosenborg meant the English champions finished top of Group E with PSV, who had already qualified, taking second place. Panathinaikos finished third to go into the last 32 of the UEFA Cup.

Munch got his first goal from the penalty spot just before halftime after Dimitris Papadopoulos had opened the scoring for Panathinaikos only for Da Marcus Beasley to level for PSV.

Munch grabbed his second in the 58th minute after beating two defenders and firing in off the post. Mark Van Bommel missed a penalty for PSV 10 minutes later and Lucian Sanmartean wrapped up the win for Panathinaikos nine minutes from time.—MNA/Xinhua

Werder clinch place in last 16 of Champions League

VALENCIA (Spain), 8 Dec—Werder Bremen clinched their place in the last 16 of the Champions League when two late strikes by substitute Nelson Valdez secured them a 2-0 win at Valencia in Group G on Tuesday.

The Paraguayan striker grabbed his first seven minutes from time to end Valencia's hopes of staying in the competition and he compounded their misery with a well-taken strike from the edge of the area in injury time.

Valencia's evening was further spoiled when midfielder Miguel Angel Angulo was sent off for taking out his frustration on Valdez with an ugly challenge in the final minute of normal time.

The victory ensured the German champions progressed alongside group winners Inter Milan to the next round for

the first time in their history. Valencia will have to be satisfied with the consolation of defending their UEFA Cup crown.

Valencia, needing to win 1-0 or by a margin of two goals to make the next round, took the initiative from the start but were unable to break down the well-organized Werder defence marshalled by the outstanding Frank Baumann.

But the Werder centre-back will miss his side's next match after he being booked for a foul on Valencia striker Mista early in the match.

Claudio Ranieri's side showed plenty of enthusiasm in attack but tended to rush things and left some yawning gaps at the back which Werder threatened to exploit on the break.

French midfielder Johan Micoud had a great chance to give his side the lead just before the half hour after he was put through by a fine ball from Tim Borowski, but his stinging shot was turned over the bar by Santiago Canizares.

The keeper came to Valencia's rescue once more when he saved a glancing header from Baumann from the corner, but the home side responded well and regained the initiative before the break.

They would have taken the lead in the 35th minute had it not been for some expert defending from Werder fullback Paul Stalteri, who managed to close down Mista with the goal at his mercy after a neat square pass from Pablo Aimar. There was even more urgency in Valencia's attacks after the break.—MNA/Reuters

Celtic hold Milan goalless draw

GLASGOW, 8 Dec—Celtic bowed out of Europe on a night that promised much but delivered so little as they failed to pierce the AC Milan defence in their goalless Champions League Group F match at Parkhead.

Shakhtar Donetsk's 2-0 win over an under-strength Barcelona gave the Ukrainians a UEFA Cup spot and ended the Glasgow side's European challenge as they were edged out of third place.

Milan had already qualified but Barca's defeat left the Italians as group winners with 13 points followed by the Spaniards on 10, Donetsk with six and Celtic on four.

O'Neill's team survived an early fright as Milan's Brazilian Serginho cracked an angled shot off the bar in the 18th minute before grazing the right post seconds later.

But the home side staged a late first-half rally and were denied by two superb saves from goalkeeper Dida as he

somehow turned John Hartson's close-range shot over the top from a Jackie McNamara cross two minutes before the break.

Then he beat out Chris Sutton's fierce drive from six metres after an exchange with Bobo Balde.

Sutton again came close following an uncharacteristic mistake by Milan skipper Paolo Maldini as he misjudged a long ball into the box, but the Celtic striker scuffed his hurried shot beyond the far post five minutes after halftime.

Celtic pressed desperately for the elusive opener and Alan Thompson crashed in a drive from the edge of the box that Dida smothered on the line.—MNA/Reuters

Arsenal cruise into knockout stage of Champions League

LONDON, 8 Dec—Arsenal cruised into the knockout stage of the Champions League with an effortless 5-1 win over shambolic Norwegian champions Rosenborg Trondheim to win Group E at Highbury on Tuesday.

First-half goals from Jose Antonio Reyes, Thierry Henry, Francesc Fabregas and Robert Pires with a penalty put the English champions into the last 16 as group winners.

Robin van Persie added the fifth six minutes from time just eight minutes after coming on for Ashley Cole.

Arsenal, without suspended skipper Patrick Vieira and defender Lauren who

were sent off against PSV Eindhoven in the London club's last Champions League match, went into the game with their destiny in their own hands.

Arsenal's nerves were calmed as early as the third minute when Reyes gave them the perfect start as the Rosenborg defence parted to allow him through to score, giving goalkeeper Espen Johnsen no chance. Henry made it 2-0 in the 24th minute lobbing the keeper after being put clear by Mathieu Flamini before 17-year-old Fabregas became the second youngest scorer in Champions League history with a brilliantly executed individual goal after 29 minutes.

The Spaniard controlled the ball on his chest and with his left-foot sent defender Erik Hoftun the wrong way before scoring.

Rosenborg, who were already consigned to last place, pulled one back through Hoftun after 38 minutes when Arsenal keeper Manuel Almunia, preferred to the out-of-favour Jens Lehmann, failed to deal with a cross.

But when Henry was tripped by the goalkeeper and Pires converted the spot kick Arsenal could relax again.

Although Rosenborg played slightly better after the break they were only saved from a bigger mauling because of some wasteful Arsenal attacking.—MNA/Reuters



Arsenal's Thierry Henry celebrates scoring against Rosenborg during their Champions League football match at Highbury in London.—INTERNET

Indonesia stuns Laos 6-0 in Tiger Cup soccer

HO CHI MINH CITY, 8 Dec—Indonesia scored a 6-0 victory over Laos to start its Tiger Cup campaign on the opening day of Southeast Asia's premier international soccer tournament on Tuesday.

The Group A match at Thong Nhat Stadium proved to be a lop-sided one as four Indonesian players found the net while Laos lived to its status as regional minnows.

Boas Salossa opened the account midway through the first half before striker Ilham Jaya Kusuma scored two to give Indonesia a 3-0 lead at halftime.

Salossa notched his second soon after

the break, and Elie Aiboy and Kurniawan Dwi Yulianto also found the back of the net. For Laos, its best chance came from a freekick through defender Chalana Luang-amath early in the first half, forcing Indonesian goalkeeper Hendro Kartiko to make a fine save.

Vietnam, who is co-hosting the group stages of the tournament with Malaysia, takes on Singapore later.—MNA/Xinhua

CSKA Moscow win 3-1 at PSG

PARIS, 8 Dec—Captain Sergei Semak grabbed a hat-trick as CSKA Moscow won 3-1 at Paris St Germain on Tuesday but a late goal in Porto denied the Russian team a place in the knockout stages of the Champions League.

Despite being reduced to 10 men early in the second half, CSKA looked set to qualify in second place in Group H behind Chelsea before European champions Porto snatched a last-gasp 2-1 win over the English club to pip them to the runners-up spot.

The visitors, who now qualify for the last 32 of the UEFA Cup by virtue of finishing third in the group, dominated the match from the start and Semak opened the scoring with a close-range effort just before the half-hour.

PSG, who still had a chance to qualify themselves, equalized with their first attempt on

goal when striker Fabrice Pancrate put the ball in the net after 37 minutes.

Nine minutes after halftime, CSKA defender Devidas Semberas was

sent off for a second bookable offence when he stopped the ball with his hand just outside the penalty box.

MNA/Reuters



Moscow's captain Sergey Semak (L) scores in front PSG goalkeeper Lionel Letizi at the Parc des Princes stadium in Paris, during their Champions League group H football match.—INTERNET



Valencia's Portuguese Marco Caneira (L) duels in the air with Werder Bremen's Miroslav Klose (R) during their football Champions League match at Mestalla stadium of Valencia.—INTERNET

Incorrect preparation of cassava, bamboo shoots dangerous

CANBERRA, 8 Dec — Incorrect preparation of raw cassava and fresh bamboo shoots can lead to exposure to naturally occurring hydrogen cyanide, Australia's food watchdog warned on Tuesday.

According to a new advice for the preparation of raw cassava and fresh bamboo shoots prior to consumption issued by Food Standards Australia New Zealand, there is the potential for cassava and bamboo shoots to cause harm if the food is not prepared properly.

"Our concern is that if someone purchases either raw cassava or bamboo shoots and does not know the correct preparation instructions there is a health risk," Acting General Manager for Food Standards (Australia) Paul Brent said in a statement.

"Cassava is safe to eat providing that the raw cassava is properly prepared by first peeling and slicing the cassava and then cooking it by baking, boiling or roasting," said the statement.

"The correct preparation of fresh bamboo shoots involves cutting the shoots in half lengthways, removing any outer leaves and fibrous tissue at the base, then thinly slicing the shoots into strips and boiling them for eight to 10 minutes in lightly salted water," it said.

Processed cassava, such as tapioca, cassava chips or cassava flour present little or no health risk as the processing removes the toxins.

Cassava is a tropical root crop similar to taro and yam. Bamboo shoots are a traditional component of Asian cuisine.

Food Standards Australia New Zealand is a bi-national independent statutory authority that develops food standards for composition, labelling and contaminants, including microbiological limits, that apply to all foods produced or imported for sale in Australia and New Zealand.

MNA/Xinhua

Cuba to launch military drill to warn US

HAVANA, Dec 8 — Cuban Vice-President Raul Castro warned the United States on Tuesday not to repeat its mistakes in Vietnam and Iraq by invading Cuba, saying that next week's nationwide military manoeuvre will tell the US "not to underestimate our people."

The large-scale military drill, which is dubbed Bastion 2004 and will be held across Cuba from December 13 to 19, will be a show of preparedness of the Cuban people, and "the Americans should watch closely, so that they do not commit the mistakes they made in Vietnam and are now making in Iraq, where they are bogged down," Castro told reporters.

Castro, Minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces and the younger brother of Cuban leader Fidel Castro, reminded his people of the television images of troops and diplomats escaping from Vietnam by helicopters.

In describing the present US military occupation of Iraq, the general said that in spite of the ethnic and religious divisions prevailing in that Arab country, the might of resistance against Washington has grown so strong that the United States has bolstered its military strength to up to 150,000 soldiers.

Raul Castro, the No.

2 man in Cuba's political hierarchy, made these remarks at the end of a ceremony to honour Major General Antonio Maceo on the 108th anniversary of his death.

Maceo, who fought the Spanish colonialism in the 19th century, is considered in the island as a fighter for freedom.

Bastion 2004 is the latest annual mass drill involving troop exercises with civilian involvement based on a guerilla strategy designed to resist an invasion force. This year's operation is more extensive than last year's.

Tensions between the US and Cuba have increased under the Bush Administration, which stepped up efforts to squeeze Cuba financially and undermine its one-party state by restricting visits to the island and curbing cash remittances.

MNA/Xinhua

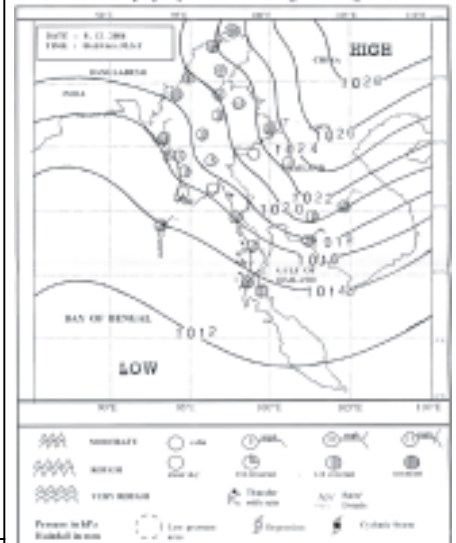
3.5 million people take addictive drugs in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 8 Dec — Pakistani Anti-Narcotics Forces (ANF) Tuesday said that there are some 3.5 million drug addicts in Pakistan out of which 0.5 million are heroin addicts, according to the private News Network International.

At a briefing in Rawalpindi, twin city of Islamabad, ANF Director General Niaz Ahmed Siddiki told the officials of the UN Office on Drugs and Crimes that the Pakistani Government has approved a Master Plan for control of drugs abuse with a total outlay of 2.832 billion rupees (about 50 million US dollars).

The government has approved two model addiction treatment and rehabilitation centres, one in Islamabad and the other in Quetta, capital of Baluchistan Province, for the treatment and rehabilitation and reintegration of drugs addicts back into the society, said Siddiki. —MNA/Xinhua

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Wednesday, 8 December, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, light rain has been isolated in Mandalay Division and weather has been fair in the remaining areas. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded was Mogoke (0.12) inch. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Kachin and Chin States, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions, (4°C) below normal in Eastern Shan State, (5°C) below normal in Kayah State and Yangon Division and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Nansam (6°C), Kengtung, Mindat, Hakha (7°C) each, Putao and Pyin Oo Lwin (8°C) each.

Maximum temperature on 7-12-2004 was 92°F. Minimum temperature on 8-12-2004 was 56°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 8-12-2004 was 78%. Total sunshine hours on 7-12-2004 was (8.1) hours approx. Rainfall on 8-12-2004 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 15 mph from Northeast at (10:05) hours MST on 8-12-2004.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 9-12-2004: Weather will be partly cloudy in Kachin, Chin and Rakhine States, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining states and divisions.

State of the sea: Strong easterly wind with (35) mph and temporary rough seas are likely at times in the Gulf of Mottama and off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coast. Seas will be slight to moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Slight decrease of night temperatures in the lower Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 9-12-2004: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 9-12-2004: Fair weather.



Thursday, December 9

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

7:45 am

4. ကမ္ဘာ့သုတေသနအဖွဲ့ချုပ်မှ ထုတ်ပြန်သော သတင်းစာ

4:00 pm

1. Martial song

4:15 pm

2. Songs to uphold National Spirit

4:30 pm

3. Musical Programme

4:45 pm

4. အဝေးသင်တန်းသို့ လုပ်ငန်းစဉ်
ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ
-ပထမနှစ် (သတ္တဗျာချာအထူးပြု)
(သတ္တဗျာချာ)

5:00 pm

5. Cute little dancers

5:15 pm

6. မြန်မာစာ မြန်မာစာ

5:30 pm

7. Musical programme

5:45 pm

8. နိုင်ငံအဝန်း သစ်တောစိုက်ပျိုးခြင်း
စီမံကိန်းစာအုပ်

6:00 pm

9. တောင်သူပြည်သူ့ မြတ်တုစာ
ဓမ္မတု (အပိုင်း-၂)

6:15 pm

10. The Great Global

Pagoda

6:30 pm

11. Evening news

7:00 pm

12. Weather report

7:05 pm

13. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတမ်းတွဲ
"လူ့စွန့်လွှဲကောင်း"
(အပိုင်း-၃၅)

7:35 pm

14. Union of Myanmar (Part-2)

15. Island of Dhamma

8:00 pm

16. News

17. International news

18. Weather report

19. "ရဟန်းစာရသော ဆွမ်းတစ်ခွက်"
(အင်္ဂလိပ်စာတန်းထိုး)

(စာတန်း: အကျော်၊ မြတ်သခင်၊
ဇော်ဇော်)

(ဒါရိုက်တာ-မောင်နှင်းနိုး)

20. The next day's programme

Radio Myanmar

Thursday, December 9

Tune in today:

8:30 am Brief news

8:35 am Music: addicted to bass

8:40 am Perspectives

8:45 am Music: At your side

8:50 am National news/Slogan

9:00 am Music: Just a little bit of love

9:05 am International news

9:10 am Music: Juanita

9:15 am News/Slogan

9:20 am Lunch time music

-In our life time

-Love you more

-Endless love

9:30 pm Aspects of Myanmar

-Popa Mountain Resort

9:10 pm Article

9:20 pm Pourri

-Inner Mongolia singer to give performance in HK

-Fox to provide TV series for wireless phones

9:30 pm Favourite songs chosen by music lovers

-May the good lord bless and keep you

-Souvenir's Day

9:45 pm News/Slogan

10:00 pm PEL

Venerable Sayadaus from abroad arrive to attend World Buddhist Summit

YANGON, 8 Dec — Venerable Sayadaus and disciples from foreign countries arrived here today to attend the World Buddhist Summit.

Most Ven Davuldena Ganissa Thero, Siyam Nikaya Deputy Nikaya Most Ven Nigithasiri Thero, Secretary of Amarapura Nikaya Most Ven Kotugoda Dhammawasa Thero, Secretary of Yamanya Nikaya Most Ven Seethaeliye Chandrananda Thero and Ven Kandegoda Womalahammana Thero, Ven Dr Ingvrwaththe Piyananda Nayaka Thero and Ven Buthpitiye Samitha Thero and five monks from Sri Lanka, accompanied by Director of Ministry of Religious Affairs Mr D W

Abeywickrama, arrived here this morning.

They were welcomed at Yangon International Airport by Chancellor Sayadaw of Sitagu International Buddhist Academy Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Dhaja Maha Dhamma Kathika Dr Nanissara, Professor of Sitagu International Buddhist Academy Dr Osadhasara, Myanmar Ambassador to Sri Lanka U Than Tun and Sri Lankan Ambassador to Myanmar Mr D M M Ranaraja.

Buddhist delegations from the United States of America, Indonesia, Singapore and Bangladesh, and Mongolian Buddhist delegation



Japanese Sayadaus being welcomed at Yangon International Airport.— MNA

led by Ven Vondon Amgalan also arrived here in the afternoon.

Buddhist delegations from Russia, Germany, Singapore, Vietnam, Cambodia and Thailand arrived in the evening.

Venerable monks of Jo Fukuin Temple (Wa Kayama Prefecture) and

Banshoji Temple Wagoyu and Tokyo Zenkoji Temple and wellwishers from

Japan have already arrived here.

MNA



Sri Lankan Sayadaus being welcomed at Yangon International Airport.— MNA

Arrival of Singaporean Sayadaus seen at the airport.— MNA

Sri Lankan Prime Minister to visit Myanmar

YANGON, 9 Dec — At the invitation of the Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar Lt-Gen Soe Win, Mr Mahinda Rajapaksa, Prime Minister of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and Madam Shiranthi Rajapaksa will pay an official visit to the Union of Myanmar in the near future. — MNA



Commander inspects development tasks of Paletwa

YANGON, 8 Dec — Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Chairman Commander of Western Command Brig-Gen Min Aung Hlaing on 5 December inspected development of Paletwa.

Next, he met with departmental officials and local people and gave instruction on development tasks and extended cultivation in the region. He also briefed on successful implementation of seven-

point Road Map.

After hearing the reports, he attended to the needs for beautifying tasks of the town.

At the meeting, the

commander also provided cash for the fund of the Paletwa Township People's Hospital and for construction of road.

MNA



Myanmar's San Day Thein (2nd L) is surrounded by his teammates after scoring the only goal in a match against Philippines during Tiger Cup ASEAN Football Tournament 2004 in Kuala Lumpur on December 8, 2004. Myanmar beat Philippines 1-0. —INTERNET

INSIDE

Pagodas, stupas and monasteries were built everywhere in the country.

The texts of Tri Pitaka, the world's biggest book, were inscribed on stone slabs in Mandalay in Yadanabon period.

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U Kyaw Sein (Mandalay)