

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Volume XII, Number 241

2nd Waxing of Nadaw 1366 ME

Monday, 13 December 2004



MEC Chairman Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein addresses concluding ceremony of Special Refresher Course No 6 for Faculty Members at CICS (Phaunggyi).—MNA

Efforts for success of national education promotion projects are national endeavours to enhance national prestige in building a new nation

YANGON, 12 Dec—The conclusion of special refresher course No 6 for faculty members was held at Nawarat Hall of Central Institute of Civil Service (Phaunggyi) in Hlegu Township this morning, with an address by Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein.

Also present were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, the ministers, the chief justice, the attorney-general, the auditor-general, the chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board, the Yangon mayor, the

deputy ministers, members of CSSTB, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of departments, professors, principals, the rector of CICS (Phaunggyi), heads of departments, course instructors and trainee teachers.

In his address, the Secretary-1 said the government is endeavouring to enable the Union of Myanmar to catch up with international communities. At the same time, the government is taking the most fundamental specific steps for emergence of a democratic nation the people desire.

He said a democratic nation cannot be created immediately. It is natural that only when there are

political, economic and social foundations needed will such a nation emerge.

Therefore, he urged the faculty members to make concerted efforts for successful implementation of national education projects in accord with the better foundations and the objectives after realizing that national development and democratic nation-building tasks are the same.

He also urged them to participate in every step of the seven-point Road Map for perpetuation of the State in the future and building of a discipline-flourishing democratic nation.

(See page 8)

There will be three gateways to Rakhine State soon Thanthamagyi Bridge in Rakhine State opens

YANGON, 12 Dec—A ceremony to open Thanthamagyi Bridge on Yangon-Kyaukphyu Road in Yanbye Township, Rakhine State, built by Public Works, was held at the pandal of the bridge, this morning, with an address by member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence.

Also present on the occasion were Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Commander of Western Command Brig-Gen Min Aung Hlaing, Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun,

Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Myint Thein, Capt Aung Thaw of Kyaukphyu Station, local authorities, heads of department, social organizations, Rakhine traditional Sidaw and dance

troupes and others numbering over 2,000.

In his address, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence said that the government has been establishing economic, trans-

port, education, health and social infrastructures to bring about harmonious and equitable development across the Union which is made up of 14 states and divisions and to

(See page 10)

INSIDE

The Tatmadaw Government has a long tradition of protecting the nation and the welfare of the people and always holds this responsibility in high esteem.

Page (7)

MIN KYAW MIN



Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than formally unveils stone plaque of Thanthamagyi Bridge in Yanbye Township.—MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 13 December, 2004

Let's dispense Buddha's loving-kindness and forgiveness to the world

The World Buddhist Summit was grandly and successfully held in the historic Maha Pasana Cave from 9 to 11 December in Yangon, the Union of Myanmar, a country where Theravada Buddhism flourishes. The World Buddhist Summit attracted over 2,000 participants including prominent Buddhist leaders, heads and prime ministers of foreign governments, delegate monks from 38 countries, some 600 observers, and over 600 Myanmar monks and devotees.

The government and people of Myanmar felt delighted at and gained significant merits from their concerted efforts exerted on the successful completion of the Summit. The secret of the success was that all the delegates to the Summit in accord with the teachings of the Lord Buddha bear in their mind the propensity of patience, compassion and optimism.

Expressing his vote of thanks at the closing of the World Buddhist Summit at Maha Pasana Cave on Thiri Mingala Kaba Aye Hill in Mayangon Township, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar Lt-Gen Soe Win said "the sublime message of the Lord Buddha can heal the burning hearts of mankind and put an end to extremism, intimidation and armed conflicts".

The World Buddhist Summit is in fact an occasion filled with the reflection of the rays of loving-kindness and compassion relevant to the teachings of the Lord Buddha. In other words, it is also a summit that will help create a peaceful and tranquil world by pacifying the hearts and minds of the peoples with the teachings of the Lord Buddha. Delegates from the respective participant countries took part actively and earnestly in the Summit by delivering speeches, reading out papers and holding discussions in connection with the genuine teachings of the Lord Buddha.

The World Buddhist Summit will be able to succeed in spreading the teachings of the Lord Buddha worldwide so that a multitude of problems and dangers engulfing today's world can be erased. All in all, the World Buddhist Summit proved that Buddhism, which has survived for over 2500 years, still remains pristine.

Central Command wins Water-Polo Championship

YANGON, 12 Dec — The final match of National Water-Polo Championship for 2004 took place at National Swimming Pool this afternoon. At the final match, Central Command Team swept to a 7-6 win over Yangon Command (A) Team. Next, the prize presentation ceremony

followed and Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint presented championship shield to the Central Command Team.

Officials concerned also presented prizes to players of second and third prize winning teams individually. —NLM



Vice-President of Myanmar Swimming Federation U Tint Hsan (ACE) presents prize to a winner in National Water-Polo Championship. — NLM

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

Arrangements made for Alodawpyi Pagoda festival

YANGON, 12 Dec — The Alodawpyi Pagoda festival in Bagan-NyaungU, to be sponsored by local and foreign missionary Alodawpyi Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Maha Ganthavacaka Pandita Maha Saddhammajotikadhaja Bhaddanta Ariyavamsa, will be held on a grand scale on 26

December 2004 (Fullmoon of Nadaw, 1366 ME).

Transport has been arranged for those wishing to take part in the festival. Bus tickets can be bought in advance at U San Tha Aung-Daw Ma Ni of No 102, Pyay Road, Hsemilegon (Tel 666935). Buses will leave here at 6.00 pm on 23 December 2004.

H

Poem:

Let there be peace worldwide

- * Sponsored by Myanmar, World Summit of Buddhist
With tumultuous participation
Of world nations unitedly
Holding discussions for all nations
To enjoy equitable peace
Free from danger, with true goodwill
Strove hard and convened
The great event, outstandingly.
- * Summit wins accolade
For enhancing Buddha's
Preaching of Theravada
Dhamma doctrine with momentum
May spread worldwide
- * May Buddha's
Theravada doctrine,
Spread worldwide, envelop it
And may there be peace.

Shoon Mya Aung (Trs)

Duty and functions of dry day inspection teams supervised



Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe supervises functions of dry day inspection teams. — MNA

YANGON, 12 Dec — Dry Day Inspection Teams performed their duties by checking Tatmadaw and departmental automobiles at the main points of Yangon, the capital of Myanmar, from 7 am to 5 pm today.

Functions and duties of the teams were supervised by Vice-Chair-

man of Dry Day Supervision Committee Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe together with committee members Deputy Minister for Construction U Tint Swe, Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu, Vice-Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Hla Shwe, Director-General of Myanmar Police

Force Brig-Gen Khin Yi, Deputy Quartermaster-General Col Myint Ohn, Commandant of No 2 Provost Unit (Navy) Lt-Comdr Tin Htut Aye, Director-General U Thaik Tun, directors U Baw Htin and U Zaw Win Shwe, Secretary Deputy Director-General U Sein Hla of the Government Office and Joint-Secretary

Commander of Yangon Division Wireless and Traffic Police Force Police Lt-Col Aung Naing.

The inspection teams checked the dry day pass of departmental and Tatmadaw vehicles, driver's licence, wheel tax bill, wearing of respective uniforms. They also checked traffic rule violations. — MNA

Mayor inspects Ngamoeyek Water Supply Project

YANGON, 12 Dec — Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin inspected Water Supply Project (Ngamoeyek) this morning and gave necessary instructions.

On arrival at Yangon City Water Supply Project (Ngamoeyek) in Hlegu Township, the mayor was welcomed by Member of YCDC Col Tin Soe, Head of Assessment Department Dr Tun Than

Tun, Head of Engineering Department (Water and Sanitation) U Thau Yin, Deputy Head U Sein Win, Head of Inspection Department U Zaw Win, Project Manager U Kan Myint and officials.

Next, the officials reported on the earth works for constructing sub Power station in the project site, construction of gravel road and earth works with the use of heavy machinery.

After hearing reports, the mayor gave instructions on timely comple-

tion meeting set the standards.

Next, he proceeded to Syphon construction site between Yekati Village and Chaungwa village in Hlegu Township and Engineer In-charge U Hla Tun and officials clarified land preparation undertaken with the use

of heavy machinery for the construction of diversion canal.

At the briefing hall, Col Tin Soe reported to the mayor on the project being implemented by YCDC. After hearing the report, the mayor gave necessary instructions. — MNA

All this needs to be known

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

Indonesia eyes higher growth

JAKARTA, 11 Dec — The Indonesian Government has proposed a new, faster growth target to the House of Representatives based on revival of investment and export.

"Our new projection for growth is 5.5 per cent, inflation is targeted at about 7.0 per cent. The oil price is assumed at 35 US dollars a barrel," Minister of Finance Yusuf Anwar was quoted Friday by *The Jakarta Post* newspaper as saying.

He made the remarks in Thursday's hearing with legislators. Under the original 2005 state budget, drafted by the previous government and House members, the economic growth was forecast to grow by 5.4 per cent while inflation was set at 5.5 per cent and oil was set at 24 US dollars a barrel.

Yusuf — accompanied by State Minister for National Development Planning Sri Mulyani Indrawati as well as the Governor of Bank Indonesia Burhanuddin Abdullah — delivered the government's new projections, having deemed the original figures no longer suitable to reflect the latest economic development trends.

On economic growth, Yusuf was optimistic that next year would be a revival time for investment, as the new

economic team works to improve business climate here.

"This year, the economy is set to expand by 4.8 per cent. And with investment improving, as well as exports, I think the new growth target for 2005 is within reach," he told reporters after the hearing.

An assessment by Bank Indonesia, presented the day earlier at the House, also sees a rise in investment next year, to be supported in part by the government's plans to lure foreign investment for massive infrastructure projects.

The economy over the past three or four years has been driven mostly by consumption, which makes up about 70 per cent of the GDP.

The government's optimism is supported by encouraging recent data.

Growth has expanded by 5.03 per cent in the third quarter of the year, faster than the 4.54 per cent in the second quarter, the Central Statistics Agency (BPS) reported.

MNA/Xinhua

Smoking to be banned in public places in Bangkok

BANGKOK, 11 Dec — Public parks and sports stadiums in the Thai capital will be banned from smoking under a new law of the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration, local newspaper reported on Friday.

Bangkok Governor Apirak Kosayodhin on Thursday instructed city officials to designate all parks and stadiums in the capital a no-smoking zone. If smokers light up in these places, they will be fined 2,000 baht, according to *The Nation* newspaper.

"Smokers visiting public parks are not allowed to enjoy their habit out of concern for the health of non-smokers," Apirak was quoted as saying.

There would be a grace period before the law was strictly enforced, said the governor, adding

the administration planned to enact the ban on smoking in all public areas.

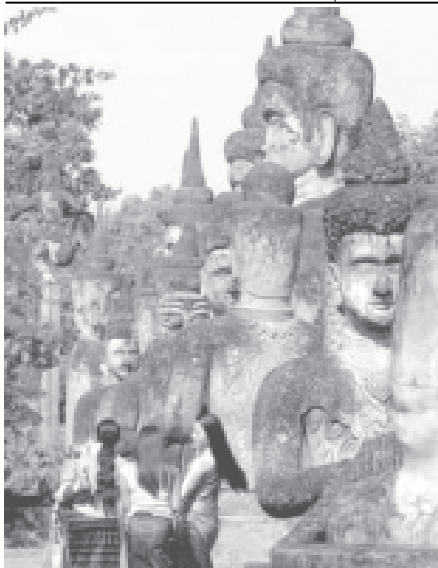
"Thailand, especially its capital, is about to take a big step — taking the lead to ban smoking in public parks, where many countries still allow this," said Prakit Vathesahokit, a leading campaigner against smoking.

Anti-smoking sentiment has swept through the country following the King's speech last Saturday warning the danger of smoking in a bid to save young people's lives.

Statistics from the Thai Health Promotion Foundation shows that the number of Thai smokers stood at some 11 million over the past 23 years. The almost constant number was attributed to the growing number of young smokers who fall prey to the habit.

Under Thailand's existing laws, smoking is banned in government buildings, air-conditioned offices, hospitals, schools, on public transport, in air-conditioned restaurants and shopping malls.

MNA/Xinhua



Lao women walk past statues at the Xiengkuan Buddha Park, about 25 km (16 miles) east of the Lao capital of Vientiane, recently. — INTERNET

Research, development attract more money from Singapore companies

SINGAPORE, 11 Dec — More Singapore companies are getting involved in research and development activities, which received some 3.5 billion Singapore dollars (about 2.1 billion US dollars) in 2003, at 2 per cent amount of the country's GDP.

According to local media reports on Friday, the Agency for Science, Technology and Research conducted a survey covering the Year 2003.

The reports said that most research and development jobs were in the biomedical sciences, electronics and precision engineering sectors, and the private sector employed more than 12,000 researchers in 2003, up 14 per cent over 2002.

The result of the survey showed that research and development job in the private sector is growing steadily and will remain a key engine for economic growth and job creation. The survey also found that PhD trained researchers are of greater demand in the city state, which saw a 17-per-cent increase in 2003 over the previous year to reach 642. — MNA/Xinhua

Poll finds Bush's visit failed to impress Canadians

OTTAWA, 11 Dec — A nationwide poll in Canada shows that US President George Bush did not gain any popularity points with Canadians after his recent visit.

The survey conducted by Ipsos-Reid company reveals that almost eight in 10 Canadians, or 78 per cent say Bush's visit had no impact on their opinion of him. A further 7 per cent say their opinion of Bush has actually gotten "worse" after his visit.

Bush paid a whirlwind two-day visit on November 30 and December 1. Canadian Prime Minister Paul Martin raised with Bush US-Canada trade issues, such as US tariffs on softwood lumber and a

US ban on Canadian beef following a mad-cow scare. Bush agreed to take steps to end those trade spats. Martin also persuaded the President to re-announce a recent move that could open the border to Canadian beef within months. However, over half of Canadians surveyed do not believe that Bush's visit will have much of an impact on the trade issues. A further 6 per cent even feel the visit might actually "make things worse".

MNA/Xinhua

US soldier killed, eight wounded in Iraq fighting

FALLUJAH, 12 Dec — A US soldier was killed on Saturday during an operation in Iraq's western Al Anbar Province, which hosts the rebel hot spots of Fallujah and Ramadi.

Fighting erupted in Fallujah earlier on Saturday after days of relative calm following last month's blistering assault on the former rebel stronghold.

US Marines clashed with guerillas in both the north and south of the city, which was largely emptied of people before the 8 November offensive.

Eight coalition soldiers were also wounded on Saturday when guerillas attacked their convoy with mortar rounds, rocket-propelled grenades and small arms fire in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul.

The patrol was first hit by a car bomb and then came under concentrated fire.

The soldiers called in air support,

which dropped a 500 pound bomb on the attackers, the US Army said in a statement.

The statement said the number of casualties among the attackers was unknown, adding that there were no reports of civilian casualties.

It said the soldiers were on their way to secure a cache of illegal weapons and munitions in western Mosul, adding that the wounds of the eight soldiers were not life-threatening.

Eyewitnesses told *AFP* that the coalition forces opened fire in all directions after the bomb blast, shooting at minibuses on the road, causing some to burst into flames. — Internet



A US Marine attached to the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit shown in a US military photo after completing a cordon-and-search mission near Yusufiyeh, south of Baghdad on 10 Dec, 2004. — INTERNET

China's foreign trade surpasses \$1 trillion

BEIJING, 10 Dec — China's total foreign trade volume in the first 11 months of this year passed one trillion US dollars, the General Administration of Customs said here Thursday.

It is the first time China's foreign trade has reached such a high level and the General Administration of Customs called it a "milestone".

From January to November, China's total value of imports and exports reached 1.038 trillion US dollars, up 36.5 per cent from the same period last year.

Imports and exports both surpassed 500 billion US dollars, with a trade surplus of 20.84 billion US dollars.

"China has been moving upward in the world charter of foreign trade volume, possible to the third position this year," said Chong Quan,

spokesman for the Ministry of Commerce.

"China is a big player in the world in terms of foreign trade."

The per capita foreign trade volume for China is less than 850 US dollars, much lower than the world average of about 2,400 US dollars, he said.

China needs to sharpen the competitive edge of its export products and improve its foreign trade structure, Chong said.

China's foreign trade volume took off after it began opening to outside world and adopted the reform policy two decades ago. Its foreign trade volume doubled three years after it joined the

World Trade Organization in 2001.

The surge in China's foreign trade volume has fuelled China's fast economic growth, created more jobs and brought a large amount of foreign exchange reserves for the country which reached 540 billion US dollars last October. So far, there are about 80 million personnel who are engaged in foreign trade.

In 2003, China's imports from the United States rose 24 per cent, from Japan 39 per cent, from South Korea 51 per cent, from the European Union 38 per cent and from Southeast Asia 52 per cent. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Thailand, Laos sign electricity purchase agreement

BANGKOK, 10 Dec — The Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand (Egat) on Wednesday signed an agreement to buy electricity from Laos so as to ease growing domestic demand, local Press reported on Thursday.

Under the agreement, the Xeset 2 hydropower project located in southern Laos is scheduled to export electricity to Thailand beginning from 2007, said the *Bangkok Post*.

Thailand will pay 1.60 baht (0.04 US dollars) per unit for peak-time demand, which means 9:00 am to 10:00 pm from Monday to Friday.

For electricity consumption during off-peak period including Saturday, Sunday and official holidays, the price for per unit is 1.20 baht (0.03 dollars).

Egat will be required to pay its electricity bill in dollars, half of which will be based on market exchange rates and the other half fixed at 40 baht to one dollar. "The signing is in the mutual interest of both countries," Egat's deputy governor Khampui Jirararuensak was

quoted by *Bangkok Post* as saying.

The electricity purchase plan is expected to ease power shortage in northeastern Thailand during dry season and generate income for Laos.

Demand for power during summer in northeastern Thailand expands by an average of 6 per cent annually. Egat expects peak power demand this year to top 2,200 megawatt (MW).

The Xeset 2 hydropower project, still under development on the Xeset River in Saravan and Champassak provinces in southern Laos, has a capacity to generate 76 MW of electricity.

So far, Laos exports 595 MW of electricity to Thailand from five hydropower dams, namely Nam Ngum 1, Xeset 1, Nam Luk, Nam Thuen-Hin Boun and Houay Ho. — *MNA/Xinhua*

စက်မှုပစ္စည်းအား လေစ်တော်လှန်

41 HK citizens win awards for helping police fight crime

HONG KONG, 10 Dec — Forty-one Hong Kong residents were commended for helping the police fight crime at the Good Citizen Award Presentation Ceremony Thursday.

Lo Wai-hing won the Good Citizen Year Award and was given a plaque and 3,000 HK dollars (385 US dollars) for her bravery and resourcefulness.

She helped the police catch a knife-wielding man who attacked three children playing in a Hung Hom housing block on 1 February.

Lo rescued one of the youngsters and called the police. A man was arrested and charged with four counts of wounding. He was sent to Siu Lam Psychiatric Centre for a year.

Forty others were given Good Citizen Awards, receiving a certificate and 2,000 Hong Kong dollars respectively.

With their help, 40 culprits were arrested for wounding, robbery, indecent assault, theft, conspiracy to defraud and murder.

Police Director of Operations Peter Yam praised the award winners for their courage and bravery, saying they set good examples for other citizens. — *MNA/Xinhua*



Buddhists gather for a mass meditation session on 10 Dec, 2004, at the Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon, Myanmar. Myanmar is hosting the World Buddhist Summit. —INTERNET

China attaches great importance to ties with Netherlands

THE HAGUE, 10 Dec — Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao said here Wednesday that China attaches great importance to developing relations with the Netherlands.

He made the remarks while holding talks with his Dutch counterpart Jan Peter Balkenende during the seventh China-EU annual summit meeting.

Wen said that China and the Netherlands are having a very good relationship and that the two countries have good cooperation in the sectors of agriculture, science and technology. The volume of bilateral trade is also growing fast.

China is ready to work with the Netherlands to raise bilateral relationship to a higher level.

He proposed to promote bilateral relations by increasing high-level political exchanges, expanding economic and trade cooperation, enhancing cooperation in agriculture and pushing forward exchanges and cooperation in judicial affairs, education, culture and medical care.

MNA/Xinhua

Bangladeshi and Sri Lankan hostages freed in Iraq

DHAKA, 10 Dec — Two truck drivers from Bangladesh and Sri Lanka kidnapped in Iraq by the same militant group that claims to be holding two French journalists have been released by their captors, officials said.

Arrangements were being made for the return home of Abul Kashem, 42, and his Sri Lankan colleague, Dinesh Dharmendran Rayaratnam, 36, Bangladesh State Minister for Overseas Employment Mohammad Quamrul Islam told *AFP*.

Sri Lanka's Foreign Ministry also confirmed its national had been freed.

The two men were captured en route to a US base in October. Al-Jazeera television showed footage of them in captivity shortly after their abduction and said they were being held by the Islamic Army in Iraq (IAI).

Kashem's family, at his home village

of Jeetpur in Bangladesh's southeastern Feni district, were overjoyed at the news of his release.

The IAI is still believed to be holding two French journalists who were abducted south of Baghdad on 20 August with their Syrian driver. The driver was found alive and well in a house in Fallujah in November during a major US-led assault on the rebel city.

Officials of the two countries declined to say how or when the men had been released.

The Iraqi daily *Al-Mada* reported Tuesday that the men had been released the day before. — *Internet*



Iraqis gather around a burning pickup after the site where a motorbike exploded in Mosul on 9 Dec, 2004. —INTERNET

Shell sets up JV to delve into oil shale resource studies

BEIJING, 10 Dec—Royal Dutch/Shell has agreed to set up a joint venture (JV) with the Bureau of Geological Exploration and Mineral Development of Jilin Province, northeast China, to conduct oil shale resource studies.

If reserves are proved commercially developable, trial explorations will be launched, Friday's *China Daily* said. Commercial exploitation will follow later on, should experiments succeed.

The agreement reflects China's latest efforts to search for oil to ease energy shortages. Under the agreement, the two partners hope to establish a synthetic transportation fuels and power industry based on future successful exploration.

According to financial news agency AFX, the two partners will invest up to 30 million US dollars in the exploration phase of the JV.

Oil shale is a compact rock containing organic matter that yields petroleum when destructively distilled. Compared to conventional oil reserves, it is far more costly and requires more complicated

technology to produce oil from oil shale.

China is estimated to have the fourth largest shale deposits in the world at 31.57 billion metric tons, after the United States, Brazil and Russia. And Jilin holds 17 billion tons, or 56 per cent, of the country's oil shale deposits.

In June this year, China's National Development and Reform Commission, the country's top economic planning body, approved a major oil shale project in Jilin with an estimated investment of 2.75 billion yuan (332.5 million US dollars).

Shell is one of four Dutch companies, including DSM NV, Phillips and Telfort BV, that signed agreements Thursday to work with Chinese counterparts at an EU-China Summit in The Hague.

MNA/Xinhua



Musharraf describes his foreign visit as highly productive

ISLAMABAD, 10 Dec—Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf Thursday described his visit to Latin America, the United States, Britain and France as highly productive, saying it helped improve Pakistan's political and diplomatic relations with these countries, according to the *Associated Press of Pakistan*.

"It's been a very positive visit, during my meetings with the leadership of these countries, we enhanced our bilateral ties and I utilized the opportunity to improve perceptions about Pakistan. On top of it, we secured firm commitments to bolstering our trade with these important economies," he told reporters on board his special aircraft while flying back home from Paris.

Musharraf kicked off his visit two weeks ago to Brazil, Argentina, Mexico, the United States, Britain

and France. France was the last stop of his visit.

Musharraf said Pakistan deems it very important to foster close diplomatic, political and economic ties with the Latin American countries.

Musharraf said Washington has assured him of considering a free trade agreement, saying it would

impart a boost to Pakistani exports.

Musharraf said British Prime Minister Tony Blair and French President Jacques Chirac have also expressed their support for Pakistan's efforts to have preferential trade with the robust European Union countries.

MNA/Xinhua

Britain in danger of missing target of cutting carbon dioxide emissions

LONDON, 10 Dec—Britain is in danger of missing its target of cutting carbon dioxide emissions by 20 per cent by the end of the decade, Environment Secretary Margaret Beckett said on Wednesday.

"We can see that we're not doing as well as we should if we're to meet that target," she told BBC Radio, adding that Britain would, however, meet its more modest Kyoto Protocol target of cutting emissions by 12.5 per cent by 2008-2012.

"We have set ourselves pretty high targets," she said. "We are well ahead of our main legal commitment but we set ourselves more ambitious targets and we have to do more to meet them."

Beckett was due to launch a government review of its policy on climate change later on Wednesday, when it is expected to give further details of how far it is from hitting its targets.

The main reason Britain will meet its Kyoto target is the replacement in the 1990s of many polluting coal-fired power stations with cleaner gas plants.

But after falling in the 1990s, emissions rose last year — partly because power stations burned more coal after a sharp rise in gas prices.

In October, Britain said it would increase carbon dioxide quotas for industry after complaints — especially from the power sector — that its CO2 reduction plans were too tough. — MNA/Reuters

Part of the Shanghai power grid. The Chinese government has warned that rampant ongoing construction of power plants could cause severe environmental damage and lead to overcapacity in the sector. — INTERNET

Nepal hosts Int'l Mountain Film Festival

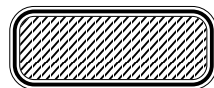
KATHMANDU, 10 Dec—The third Kathmandu International Mountain Film Festival 2004 kicked off here Thursday at the Russian Culture Centre here.

As many as 49 documentaries featuring the Himalayas and the lifestyle of people living in the mountain areas will be shown during the four-day festival on 9-12 December, Ramyata Limbu, coordinator of the film festival, told *Xinhua*.

"Films, documentation, travel experiences and footages from 21 different countries are included in the festival," Limbu said.

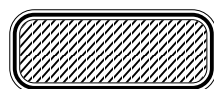
The documentaries will be primarily focused on subjects including entertainment, lifestyle, informative footages and traditional documentation, he added.

The annual festival is organized by Himal Association, a non-governmental organization in Nepal, with the assistance of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, and Nepal Tourism Board and Film Development Board of Nepal. — MNA/Xinhua



*Multi National Force:
An Iraqi Army soldier
conducts a search of a
large apartment complex
within the city of
Saquiliyah, near the
restive city of Fallujah
on 10 Dec, 2004.*

INTERNET



AP poll: US split over handling of Iraq

WASHINGTON, 10 Dec - Americans remain sharply divided in their views of how President Bush is handling Iraq, and their confidence that a stable, democratic government will be established in that country has eroded, an Associated Press poll found.

Fewer than half, 47 per cent, think it's likely Iraq will be able to establish a stable government, according to the poll conducted for the AP by Ipsos-Public Affairs. Just over half, 51 per cent, say they think it's unlikely.

In April, 55 per cent said they believed a stable, democratic government probably would be established, and 44 per cent thought it was not likely.

While doubts are growing about Iraq's future, the

American public's view of the president's handling of the situation has remained fairly constant through the year — dipping slightly in June — but evenly split now. Those most likely to have lost faith in the chances of a stable, democratic Iraq are those with college degrees, Southerners, city-dwellers, homeowners, Catholics, independents and Democrats.

Asked whether Iraq will be able to establish a stable democracy, Susan Welch

of Jasper, Ga, was quick to say: "No way."

"I don't think that President Bush started off with the right attitude — you cannot beat people into freedom," said Welch, a political independent and a part-time postal carrier.

People were about evenly divided on the president's handling of Iraq, with 48 per cent approving and 50 per cent disapproving. In June, 43 per cent approved, and 55 per cent disapproved. — Internet

High crude oil prices expected for next 20 years

WASHINGTON, 10 Dec — High crude oil prices will be expected for the next 20 years, US Energy Department's Energy Information Administration (EIA) forecast Thursday.

"The recent experience with higher and more volatile oil prices has added to uncertainty about the long-term path of crude oil prices," the EIA said in a Press release on the issue of its long-term energy outlook report.

The report, the Annual Energy Outlook 2005, estimated that world oil production will grow from about 80 million barrels a day now to 120 million barrels a day in 2025.

Neither US production nor consumption will change dramatically over the next 20 years and US refineries will increasingly

have to depend on imported crude oil, it predicted. Crude oil is estimated at 31 US dollars a barrel in 2010 and 35 dollars a barrel in 2025. But the higher prices are not expected to be high enough to force a significant decline in demand, it said.

"Total energy demand is projected to increase from 98.2 to 133.2 quadrillion British thermal units (Btu) between 2003 and 2025, an average annual increase of 1.4 per cent, in a scenario where the US economy grows at an average annual rate

of 3.1 per cent," the report said. It said that increased conservation and improvements in efficiency are likely to be largely nullified by increased demand because of economic growth.

The report estimated that US oil production will increase about 6 per cent by 2025 and the country's petroleum product consumption will be 2 per cent less than that at present. But in 2005, net petroleum imports are expected to account for 68 per cent of total petroleum demand, up from 56 per cent in 2003.

MNA/Xinhua

Russia, Greece to strengthen cooperation in fight against terrorism

Moscow, 10 Dec — Russian President Vladimir Putin and Greek Prime Minister Konstantinos Karamanlis vowed on Thursday to strengthen cooperation in the fight against international terrorism, Russian media reported.

Russia and Greece condemned "all forms of terrorism as unjustifiable crimes regardless of their motivation", said the joint statement issued after a summit meeting in the

Kremlin.

Both sides stressed "the need to respect international laws in the fight against terrorism" and noted that "the United Nations must play a cen-

tral and coordinating role in the global anti-terrorism fight".

According to the statement, Moscow and Athens will exchange experiences and information to prevent hostage taking and to ensure the security of transportation and infrastructure. After the summit meeting, Putin and Karamanlis also confirmed Moscow and Athens will strengthen military cooperation.

The two countries will exchange visits of warships and defence ministers, said a joint action plan signed by the two governments, adding that Russia will supply weapons and military hardware to Greece.

Russia will also supply a record two billion cubic metres of gas to Greece this year under a contract lasting up to the Year 2016, the Interfax news agency quoted Russia's Gazprom gas company chief Alexei Miller as saying.

MNA/Xinhua



The Badminton Cabinet, heralded as the most important piece of furniture made in 300 years, is now the most expensive, too, selling for 19 million pounds (36.6 million dollars, 27.5 million euros) at auction in London.—INTERNET

18th century Cabinet sold for 19 million pounds

LONDON, 10 Dec — The Badminton Cabinet, one of the finest pieces of furniture in Britain, was sold for 19 million pounds to become the most expensive non-pictorial work of art ever sold at auction, Christie's announced on Thursday.

It was purchased by The Liechtenstein Museum in Vienna and broke its own record price of 8.5 million pounds established at Christie's in 1990.

It will be on permanent display in the museum from next spring.

MNA/Reuters

မြို့မြို့ရွာရွာ၊ ဆိန်ပါးလေလွင့်၊ ထုတ်တုန်မြင့်

Chinese workers

cycle past a

cooling chimney at

Shougang Group

steel factory on the

outskirts of Beijing

on 9 Dec, 2004.

INTERNET



German Defence Minister arrives in Cairo

CAIRO, 10 Dec — German Defence Minister Peter Struck arrived in Cairo on Wednesday for a two-day visit to Egypt, Egypt's official MENA news agency reported.

Struck is expected to hold talks with senior Egyptian officials on military cooperation between the two countries.

Struck's visit to Egypt was part of his regional tour, which will also take him to the United Arab Emirates, where he will inspect German forces training Iraqi military officers in Abu Dhabi.

MNA/Xinhua

Britain's trade gap with world widens in October

LONDON, 10 Dec — Britain's trade gap with the rest of the world widened more than expected in October to its deepest in ten months as imports hit a record monthly high, official figures showed on Thursday.

The Office for National Statistics said that the goods trade gap with the rest of the world widened to 5.3 billion pounds, the highest since January, from 4.4 billion pounds in the prior month. Economists had predicted a gap of 4.7 billion pounds.

Strong domestic demand drove imports up to a record monthly high of 21.5 billion pounds. Exports fell to 16.2 billion sterling pounds from 16.5 billion in September.

The cumulative deficit in goods so far this year, at

48.8 billion pounds, was already outpacing last year's full year deficit, which was the widest since records began in 1697.

The trade balance in oil, which marked its first monthly deficit since August 1991, returned to surplus as North Sea oil maintenance had depressed exports in September.

The trade gap with non-EU countries widened to 2.94 billion pounds from 2.34 billion and against expectations of a gap of 2.6 billion sterling.

MNA/Reuters

Marks and Spencer sets up creches for shoppers' husbands

LONDON, 10 Dec — Husbands fed up with their wives' Christmas shopping frenzies will be able to watch football in creches set up specially for men, Marks and Spencer announced on Thursday.

The creches are equipped with everything to keep men entertained while their other halves are punishing the plastic.

"The first day of our creche was very successful and there was a large demand from men and

also from relieved women!" an M&S spokeswoman said.

"Men can enjoy a drink, watch a film or a football match or even play like children with remote-control quad bikes," she added. The creches —

which are for Christmas only — opened on Thursday in M&S stores in Aberdeen, Edinburgh, the Metro Centre in Gateshead, Cardiff, Marble Arch in London and Meadowhall in Sheffield.

—MNA/Reuters

Romania outraged at US Marine being whisked out of country

BUCHAREST, 10 Dec — A US Marine suspected of causing a car crash that killed a famous Romanian rocker in Bucharest could face a court martial, the United States said on Thursday.

The Marine, a guard at the US Embassy, was whisked out of the country soon after the incident last Saturday, prompting outrage in Romania, a "New Europe" ally of Washington with troops in Iraq.

Romanian Prime Minister Adrian Nastase appealed to President George W. Bush this week to help bring the Marine back to stand trial in Romania.

Jack Dyer Crouch, US ambassador in Romania, said the White House was studying the request and the soldier, Marine detachment commander Robert Christopher, faced

court martial under US military law if evidence against him was clear.

"If evidence indicates he violated military criminal law provisions, he could face a criminal trial in a US military court," Crouch said. "The Marine detachment commander's status ... is not a licence to com-

mit crimes."

Romanian police say Christopher crashed the embassy's three-ton off-road vehicle into a taxi at a Bucharest crossing at 4 am local time last Saturday, killing the passenger Teo Peter, a bass guitarist revered across Romania.—MNA/Reuters

All of us shall continue to resolutely build a peaceful, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation

Min Kyaw Min

When the Tatmadaw Government assumed the duties of State, it laid down Our Three Main National Causes — non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty — to guide the nation toward the ultimate objective of seeing to the emergence of a peaceful, developed and discipline-flourishing nation.

The Government also laid down the Twelve National Objectives — four political, four economic and four social — which form the wider basis of nation-building tasks, for the materialization of which we, the people and the Tatmadaw Government, have been working so strenuously to achieve, and have made significant strides.

In just more than a decade, we have managed to build, one after another, the infrastructures which are the results of our endeavours.

Roads, railroads, bridges, hydel power stations, irrigation projects, multi-purpose dams, industrial zones and housing, all with an eye on equitable national development. We continue to see fruition of these inasmuch as the inputs made pace and equity is seen in urban and rural development.

Better and greater health care, education and welfare are today enjoyed on both scenes, with rural electrification and water from tube-wells with rural folks enjoying privileges hitherto unknown to them.

In the urban and suburban areas, we continue to see transformation of hutments into high-rises, and the short- and long-term projects are gradually taking shape. Compared to over a decade ago, Yangon, with its high-rises and condominiums, presents the appearance of a metropolis on par with its counterparts in other parts of the developing world.

Aware that transport facilities contribute to progress of various sectors of development nationwide, and to further strengthening of national unity and Union Spirit through facilitation of easy access between States and Divisions, both the Public Works

However, Myanmar being an agricultural economy, most of the delegates who are farmers or are engaged in agro-based work had to return home during the monsoon but would be most convenient for them to continue the National Convention in the open season.

There was change of Prime Minister which led to widespread speculation as to how this would affect events, as to whether the implementation of the Road Map would continue to apply, and whether the first step, the convening of the National Convention would continue.

At the work coordination meeting of the National Convention Convening Commission, the Work Committee and the Management Committee on 22 October 2004, Commission Chairman and Secretary-1 of the SPDC, Lt-Gen Thein Sein, allayed all concerns expressed here and those hoping to see it crumble, with the assurance that the National Convention, the first step of the Road Map, is important and will continue.

He put the correct message across to skeptics that the Road Map, which was laid down by the SPDC itself and does not concern an individual person alone and that he was only told to announce the policy programme on behalf of the SPDC, adding that with a view to seeing to the emergence of a peaceful, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation, the SPDC will continue to implement the agenda, step by step and without change.

The Government, he reassured, will continue to convene the National Convention without fail as it is the first step of the political agenda and is very important, when the open season comes. Hence, doubts about the resumption of the National convention are removed.

No change in policy internal or foreign

On 24 October 2004, Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win and member of the SPDC General Thura Shwe Mann explained changes which had taken place in the country and clarified developments to traders and national entrepreneurs invited to the Zeya Thiri Beikman Hall in Yangon.

In addition to matters concerning the National Convention, Gen Thura Shwe Mann said the Government is committed to continue implementing the Road Map and convening of the National Convention, that there will be no change of attitude toward armed groups which had returned to the legal fold, and that there is no change in foreign policy and that the Government will continue to cooperate with world nations in international relations.

Gen Thura Shwe Mann also gave an account of former Premier Gen Khin Nyunt who was permitted to retire for his violation of military discipline such as insubordination, for his involvement in bribery and corruption and for dereliction of duties, speaking at length.

He added that all sections of the Tatmadaw will have to adhere to military rules and regulations and that no one is above the law. He said severe action was taken whenever there were violations of the law on the concept that no one is above the law and everybody is equal before the law.

He called on his audience to make efforts for serving the interest of the State, the people and the private sector after realizing the situation in the country.

Undeterred resolve

Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win, in his address, said the Government will continue to practise and implement the political, economic and social policies of the State and that the objectives of the State will not be changed for any reason. The Government and the ministries, he said, are implementing the nation-building policies laid down by the SPDC and that its members are undertaking the entire national development task in harmony through collective leadership and individual responsibility and their supervision right down to the grassroots levels. That is our undeterred resolve.

He also spoke of the Government's commitment for the emergence of a government that will serve the interest of the State and the public widely, effectively and correctly without losing sight and clean and dynamic administrative machinery which does not oppress the people through violating codes of conduct and other moral turpitude.

General Thura Shwe Mann, in conclusion, urged the private sector to stay aloof from bribery and corruption and that they will get the necessary assistance.

He said the National Intelligence Bureau was dissolved and the law governing it was repealed to address moral decay stemming from bribery, corruption and extortion.

The Government will continue to convene the National Convention without fail as it is the first step of the political agenda and is very important, when the open season comes. Hence, doubts about the resumption of the National convention are removed.

Togetherness

The Tatmadaw's timely action whenever the need arose, had saved the nation from impending disaster, at times from the brink of disintegration. We have lessons to learn from past events beginning with the removal of King Thibaw to forced exile for lack of a strong, well-trained army committed to safeguarding and protecting the national interest.

The recent event proves the need for those discharging national defence duties and public administration to exercise utmost vigilance as breach of trust, if unchecked, can lead to chaos and eventual loss of sovereignty.

The Tatmadaw Government has a long tradition of protecting the nation and the welfare of the people and always holds this responsibility in high esteem, said General Thura Shwe Mann, in his closing remarks.

The Tatmadaw and the people are one, and indivisible, and this togetherness has proved to be the cohesive base all those worthy of identity with this great Union of Myanmar must well be proud of in national interest. This mutual trust must be the engine to take us to the materialization of our ultimate objective.

All of us, the Tatmadaw and the people, shall together continue to energetically build a peaceful, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation in accord with the seven-step Road Map, starting with the successful convening of the National Convention.

With due goodwill and earnest participation of over 1,000 delegates representing the various strata of society and all walks of life, the SPDC had been able to successfully convene the crucial chapter of it from 17 March to 9 July 2004 as the first step.

and the Directorate of Military Engineers have been involved.

Thanthamagyi Bridge with the length of over 180 feet on Yangon-Kyaukphegyu Highway, built by Public Works was opened on 12 December 2004. It is the 190th and among the bridges in the nation constructed by Public Works, Myanmar DME.

Seven-step Road Map

The State Peace and Development Council, with a view to prioritizing today's political needs, laid down the seven-step Road Map, the future political agenda.

With due goodwill and earnest participation of over 1,000 delegates representing the various strata of society and all walks of life, the SPDC had been able to successfully convene the crucial chapter of it from 17 March to 9 July 2004 as the first step.

Efforts for success of national education promotion...

(from page 1)

At a time when a new consolidated nation with precise national tasks is being built, he said the teachers are to nurture new generation youths to possess national awareness and efficiency capable of changing various challenges to be faced in the future into better opportunities that serve the interest of the nation and its people through education power.

Youths have ability to see the future as well as possessing spirit to safeguard national prestige and interests of the nation and its people, he said.

It is the fact that the Union of Myanmar will stand tall amidst international communities as long as the world exists if the faculty members train new generation youths to possess power and knowledge



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein presents model hostel award to No 6 hostel of No 2 women company. — MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein cordially converses with trainees at the concluding ceremony of Special Refresher Course No 6 for Faculty Members at CICS (Phaunggyi). — MNA

that can solve various kinds of challenges in the changing world with application of modern science and technology for promotion of the interests of the nation and its people in every aspect, he stressed.

Therefore, efforts for success of national education promotion projects and education system leading to promotion of national interest are not ordinary education reforms but national endeavours to enhance the prestige of the nation and its people in building a new nation.

The Secretary-1 said all the faculty members are to discharge national duties of education sector with full nationalistic spirit after realizing the factors above-mentioned.

Next, MEC Chairman Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein presented model trainee awards to Tutor U Than Htaik Aung of Bago Degree College and Tutor Daw Aye Aye Thin of Mawlamyine University,

deligent awards to Assistant Lecturer U Tin Swe Myint of University of Culture, Lecturer Daw Than Than of the same university and Assistant Lecturer Daw Myint Myint Mar of Yangon Institute of Education.

The Secretary-1 also presented model hostel award to No 6 hostel of the women's company-2 and completion certificates to the trainees through their leaders.

Afterwards, the trainees donated K 240,100 for Lawka Chantha Abhaya Labha Muni Buddha Image, renovation of Koenawin Pagoda at CICS, renovation of ancient Bagan pagodas, National Convention, USDA, Post-Primary School at CICS, Phaunggyi BEHS and Pre-Primary School of CICS to the Secretary-1.

After the ceremony, the Secretary-1 cordially greeted the trainees. — MNA

Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister leaves



Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister Mr Lu Lay Sreng and party being seen off at the airport. — MNA

YANGON, 12 Dec — Prime Minister Mr Lu Lay Sreng and party,

after attending the World Buddhist Summit hosted by the Union of Myanmar, left here by air this morning.

They were seen off at Yangon International Airport by Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Cambodian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Hul Phony, Director-General of Protocol Department Thura U Aung Htet and officials.

MNA

Myanmar Rice Research Centre, Ngamoeyeik Sluice Gate inspected

YANGON, 12 Dec — Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo inspected Myanmar Rice Research Centre in Hmawby Township and Ngamoeyeik Sluice Gate in Hlegu Township yesterday.

In the morning, the minister and the researchers discussed agriculture and economic development of the State and farmers. He inspected experiment of paddy strains and samples of quality paddy strains at the

lab. The minister viewed booths of Myanmar Agriculture Service at the centre.

Maj-Gen Htay Oo inspected various samples of paddy at the test-fields of MRRC. The minister and party proceeded to the construction site of Ngamoeyeik Sluice Gate at the corner of Sitpintaung near Sitpintaung Village in Dagon Myothit (East) Township. The minister met with members of Yangon Division Agricultural Coordination Committee and instructed

them to put farmlands on both sides of the creek under summer paddy and other crops, to prevent the inflow of salty water into the farmlands, supply water and carry out construction tasks in time in accord with the set standard.

Later, Maj-Gen Htay Oo inspected functions of Vegetables and Fruit Seeds Production Farm being operated as a joint venture by MAS and Sein Enterprise, in Shwenatha of Mingaladon Township. — MNA



Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo inspects vegetable seed production farm in Shwenatha of Mingaladon Township on 11 December. — A&I

ပဉ္စမအကြိမ်

မြန်မာ့တိုင်းရင်းဆေးသမားတော်ကြီးများညီလာခံ

(၁၅-၁၂-၂၀၀၄) မှ (၁၇-၁၂-၂၀၀၄)

ကျိုက္ကဆံကွင်း ပြည်ထောင်စုခန်းမ



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein presents National Literary Award to Maung Htun Thu.—MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein presents National Literary Award to Than Aung (Anyamyay).—MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein presents National Literary Award to Dr Ma Tin Win.—MNA

Literati urged ...

(from page 16)

A glance at the history of valuable Myanmar literature will reveal clearly the preservation of Myanmar literature representing the noble lineage with own national character and its own territorial integrity; and the practice of national brethren living in family-type union sharing with one another the wealth of natural resources and upholding the fine tradition of national cause.

It is therefore necessary for the writers to preserve the fine tradition regarding it as a historical duty.

The hearts and minds of the writers are central to the creation of excellent work of literature. Only then will the readers be able to benefit cultural heritage and knowledge from such works.

The literary works that strengthen and generate a sense of nationalism, patriotism and Union Spirit as well as the desire to preserve cultural tradition and national character will remain a historical record on national literary history.

Now, the government is doing everything in its capacity to turn the national literary might into a consolidated national force while making efforts to enable the country to keep pace with the global community in terms of development.

It is necessary for all literati to make concerted efforts with full sense of nationalist sentiment to deter the penetration of alien culture counter to Myanmar culture.

Now is the time when the country is being transformed into a discipline-flourishing democratic nation based on the firm historical course of Myanmar people, cultural tradition, national consolidation after making public the seven-point Road Map. The Road Map is the only national course that can pave the way for a modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democracy. Therefore, all the people are to follow that path in the march towards the goal. In this process, the literati are to make efforts to organize the national

people into this drive with their literary talent.

In conclusion, he called for cooperation of the literati to preserve and promote the fine tradition of literary standard of Myanmar, to make efforts to increase public awareness to the penetration of alien culture and social behaviour with their literary might, and to instill national sentiment in the people for the success of the seven-point Road Map.



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein presents National Literary Award to Daw Mi Mi Lay.—MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein presents National Literary Award to Khin Khin Htoo.—MNA

Next, the Secretary-1 presented Life-long National Literary Award to writer U Htay Maung (Htay Maung). The Secretary-1 presented National Literary Awards to Hsaung Win Lat, Khin Khin Htoo, Salin Phone Kyaw, Daw Mi Mi Lay, Maung Thit Sar, Myinmu Maung Naing Moe, Than Aung (Anyamyay), Hlaing Thin, Maung Tun Thu, Ma Kyan, Kyaw Oo, Naing Shwe Moe, Kyu Kyu Thin and Dr Ma Tin Win (Institute of Education).

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe gave away

and Ma Kyee Tan (Loikaw) in the selected poem genre; Reporter Thau Ngunt (Pyapon), Htang Hlaing and Ya Min in the general knowledge (arts) genre. Similarly, Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa presented first, second and third prizes to Maung Maung Myint Thein (Technological University), Dr Tin Tin Myaing and Dr Myint Than (Nyaunglebin) in the general knowledge (science and applied science) genre; and Myoma

(See page 11)



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and party pose for documentary photo with Life-long National Literary Award winner writer Htay Maung.—MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and party pose for documentary photo with Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award winners.—MNA

There will be three gateways ...

(from page 1)

narrow development gap between one region and another.

In this connection, the government is making all-out efforts for development of Rakhine State that lagged behind in development in successive eras due

government has spent a huge sum on construction of roads and bridges in Rakhine State to ensure better transport in the region. At present, the national races from Rakhine State have been able to travel in all parts of the nation through Sittway-MruakU-An motor

With the emergence of An-Taungup road, Rakhine State can be accessible from Yangon and Ayeyawady Division through Taungup-Thandwe-Gwa road.

On completion of bridge and road projects, Kyaukpyu-Maei-Taungup Road and 400-mile Yangon-Kyaukphyu Road will emerge and there will be three gateways to Rakhine State.

The 552 feet long and 24 feet wide reinforced concrete Thanthamagyi Bridge is an important one on Yangon-Kyaukphyu Road and it is the 190th bridge in the nation constructed by Public Works, Myanma Railways and Tatmadaw Engineering Unit after 1988 and it is the 31st one in Rakhine State and can withstand 60 tons of load. The bridge will contribute towards the development of Rakhine State which is rich in marine and land resources. Recently, natural gas deposit has been discovered on offshore of Rakhine State. Economy and living standard of local people will improve soon, he added.

Next, Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun and Commander Brig-Gen Min Aung Hlaing also spoke on the occasion.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, Commander Brig-



Western Command Commander Brig-Gen Min Aung Hlaing speaking at the opening ceremony of Thanthamagyi Bridge.—MNA

to various reasons.

Transport is of first and foremost importance for development of a region.

road. Nowadays, Yangon-Kyaukphyu road is being built with the use of Geotextile technique.

Transport is of first and foremost importance for development of a region. With better transport, a region will be able to enjoy development in economy and production, thereby contributing to bringing about equitable development in education, health and social sectors.

With better transport, a region will be able to enjoy development in economy and production, thereby contributing to bringing about equitable development in education, health and social sectors.

Moreover, better transport will enable the national races to have frequent contacts with one another. This will lead to further cementing the national solidarity and forging Union Spirit.

Therefore, top priority is being given to ensuring better transport in all parts of the Union.

In the past, Rakhine State is of difficult access and it has to rely only on waterways. Although there were some roads accessible to Rakhine State, those transport facilities are in poor condition. Thus, the

Kaingshe bridge, Tanhlwe bridge, Hsabyin bridge, Lamu bridge, Maei



Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun speaking at opening of Thanthamagyi Bridge.—MNA

bridge, Kyaukgyipauk bridge, Sane bridge, Dedokepauk bridge, Londawpauk bridge and Thanthamagyi bridge opened today have been constructed in Rakhine State. The remaining four bridges are under construction. Those bridges are over 180 feet long.

Gen Min Aung Hlaing, Minister Maj-Gen Saw Tun and guests took the places and the commander, the minister and the deputy minister formally opened the bridge.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than formally unveiled the stone plaque and sprinkled scented water on it and they walked on the bridge.



Night scene of newly opened Thanthamagyi Bridge on Yangon-Kyaukphyu Road.—MNA



Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than offers alms to a Sayadaw at the ceremony to donate rice and provisions to monasteries in Kyaukpyu Township.—MNA

Rakhine State needs to be reliable region of national economy

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than tours townships in Rakhine State

YANGON, 12 Dec — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence attended the ceremony to offer alms to monasteries in Kyaukpyu at Sasana Beikman on 10 December morning.

Also present on the occasion were members of the Sangha, Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Commander of Western Command Brig-Gen Min Aung Hlaing, Captain Aung Thaw (Navy) of Kyaukpyu Station, authorities and wellwishers.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, Commander Brig-Gen Min Aung Hlaing and officials presented alms to the Sayadaws.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party went to Gangawta Pagoda in Gonchein Village of

The 552 feet long and 24 feet wide reinforced concrete Thanthamagyi Bridge has three feet wide walkways on each side. Its clearance is 111 feet and six feet high and it can withstand 60 tons of load. Construction started on 1 October 2002.

MNA

Kyaukpyu Township and paid flowers, water and lights to two Buddha images.

Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and the Commander planted Gangaw saplings (Mesua ferra).

They proceeded to Minbyin Village and inspected the four miles long beach between Minbyin and Kyaukpyauk villages. They then inspected construction of the road.

At Zinchaung Station Hospital, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than instructed the commander and officials to carry out health educative tasks.

At Ramawady Hall in Yanbye, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than met with township level departmental personnel. Speaking on the occasion, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than said that the Government has designated 24 development regions for narrowing the gap between rural and urban areas in

the entire nation and laid down and is implementing border area development project and five rural development tasks. He arrived Yanbye to manage development of the township.

He added it is necessary to extend cultivation of suitable beans and edible oil crops for the region apart from three kinds of pulses and beans out of 10 main crops. He urged departmental officials and local people to make concerted efforts for becoming Rakhine State as a reliable state of the Government in the economic sector. So, officials are to make field trips to grassroots level for fulfilling requirements of the regions.

Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspected units and wards of Yanbye Township Hospital. Afterwards, they made an inspection tour of development in Yanbye.

MNA

New National Badminton Court inaugurated

YANGON, 12 Dec — Newly-built three-storey National Badminton Court was handed over to the Sports and Physical Education Department under the Ministry of Sports this morning in the presence of Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint in Lanmadaw Township.

First, Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, Director-General of the Department for Human Settlement and Housing De-

velopment Col Aung Win and Managing Director of Maung Weik Construction Co Ltd U Maung Weik formally opened the new building.

Afterwards, U Maung Weik handed over the documents related to the building to Director General of SPED U Thung Htaik.

The construction work of the building started on 1 April, 2003 and completed on 15 November, 2004. It was built at a cost of K 1,200 million. —MNA

Objectives of 57th Anniversary Independence Day

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

Literati urged to make efforts...



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and party pose for documentary photo with winners in National Motto, Literary and Photo Competitions.—MNA



Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint presents first prize to Mageinda in selected short story genre.—MNA



Minister for SWRR Maj-Gen Sein Htwa presents first prize to Myoma Myint Kywe in belles-letters genre.—MNA



Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan presents U Kyaw Zaw Lin for Zarni in selected poem genre.—MNA



Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo presents first prize to Theikpan Soe Myint Naing in child literature genre.—MNA

(from page 9)
Myint Kywe, Shwenaga Tin Win and Maung Chit Htwe (MA) in the belles-letters genre.

Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo gave away first, second and third prizes to Shin Htwe Mei (Manoktha), Thet Nwe (University of Culture) and Aye Aye Soe (Pyapon) in the Myanmar culture and arts literature genre; and Theikpan Soe Myint Naing, Maung Thet Hnin (North Okkalapa) and Pantanaw Naung Lat in the child literature genre and

second prize winner Pathein Aung Than Oo in the youth literature genre.

Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint presented first, second and third prizes to Hmway Natha (MA), Muse Wong Kham and Yin Nwe Htar (Law) in the article contest in the 15th National Motto, Literary and Photo Competitions; and Min Thway Nwe (Zigon), Win Wai Naung and Maung Maung Thet Tun in the poem contest.

Likewise, Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint pre-

sented first, second and third prizes to Mageinda (Patheingyi), Muse Wong Kham and Shwenyatha Myat Min in the short story contest; and Han Min Oo (Best



Life-long National Literary Award winner writer Htay Maung expresses gratitude.—MNA

Photo), U Pyi Soe Tun (Bagyi) and Shweinthia Khin Maung Win in the colour photo contest.

Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun gave away

Toungoo BEHS No 1 and Ma Ngu Wah of Namtu

Deputy Minister for Information U Thein Sein presents first prize to Ma Hnin Yu Htwe in general knowledge contest on Tatmadaw at high school level.—MNA

After the ceremony, the Secretary-1



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein attends the dinner hosted in honour of literary award winners hosted by Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan.(News on page16) —MNA

first, second prizes to Fourth Year (BE) Cadet Kaung Htet Thaw of Defence Services Technological Academy, Third MB Maung Thiha Tun of Institute of Medicine-2 and Second Year (BE) Cadet Myat Ko Ko of DSTA in the general knowledge on Tatmadaw at the university/college/institute level.

Deputy Minister for Information U Thein Sein presented first, second and third prizes to Ma Hnin Yu Htwe of Pathein BEMS No 6, Ma Hsan Sanda Win of

BEMS No 2 at the high school level; Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein, first, second and third prizes to Maung Kyaw Khaing Htet of Pathein BEMS No 1, Ma Thazin Thet Su Tin of Kyauktan Myoma BEMS and Ma Naw Phyu Phyu Tin of Thanbyuzayet BEHS No 2 at the middle school level.

On behalf of the winners, Life-long National Literary Award winner U Htay Maung (Htay Maung) expressed gratitude.

cordially greeted the winners.

Next, the Secretary-1, the commander and ministers posed for documentary photos with life-long National Literary Award winner U Htay Maung (Htay Maung). Later, the Secretary-1 and party had documentary photos taken with the National Literary Award winners, Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award winners and the winners in the National Motto, Literary and Photo Competitions.

MNA

"TOM" group to invest in Chinese Mainland's filmmaker

HONG KONG, 11 Dec—Tom Group Limited (TOM) announced Thursday that the company will invest 10 million US dollars to acquire a 35-per-cent stake in Huayi Brothers International Holdings Co Ltd (Huayi Brothers), one of the most successful and profitable private company in film and television business in the Chinese Mainland.

TOM announced at a Press conference that according to an agreement signed between the two companies, TOM will acquire a 27-per-cent stake in Huayi Brothers for a total consideration of five million dollars payable in cash. TOM will also subscribe to five million US dollars of convertible bonds, payable in cash, which upon conversion will increase TOM's stake in Huayi Brothers to 35 per cent.

TOM said the cooperation is expected to introduce tens of millions of HK dollars in funding for Huayi Brothers each year. Huayi Brothers will invite investors or strategic partners to take part in the investment for producing each film.

In the long term, both TOM and Huayi Brothers share the goal of either seeking the listing of Huayi Brothers or finding a Hollywood strategic investor within three years.

TOM and Huayi Brothers agreed that, in the next few years, TOM and other investors can increase their stakes up to around 50 per cent in next few years.

MNA/Xinhua

Organized by Department of Export Promotion, Ministry of Commerce, Thailand
Supported by Ministry of Commerce, Myanmar

10th Anniversary Thailand Exhibition'2004

Special activities
*Thai Cultural Dancing
*Beauty & health promotion
*Thai fresh fruit handy-curving

15-18 December 2004
Yangon Trade Center
Upper Pazundaung Road, Yangon
10:00 am to 06:00 pm daily

15-16 December 2004 : Trade Days (entry by registration only)
17-18 December 2004 : Public Days

Businessmen and Traders to be visited on Trade Days, kindly register at the exhibition entrance on show days with business cards.

COME & ENJOY YOURSELF WITH WORLD STANDARD PRODUCTS FROM THAILAND
Fair managed by TTF (Yangon) Co., Ltd

UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF RAIL TRANSPORTATION MYANMA RAILWAYS INVITATION TO SEALED TENDER

1. Sealed Tender is invited by Myanmar Railways, for supply of the following Stores which will be purchased in US Dollars and Myanmar Kyats:-

Sr.No	Tender No.	Description	Quantity
1.	3/MR/Locomotive (M) 2004-2005	IN-SERVICE LOCOMOTIVES	4 - Nos

Closing Date: 5.1.2005 (Wednesday) (12:00) Hours.

2. Tender documents are available at the office of the Deputy General Manager (Supply), Myanmar Railways, Corner of 51st Street and Merchant Street, Botataung, Yangon starting from 14.12.2004 during the office hours.

3. For further details please call: 291982, 201555 Ext-602, 605, 612

**Deputy General Manager
Supply Department, Myanmar Railways, Botataung, Yangon**

UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF RAIL TRANSPORTATION MYANMA RAILWAYS INVITATION TO SEALED TENDER

1. Sealed Tenders are invited by Myanmar Railways, for supply of the following Stores which will be purchased in Myanmar Kyats:-

Sr.No.	Tender No.	Description	Quantity
1.	15(T)1/MR(E) 2004-2005	7 Strand Wire	60-Tons
2.	15(T)2/MR(E) 2004-2005	Fibre Pad	50000-Nos
3.	13(T)6/MR(E) 2004-2005	Light Hydraulic Tamping Machine	1-Set

Closing Date: - 3-1-2005 (Monday) (12:00) Hours.

2. Tender documents are available at the office of the Deputy General Manager (Supply), Myanmar Railways, Corner of 51st Street and Merchant Street, Botataung, Yangon starting from 14.12.2004 during the office hours.

3. For further details please call: 291982, 201555 Ext-602, 605, 612

**Deputy General Manager
Supply Department, Myanmar Railways, Botataung, Yangon**

Honeywell plans to shift some jobs to lower cost countries

SILICON VALLEY, 11 Dec—The US-based Honeywell International Inc, a diversified technology and manufacturing company, is planning to move 5,000 aerospace division jobs to lower cost countries, including India, over the next five years, a Seattle-based labour union opposed to offshoring has claimed.

However, the company said the claim was "inaccurate" but added that it was important for it to hire personnel in various parts of the world to remain in competition.

The labour union, Washington Alliance of Technology Worker (WashTech), on its web site published documents which it said came from Honeywell, a 25-billion-US-dollar company with products ranging from aircraft radar systems to portable fans for homes.

One of the documents,

titled "Strategies In-Place to Enable 5-Year Plan" outlines key Honeywell priorities, including establishing avionics manufacturing in Brno, Czech Republic, outsourcing selected manufacturing, and "Increase use of Bangalore/Brno/Mexico technical capabilities for all businesses."

"The jobs that Honeywell is exporting are not low-level jobs," Marcus Courtney, President of the alliance said in a statement. "Its corporate practices are not only

threatening the job security of US workers, it is putting America's competitive advantage at risk."

A representative for Honeywell, which is based in Morris Township, New Jersey and employs approximately 100,000 people in 95 countries, said the documents are authentic but said the alliance's claims are inaccurate, CNET News.com reported quoting a company statement.

"The claims made by WashTech today are inaccurate. Our five-year

growth plan for our aerospace business anticipates employment to remain flat in the United States and in other Western markets, while expanding in high-growth regions," the company statement said.

"As a global technology leader, we must participate in the worldwide economy and open new markets for our products and services, while continuing to recruit and retain a competitive and talented global work force," the company said.

MNA/PTI

ပြည်တွင်းပြင်ပကုန်သွယ်ရေး

TRADE MARK CAUTION

Notice is hereby given that WOLSON CANADA, of 33 Carlingview Drive, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, M9W 5E4, Manufacturers and Merchants, are the Owners and Sole Proprietors of the following trade mark:-



(Reg. No. IV/4879/2003)

The said trademark is used in respect of the description of goods following that is to say:-

"Beer"

Any imitation or fraudulent use of the said trademark will be dealt with according to law.

Hsin Lin Co (S.L.) Advocate

MYANMAR TRADE MARK AND

PATENT LAW FIRM for

DePENNING & DePENNING

Patent and Trade Mark Agents

10, Government Place East

Kolkata 700 065

Intellectual Property House

31 South Bank Road

Chennai-600 028

Alexandra Building

16 Heperan Sea Road

Mumbai-400 038

MA-89 Moulson Road

DLF Phase-II

National Capital Region 122002

India, 13 December 2004

tegmha1608kora13554(3)MTP.doc

TRADE MARK CAUTION

Porzellanfabrik Christian Settemann GmbH of Christian-Settemann-Strasse 59-67 82637 Weiden i.d. OPf., Germany, is the Owner and Sole Proprietor of the following Trade Mark:



Reg. No. IV/8332/2004

in respect of 'Int'l class

21: Goods made of

porcelain, glass or

earthenware".

Any fraudulent imitation or

unauthorized use of the

said Trade Mark shall be

dealt with according to

law.

KHINE KHINE U, Advocate

L.L.B., D.B.L., LL.M (UK)

For Porzellanfabrik

Christian Settemann

GmbH

#626, Traders Hotel, Yangon

Dated, December 13, 2004.

**Drive
safely**

The Union of Myanmar Ministry of Construction Public Works

Extension of Invitation for Quotation

The Project Management Unit, Public Works, Ministry of Construction has invited Quotation for Myanmar-Laos Friendship Suspension Bridge.

On behalf of the Ministry of Construction of the Union of Myanmar, Project Management Unit gives notice that the date for completion and return of the Quotation has been extended to 31st March, 2005 instead of 31st December, 2004.

**Managing Director
Public Works**

South Africa's real-estate market buoyant in 2004

JOHANNESBURG, 11 Dec—South Africa's real-estate market remained buoyant during 2004, supported by lower interest rates, the South African Reserve Bank said in its latest quarterly bulletin on Friday.

The value of turnover in the real-estate market, measured by transfer duty paid, increased by 55 per cent in the first ten months of 2004, compared with the corresponding period of 2003, said the country's central bank.

Both the number of transactions and the average transaction price rose considerably, the SARB said.

Business magazine *The Economist* also said on Thursday that among 20 countries and regions with active real-estate business, housing prices in South Africa surged by 35 per cent in the year to the third quarter, pushing it into first place ahead of Hong Kong.

The buoyancy in the real-estate market is also reflected by the growth in the home loan market, the SARB said. The year-on-year growth in outstanding home-loan balances of banks accelerated from an average of almost 13 per cent in 2003 to 18 per cent in the first ten months of 2004.

MNA/Xinhua

မညာရေးဖြင့် ခေတ်မီပို့ပြီးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်ဖို့

OPEC agrees to cut oil output to keep price stable

CAIRO, 11 Dec — The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) agreed Friday to reduce crude supplies by one million barrels a day from the beginning of next year with a view to keeping the oil price in high levels.

“(OPEC) member countries have agreed to collectively reduce the over-production by one million barrels per day from their current actual output, effective on 1 January, 2005,” the bloc said in a statement at the end of its session of the 133rd Extraordinary meeting held in Cairo.

However, OPEC ministers decided to keep its total output quota of 27 million barrels per day unchanged but reduce its actual supply to bring it closer in line with the official ceiling.

In a bid to ease up fears on possible price hike after the supply cut, the ministers said that they are committed to maintaining the stability of the oil market.

“The conference reaffirmed its determination to take all measures deemed necessary to keep market stability and

maintain prices at reasonable levels, for the benefit of producers and consumers alike,” the statement said.

The ministers will meet again on 30 January, 2005 to review market developments as oil prices are expected to come under growing pressure during the “seasonally, lower-demand second quarter.”

Oil prices receded after it reached a peak in late October, prompting many oil producers to call for cutbacks in supply ahead of Friday’s meeting.

The OPEC has been producing at the highest level in 25 years so as to meet increasing demand in the world market. Experts say that the bloc is currently pumping one million to 1.5 million bpd of surplus production over the existing target quota of 27 million bpd.

MNA/Xinhua

More Bangkok children face obesity

BANGKOK, 11 Dec — A recent survey has found a growing number of overweight children in the Thai capital, the *Bangkok Post* reported on Friday.

The study of 5,126 primary students in four public schools found 19 per cent of them were overweight, compared with 5.8 per cent recorded in 1990 and 13 per cent in 1996.

A third of those children risked getting diabetes, 65 per cent had higher-than-normal blood pressure and 30 per cent had higher blood pressure than that of a healthy adult, said Chutima Sirikulchayanon, head of the nutrition department of the Faculty of Public Health of Mahidol University, which conducted the survey.

The research team randomly picked 1,028 stu-

dents who were underweight, overweight and with standard weight for cholesterol checks and found 77 per cent had higher-than-normal cholesterol. Bad eating habits and lack of exercise were blamed for the youngsters’ overweight.

Parents interviewed for the survey said their children liked to eat high-fat food such as fried chicken and sausages and snacks. They did not like fruit and vegetables, did not exercise and spent most of their time watching television and playing computer games.

The findings underlined

those of a 2001 nationwide study which found 13.6 per cent of 9,000 primary children were obese, said Saengsoam Sinawat, director of the Public Health Ministry’s nutrition division. He said a study last year of 100,000 students across the country found 12 per cent were obese.

Thailand’s Public Health Ministry is now combating obesity among primary school students by helping teachers at 875 schools design weight-watch programmes for students, which aims to get them out of their sedentary habits and improve their diet. — MNA/Xinhua

IFI moves Hq to Singapore

SINGAPORE, 11 Dec — The International Federation of Interior Architects/Designers (IFI) will base its headquarters in Singapore for the next four years.

IFI, the first such world body to locate its headquarters in the city state, signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) here on Friday with the Singapore Government, according to a statement issued by the Ministry of Information, Communications and the Arts (MICA).

The statement said that IFI’s decision to partner the DesignSingapore Council, a department of MICA, reflects the common objective of expanding the contributions of interior architecture and design internationally.

“IFI is proud to have this partnership with DesignSingapore, which highlights the natural synergy and reinforces Singapore’s position as a significant global city, central to the future development of interior architecture and design,” said Young Baek Min, president of IFI.

IFI’s new headquarters in Singapore will host conferences and seminars, produce e-news and provide a new and enhanced interactive web site for over 35,000 members around the world. — MNA/Xinhua



Illegal hunting has driven the Sumatran rhino, seen here, the most endangered of all rhinoceros, to the verge of extinction in Indonesia prompting a last ditch effort to save the species. — INTERNET

Schroeder calls for strengthening UN

Tokyo, 11 Dec — The strengthening of the United Nations should be a top world priority in coming years, German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder said on Friday.

Schroeder, who addressed university students in Tokyo before returning to Germany, joins Japanese officials in lobbying for permanent seats for their countries on an expanded UN Security Council.

“The strengthening of the United Nations is one of the main issues in the international politics,” Schroeder told students at Sophia University. “This is the most important task that we have before us in the coming times.” The German leader also said that the five current permanent Security Council members — the United States, Russia, Britain, France and China — would be unlikely to veto UN reform if it is approved by the General Assembly. Schroeder, who arrived in Japan from China on Wednesday, has supported the Japanese stance that

new permanent members of an expanded Security Council should have the same veto rights as those who currently hold seats. An international panel on 30 November proposed two options to expand the Security Council from the current 15 members to 24 members. But neither option would add any new veto-wielding members.

One proposal from the panel would add six new permanent members — two from Asia, two from Africa, one from the Americas and one from Europe — as well as three non-permanent members elected for two-year terms. The other proposal would create a new tier of eight semi-permanent members chosen for four-year terms — two each from Asia, Africa, Europe and the Americas. It would also add one non-permanent seat. — MNA/AP

UN commends India’s “white revolution”

NEW YORK, 11 Dec — The United Nations has commended India’s “White Revolution”, saying a sharp increase in the production of milk has achieved twin goals of raising incomes of rural poor families and nutrition status of the people.

India’s milk production rose from around 30 million tons in 1980 to an estimated 87 million tons by 2003 and despite increasing population, availability per person rose from less than 50-kilo calories per day in 1980 to 80-kilo calories per day in 2000, a report on hunger by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) said.

The report forecasts that India’s dairy production will triple by 2020. “With government policies that facilitate rural credit and provide essential support services to promote milk production, the White Revolution will continue to play a significant role in reducing poverty and hunger.”

The increased availability of milk, it

emphasizes, “represents an important improvement in nutrition in a country where many people are vegetarian and depend on dairy products for most of the animal proteins in their diet”.

FAO estimates that increasing milk production has boosted the incomes of 80 to 100 million families, the vast majority of whom are marginal or small farmers whose plots are often too small to support their families and landless labourers who depend on common grazing lands and forests for fodder.

“More than 70 per cent of India’s milk is produced by households who own only one or two milk animals,” it said adding it is helping the rural poor.

MNA/PTI

Mexico shuts down two drug-rehabilitation centres

TIJUANA (Mexico), 11 Dec — Mexico shut down on Thursday two drug-rehabilitation centres aimed at helping US addicts, in a new crackdown after finding blood stains and handcuffs in two cells.

Mexican immigration authorities deported 22 US adults who were being treated in the two centres close to the coastal town of Ensenada near the border with California.

Another 55 minors from the centres were handed over to US Consulate authorities to be returned to their parents.

“In two cells we found closed-circuit television, handcuffs and blood

stains,” Francisco Javier Reynoso, head of the National Immigration Institute in the state of Baja California, told a news conference.

For us all this is sufficient to start an in depth investigation, to arrest the guilty and to start legal proceedings against them in Mexico because they lacked legal permits to operate in the country,” Reynoso said.

MNA/Reuters

SPORTS

Rangers romp to top of Scottish Premier League

GLASGOW, 12 Dec— Rangers romped to the top of the Scottish Premier League with a 3-0 win over Dundee on Saturday and were later paired with arch rivals Celtic in the Scottish Cup third round.

A penalty by Nacho Novo and a Dado Prso goal put Rangers 2-0 up before Bob Malcolm hit the third on 55 to take Rangers top. Celtic can regain the lead on Sunday when they visit Dunfermline.

The win sent Dundee to the bottom of the table as their city rivals Dundee United won beat Kilmarnock 3-0 at home thanks to a double from Jimmy McIntyre and another from Barry Robson.

In the battle of the former Rangers captains, Motherwell's Terry Butcher emerged victorious with a 2-0 home win over Richard Gough's Livingston.

John Robertson saw his new club Hearts draw 1-1 with old club Inverness Caledonian Thistle on his first return since quitting last month.— *MNA/Reuters*

Barca grasp late victory over Albacete

MADRID, 12 Dec— A superb late strike from Barcelona midfielder Xavi allowed the Primera Liga leaders to snatch a 2-1 win away to a determined Albacete on Saturday.

The Spanish international cracked a volley into the far corner from a metre outside the area just five minutes from time after a poor clearance from the Albacete defence.

The win put Barca 12 points clear at the top of the table, although their nearest rivals Real Madrid and Espanyol have yet to play this weekend.

Barcelona got off to a flying start when highly rated young midfielder

Andres Iniesta, who was born in the province of Albacete, put his side ahead with less than two minutes on the clock.

The Under-21 international dispossessed Albacete defender Francisco Pena as he tried to play the ball out of the area and then poked a sharp shot under keeper Ronald Gaspercic and inside the near post. But Barca eased up a little too soon and struggled to put together their usual fluent passing game as they found themselves under heavy pressure from the combative Albacete midfield.

Albacete went within a whisker of equalizing just before the half hour after they were gifted a chance when Barca fullback Damia lost his feet in the area, but keeper Victor Valdes produced a fantastic reaction save to scoop the ball clear. Valdes came to Barca's rescue once more at the start of the second half when he produced another great save to stop a fierce shot from Uruguayan striker Antonio Pacheco after a neat back-heel from midfielder David Sanchez.

Albacete upped the pressure in the next few minutes to force a succession of corners and would have drawn level but for desperate last-ditch defending from Barca fullback Carles Puyol.

Albacete finally got the goal they deserved when Gonzalez got the faintest of touches to direct an Antonio Pacheco free kick into the net midway through the half. Barca were on the ropes for the next 10 minutes and Puyol had to make a desperate clearance off the line to stop Pacheco.— *MNA/Reuters*



Spanish Davis Cup winner Rafael Nadal serves to Davis Cup teammate Carlos Moya (news) during their semi-final match at the Master Tennis Ciudad de Leon tournament, Leon, on 11 Dec, 2004.—INTERNET

Answers for yesterday's crossword puzzle

S	8	F	8	H	8	8	P	8	E	8	A
P	O	L	L	E	N	8	N	E	I	G	H
A	8	A	8	N	8	T	8	R	8	G	8
R	E	V	E	R	S	E	8	F	J	O	R
K	8	O	8	Y	8	N	8	E	8	N	8
L	O	U	D	8	M	A	T	C	H	8	8
E	8	R	8	C	8	C	8	T	8	C	8
8	8	8	C	H	A	I	R	8	B	O	A
S	8	D	8	A	8	O	8	D	8	U	8
C	R	O	W	N	8	U	N	E	A	R	T
O	8	V	8	C	8	S	8	C	8	T	8
O	M	E	L	E	T	8	C	A	R	E	R
P	8	R	8	L	8	8	8	Y	8	D	8

Kuwait beats Saudi Arabia 2-1 in Gulf Cup match

KUWAIT, 12 Dec— Kuwaiti soccer team beat Saudi Arabia 2-1 in their match on the second day of competitions of the 17th Arab Gulf Football Tournament in Doha on Saturday.

Saudi player Yasser Qahtani opened the scoring four minutes into the game and Kuwait's Musaied Nida levelled with a free kick in the 24th minute of the second half.

— *MNA/Xinhua*

Bundesliga match reports

FRANKFURT, 12 Dec— Brief reports of Bundesliga soccer matches played on Saturday:

VfL Bochum 1 — Hamburg SV 2

Hamburg continued their climb up the table thanks to two well-taken goals in the first half. Sergej Barbarez got the first, a far post header, and Colin Benjamin converted David Jarolim's perfect cross for the second. Bochum pulled one back seven minutes from time through Tommy Bechmann.

Hanover 96 0 — Hertha Berlin 1

Hertha became only the second team in 11 games to beat Hanover and they needed a brilliant goal to do it.

Arne Friedrich, called up this week for Germany's Asian tour, brought the ball forward and passed to Nando Rafael who controlled with his chest, turned and beat the keeper with a precise shot.

Hansa Rostock 1 — Borussia Dortmund 1

Rostock brought an extraordinary run to an end as they avoided defeat at home for the first time this season. They did have hopes of victory when Markus Allback headed in from a Thomas

Rasmussen free kick after 32 minutes but Dortmund levelled five minutes before the break through Sebastian Kehl.

FSV Mainz 0 — FC Nuremberg 1

Nuremberg, who did well to claim a 2-2 draw at home to Bayern Munich last weekend, maintained their good form despite the absence of top scorer Marek Mintal. Markus Schroth got the goal, heading in a free kick from Ivica Banovic in the 10th minute.

Werder Bremen 1 — Kaiserslautern 1

Werder looked tired after their Champions League win over Valencia in mid-week and they only just managed to scrape a draw that was enough to take them back up to fourth place.

The champions fell behind when Carsten Jancker headed in after 49 minutes but a wonderful chip from Ivan Klasnic brought them the equalizer 10 minutes later.

Werder's Paul Stalteri was sent off a minute from time for a second booking.

— *MNA/Reuters*

Everton chalk up first derby win in five years

LONDON, 12 Dec— Everton ended their five-year wait for a Merseyside derby win over Liverpool on Saturday as Lee Carsley grabbed the only goal of the game at Goodison Park.

A tightly-contested 200th derby was evenly balanced until Carsley's third goal in six games, a 25-metre side-foot past Chris Kirkland, settled matters.

The win, which hoisted Everton into second place in the table for a day at least, was fully deserved, though Liverpool were left to rue some missed chances that fell to striker Neil Mellor and skipper Steven Gerrard.

Anxious to win the battle in what immediately became a packed midfield, both sides played with a lone striker up front, Marcus Bent for the hosts and Mellor for Liverpool.

The predictable outcome was that it took 22 minutes to create the first scoring chance when Bent chipped in a cross and Australian midfielder Tim Cahill missed a sitter, heading wide from six metres with Kirkland at his mercy. Mellor was even closer 10 minutes later when he connected with Gerrard's free kick and saw his far-post header blocked by keeper Nigel Martyn.

Liverpool's central defender Sami Hyypia, in superb form at the back, was the next to try his luck up front with a curling shot over Martyn's crossbar.

Everton kept probing with Thomas Gravesen down the middle and Kevin Kilbane on the flank, while Gerrard, whose brilliant midweek goal against Olympiakos booked Liverpool into the Champions League knockout round, took on a playmaking role behind Mellor.

Under pressure for most of the first half, Liverpool initially showed more bite after the break but failed to conjure up a killer final ball and were punished by Carsley's strike.

The Everton midfielder pounced with a swerving shot, teed up by Leon Osman, after Liverpool failed to make a clearance.

Gerrard missed a chance to equalize five minutes later with a powerful drive, similar to the scoring one against Olympiakos, but which this time flew just wide of the right-hand post.

— *MNA/Reuters*



Everton celebrate after Lee Carsley scored in their 1-0 win over city rivals Liverpool. Carsley was Everton's hero as David Moyes's side emerged from the 200th Merseyside derby with a victory that lifted them into an unlikely second place in the Premiership.—INTERNET

Philippine Govt pays \$15,000 to save Filipino in Riyadh

MANILA, 12 Dec — A Filipino worker was spared from beheading and released from prison in Saudi Arabia after the government raised the 15,000 US dollars (840,000 pesos) "blood money" needed in exchange for his release, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said Saturday.

According to the DFA, Filipino Primo Gasmen was imprisoned and put on death row in 1999 for the murder of a Nepali co-worker, whom he said he stabbed to death for self-defence.

Quoting his sworn statement, the DFA said that his Nepali co-worker offered to write off his debt of 1,500 Saudi Riyals in exchange for sexual favours.

Gasmen refused the offer, which enraged the Nepali to attempt to stab him, but Gasman overpowered and killed him in the struggle, it said.

The Philippine embassies in Riyadh and New Delhi and the Philippine consulate in Nepal initiated negotiations for the settlement of the case through the payment of blood money and execution of an "act of forgiveness" on the part of Gasmen, the DFA said.

As the result of the negotiations, the Riyadh Grand Court assured the Philippine Embassy that upon completion of all the necessary clearances and documentation, Gasmen would be repatriated before the end of the year.

Foreign Affairs Secretary Alberto Romulo instructed the Philippine Embassy in Riyadh to extend all possible assistance to arrange for Gasmen's repatriation. — MNA/Xinhua

Japan to take tighter measures on foreigners entering country

TOKYO, 12 Dec — A government task force proposed on Friday that Japan fingerprint and photograph foreigners entering the country as part of steps to prevent terrorism.

It also called for airline pilots and sea captains to be required to submit crew and passenger lists to authorities and for foreign hotel guests to be obliged to give their nationality and passport number when registering.

The government aims to submit legislation to Parliament in 2006, Kyodo news agency said. Critics say the tighter measures might infringe on foreigners' human rights. The government's top spokesman said on Friday that such concerns would be taken into account but that preventing terrorist attacks took precedence.

"These measures are purely to prevent terrorist acts. We will give consideration to human rights, but want to implement

them," Chief Cabinet Secretary Hiroyuki Hosoda told a news conference.

Hosoda said the government also planned to put sky marshals, or armed police officers, aboard commercial flights to prevent hijackings.

He gave no details of the plan, but Kyodo said the marshals would mainly be aboard flights to and from the United States. The measure was expected to be implemented soon.

Japan, which sent about 550 troops to Iraq for reconstruction and humanitarian work, has been on heightened security since late 2003 when the government decided to go ahead with the mission.

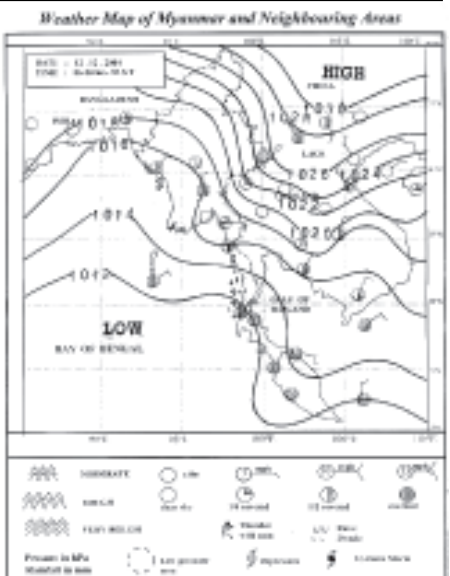
Tokyo decided on Thursday to extend the Iraq mission for another year. Media reported threats by al-Qaeda to strike Japan if it sent troops to Iraq. Since then, security has been tightened at key locations in Japan including nuclear power plants, government facilities and US military bases. — MNA/Reuters

China willing to improve cooperation with African countries

BEIJING, 12 Dec — Chinese Vice-Premier Huang Ju said here Friday that China is willing to promote relations with African countries through cooperation in telecommunication and trade.

"The Chinese Government attaches great importance to the development of telecommunication industry and we will continue to encourage Chinese telecom enterprises to further mutual beneficial cooperation with African countries," Huang told a delegation of ministers and senior officials of the telecommunication departments from nine African countries.

The delegation was in China attending a China-Africa ministerial seminar on telecommunication development. "As developing countries, we are complementary in many fields and we also share many common interests," Huang said. He said he hopes the two sides will continue to improve communication and cooperation to further China-African relations. — MNA/Xinhua



WEATHER

Sunday, 12 December, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been generally fair in the whole country. Night temperatures were (3°C) above normal in Rakhine State, Magway and Taninthayi Divisions, (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Chin, Shan and Kayah States and Bago Division, (5°C) below normal in Kayah State and Yangon Division and about normal in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant night temperatures were Namsam (1°C), Pyin Oo Lwin (6°C) and Mindat (7°C).

Maximum temperature on 11-12-2004 was 92°F. Minimum temperature on 12-12-2004 was 56°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 12-12-2004 was 74%. Total sunshine hours on 11-12-2004 was (8.0) hours approx. Rainfall on 12-12-2004 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 10 mph from Northeast at (14:40) hours MST on 11-12-2004.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 13-12-2004: Except for the possibility of isolated light rain in Taninthayi Division, weather will be generally fair in the whole country. Degree of certainty is (40%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Possibility of isolated light rain in Southern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 13-12-2004: Fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 13-12-2004: Fair weather.

Vietnam may dissolve Pacific Airlines

HANOI, 12 Dec — The Vietnamese Government has just asked the management board of Pacific Airlines, the first shareholding company in the country's aviation industry, to restructure the firm's operation, including by issuing more shares or dissolving it.

The government's instruction was issued because Pacific Airlines has suffered losses for years, with the total amounting to some nearly 13.7 mil-

lion US dollars, according to local newspaper *Liberation Saigon* on Friday.

Pacific Airlines was established in December 1990 with seven corporate shareholders, namely the national flag carrier Vietnam Airlines, and six other local enterprises. It offers domestic flights to Vietnam's major cities, and international ones to Taiwan and Hong Kong.

The airlines has a six-aircraft fleet, including

two Airbus A-321s, one Airbus A-320, one Airbus A-310, one McDonnell Douglas MD-82 and one Boeing 737-800.

Pacific Airlines' major shareholder, Vietnam Airlines, currently operates 20 direct international routes and three indirect ones. It plans to carry roughly five million passengers and 85,000 tons of cargoes, and gain revenues of 713.4 million US dollars this year.

— MNA/Xinhua



Monday, December 13

View on today:

7:00 am

1. Recitation of Parittas by Mingun Sayadaw

7:25 am

2. To be healthy exercise

7:30 am

3. Morning news

7:40 am

4. Nice and sweet song

7:55 am

5. Song of national races

8:05 am

6. Cute little dancers

8:15 am

7. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:30 am

8. International news

8:45 am

9. Grammar made easy

4:00 pm

1. Martial song

4:15 pm

2. Songs to uphold National Spirit

4:30 pm

3. Practice in Reading

4:45 pm

4. Musical programme

5:00 pm

5. အဝေးသင်တန်းသို့လုပ်သောရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ - ဒုတိယပုဒ် (ဓာတုဗေဒ၊ ရူပဗေဒ၊ သတ္တဗေဒအထူးပြုအားလုံး) (ဓာတုဗေဒ)

5:15 pm

6. Dace Variety

5:30 pm

7. ဓားသရုပ်ဖော်အစီအစဉ်

5:40 pm

8. Song and dance of national races

5:50 pm

9. လက်ဆွဲကမ်းစပ်ဂီတတေး

5:55 pm

10. Musical programme

(The Radio Myanmar Modern Music Troupe)

6:05 pm

11. Discovery

6:10 pm

12. နိုင်ငံခြားကားသွန်းဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ဓမ္မာစင်္ဂဗိဇ္ဇန" (အပိုင်း-၄၉)

6:30 pm

13. Evening news

7:00 pm

14. Weather report

7:05 pm

15. Musical programme

7:15 pm

16. Industrial Achievement

7:30 pm

17. Marvels of the Shwedagon Pagoda

8:00 pm

19. News

20. International news

21. Weather report

22. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ

"သစ္စာမရှိသူ" (အပိုင်း-၂၀)

23. The next day's programme

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



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and party pose documentary photo with National Literary Award winners.— MNA

Literati urged to make efforts to deter penetration of alien culture

Secretary-1 attends prize-presentation to National Literary Award winners

YANGON, 12 Dec — The prize-presentation ceremony for Life-long National Literary Award, National Literary Award, Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award, the 15th National Motto Literary and Photo Competitions (2003) was held at the National Theatre on Myoma Kyaung Street here this afternoon, with an address by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein. The ceremony was organized by the Ministry of Information.

It was also attended by Daw Khin Khin Win, wife of the Secretary-1, Dr Daw Tin Lin Myint, wife of SPDC member Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Yangon Division PDC Chairman Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, ministers, the chief justice, the attorney general, the chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board, deputy ministers, senior military officers, officials of the SPDC office, departmental heads, members of the scrutinizing committees for the literary awards, literati and others.

Daw San San Yin of Myanma Radio and Television acted as master of ceremonies and Daw Khin Moe U of MRTV as co-MC.

Speaking on the occasion, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein said at a time when the State is doing all it can to build up a peaceful, modern and developed nation, it is also striving not only for physical infrastructural development of the country but also for enhancement of national literature for mental development of the people.

In particular, the government is taking steps towards the development of national literature, the taproot of national culture. To improve the quality of national literature, the State always values the might of literature which stimulates the people.

National literature permeates the people with good knowledge and national and patriotic spirit that preserve national character.

Since antiquity, Myanmar people have been enjoying good cultural heritage including national literature. Therefore, we must treasure and preserve our national literature, which is the invaluable legacy of our ancestors, so that it cannot disappear, the Secretary-1 said.

(see page 9)



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein presents Life-long National Literary Award to writer Htay Maung.— MNA

Secretary-1 attends dinner in honour of literary award winners

YANGON, 12 Dec — Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein attended a dinner hosted by Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan in honour of the winners of Life Long National Literary Award, National Literary Award, Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award and 15th National motto, literary and photo award and members of the prize scrutinizing committee at 7 pm today at Karaweik Palace Hotel.

It was also attended by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, the ministers, deputy ministers, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, officials of the State Peace and Development Council office, departmental officials, literati, Chairman and officials of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association, literary award winners, members of the prize scrutinizing committee and guests.

After the dinner, Lt-Gen Thein Sein cordially greeted the literati and award winners.

MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein cordially converses with literati and literary award winners at the dinner hosted by Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan.— MNA