

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Volume XII, Number 242

3rd Waxing of Nadaw 1366 ME

Tuesday, 14 December

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



Sri Lankan delegation led by Prime Minister Mr Mahinda Rajapakse and wife view the sun set of Mandalay from Mandalay Hill. —MNA

Sri Lankan PM Mr Mahinda Rajapakse and Madame Shiranthi Rajapakse tour Bagan, Mandalay

YANGON, 13 Dec— Prime Minister of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka Mr Mahinda Rajapakse and Madame Shiranthi Rajapakse, currently here, at the invitation of Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win, accompanied by Deputy Minister for Education U Myo Nyunt and wife, Ambassador of Sri Lanka Mr DMM Ranaraja and wife and officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, visited ancient pagodas in Bagan archaeological site yesterday.

Visiting Prime Minister Mr Mahinda Rajapakse and Madame Shiranthi Rajapakse and party arrived at NyaungU Airport at 9.25 am. They were welcomed by Chairman of Magway Division Peace and Development Council Col Phone Maw Shwe and wife Daw San San Myint, heads of department, senior military officers, Chairman of NyaungU District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Teza and members.

Sri Lankan Prime Minister and wife and party visited Shwezigon Pagoda. They offered flowers, water and lights at the pagoda.

The Prime Minister signed in the visitors' book at the office of the Pagoda Board of Trustees.

The pagoda board of trustees presented the picture of the pagoda. The Prime Minister and wife and party went round the pagoda and posed for the documentary photos.

The Prime Minister and party visited Ananda Pagoda built by King Kyansittha in 1091 AD and offered flowers to it. They then observed architectural design of Bagan period, murals, wooden and bronze sculptures, ancient artifacts and structures.

The visiting Prime Minister signed in the visitors' book. They proceeded to Lacquerware College where they were welcomed by Principal U Thauang Lin and officials. The visiting Prime Minister and party were conducted round the college.

The Prime Minister and party observed lacquerware of Bagan period and those of (See page 8)



Prime Minister of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka Mr Mahinda Rajapakse and wife and the Sri Lankan delegation visit Bagan Archaeological Museum in Bagan. —MNA

INSIDE

With the inspiration and guidance of the Head of State, scientifically tested medicinal plants and their therapeutic uses on 13 commonly occurring ailments and diseases in Myanmar had been compiled and published.

PROFESSOR DR PAING SOE
Page (7) DEPARTMENT OF MEDICAL RESEARCH

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

PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 14 December, 2004

Raise educational standard, foundation of discipline-flourishing democracy

Peace and stability, strong national economy and higher educational standard of the entire national people are the sine qua non for firmly building a peaceful, developed and discipline-flourishing democracy. Moreover, new generation youths are human resources that are capable of creating a better society.

Therefore, the Government of the Union of Myanmar is investing an astronomical amount of money in educational development work. And thanks to the special four-year national education promotion project and the 30-year educational plan, highly-qualified are being continuously turned out.

The closing ceremony of the Special Refresher Course No 6 for the faculty members of universities and colleges was held at the Central Institute of Civil Service (Phaunggyi) in Hlegu Township, Yangon Division, on 12 December and it was attended by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, also Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee. In his address on the occasion, the Secretary-1 said that it was necessary to sharpen the national awareness of new generation youths and train them in such a way that they would be well prepared for handling future challenges and turning them into opportunities that could promote national interests.

The youths today have the ability to see into the future and are ready to safeguard national prestige and interests.

Therefore, they should be trained to be able to tackle various challenges posed by the rapid-changing world. Not only that, it is necessary to broaden their horizons to be able to see everything clearly in their right perspective. Only with such youths will the Union of Myanmar be able to stand shoulder to shoulder with other nations of the world.

The onus is on all teachers including those from universities and colleges to successfully translate the national education promotion projects and the long-term educational plan into reality.

Therefore, we would like to call on them to execute their duty of raising the educational standard of the entire nation with full national spirit.

Self-reliant library opened in Chauk Township

YANGON, 13 Dec — Duwin self-reliant library was opened in Yedwin Village, Chauk Township on 13 December. Township Peace and Development Council Chairman U Thiha, Head of Township Police Force Police Captain Chit Swe, Head of Township Information and Public Relations Department U Myint Than and Village PDC Chairman U Soe Win formally opened the ceremony by cutting a ribbon.

Head of Township IPRD U Myint Than delivered a speech and well-wishers donated 177 books on various subjects to Chairman of the Library Supervisory Committee U Soe Win. Later, the chairman of the Village PDC expressed thanks to the book donors for their valuable donations. — MNA

People's Desire

- * Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views
- * Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of the State and progress of the nation
- * Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State
- * Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy

Hoteliers to be provided with assistance

YANGON, 13 Dec — The Ministry of Hotels and Tourism will provide assistance to the hoteliers, said Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs, and Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Thein Zaw this morning at the meeting related to hotel projects held at the ministry.

He also urged hoteliers to implement the projects for timely completion.

At the meeting, the hoteliers who are implementing the hotel projects in Ngapali and Ngwesaung beaches also reported on requirements for their projects.

The minister yesterday arrived at Bagan NyaungU and inspected progress of the construction of the airport building. Next, the minister also inspected

Bagan Nanmyint Tower project being implemented by Htoo Trading Co.

He urged the officials concerned to meet the target date.

During his tour, Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw also met with staff of Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications in Chauk and Seikphyu townships.

He instructed officials concerned to attend to the needs for the extension of phone lines and upgrading tasks.

MNA

Poem:

Organized Without Losing East Stance

- * If South-East Asia is united
With vision blurred,
Not cheerful, angered
Feeling worried
That's the West.
- * Asian Continent is united
If that development is seen
Feeling of unease grows
That's the West.
- * Not cheerful, unfresh
Whenever there's remorse
Use audio-visual media profusely
Throw sand in the public face
That's the West.
- * Smileless, mind upset
Whatever he does, stay unwavering
Steadfastly in the East stance
With mutual, reciprocal help
For regional and world well-being
Toward that end we're striving
That's Our Asia.

Po Wa (Trs)



Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw addresses the meeting on providing assistance to hoteliers.—MNA

Minister inspects rural development tasks in Taikkyi Tsp

YANGON, 13 Dec — Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt arrived at the worksite of Aphyauk-Zakagyi road section linking with rural and urban areas implemented by Taikkyi Township Development Affairs Committee yesterday morning. After hearing reports of officials the minister instructed them and inspected paving the gravel road. Next, the minister inspected construction of Uto wooden bridge and instructed the officials to maintain it to endure in the long run.

Afterwards, the minister and party heard reports on rural development tasks presented by responsible officials. In



Minister Col Thein Nyunt inspects rural development tasks in Taikkyi Township.—MNA

response to the reports, the minister instructed them to cooperate in rural development tasks.

Next, the minister inspected self-reliance rural telephone exchange in Zakagyi village. In the

afternoon, he met with members of Taikkyi Township USDA and social organizations. Members reported on arrangements to be made for upgrading of roads, water supply and regional de-

velopment tasks. Regarding the reports, the minister made suggestions to them and instructed to join hand with locals to carry out rural development tasks.

MNA

Indonesian President calls for healthy lifestyle

JAKARTA, 12 Dec— President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono called on the nation to avoid drugs, free sex and smoking as part of a healthy lifestyle campaign he launched on Friday.

"Let's make a healthy life part of our lifestyle," the President was quoted by the Indonesian English daily *The Jakarta Post* on Saturday as saying at the commemoration of the National Health Day held at the Prambanan Hindu temple complex east of Yogyakarta Province.

"A healthy life can be achieved through regular exercise, good nutrition, breast feeding for infants, the use of clean water, good sanitation, and by staying away from narcotics, free sex and smoking," Susilo said.

While underscoring the danger of smoking to health, the President looked around and asked if there were any cigarette producers in the audience.

"Are there any representatives of Gudang Garam, Djarum and Sampoerna

with us here?" Susilo, who is a non-smoker, asked, to the laughter of the audience, referring to the country's major cigarette makers.

Excise collected from cigarette companies contributes around 25 trillion rupiah (2.7 billion US dollars) to state revenues annually. The National Health Day falls on November 12, but this year's commemoration took place on Friday due to the President's busy schedule that included overseas trips to Santiago and Vientiane to attend the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation and Association of South-East Asian Nations summits.

In his speech, Susilo also promised to build more health centres in remote and poor areas to make health care more accessible to the needy. —MNA/Xinhua

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Teacher instructs pupils at a Singapore school on how to take their temperatures on 13 Dec, 2004. — INTERNET

Survey shows foreign businesses satisfied with post-WTO China

SHANGHAI, 12 Dec—A recent survey shows 93 per cent of foreign businesses in Shanghai are satisfied with China's performance following its entry into the World Trade Organization three years ago.

Of the 1,000 foreign-invested companies surveyed, 86 per cent said they are optimistic about China's investment and trade environment in the coming two years, and more than 95 per cent said they would either expand their China operations or maintain their present size.

The survey, conducted by Shanghai WTO Affairs

Consulting Centre in collaboration with Shanghai Society of International Trade, was based on a questionnaire on post-WTO China.

Eleven per cent of the respondents gave China very high scores — over 90 points with grades from zero to 100 — for its overall performance over the past three years. Twenty-

seven per cent gave grades between 80 and 89 and 42 per cent graded the country between 70 and 79.

Less than 4 per cent of the companies surveyed gave China failing grades below 60, with comments that the country has a lot to improve to meet its commitments to the world trade conglomerate.

For 49 per cent of the

companies surveyed, the most essential issue for China to live up to its WTO commitment is to improve transparency. Other issues concerning their interests include enhancing protection of intellectual property rights and easier market access for foreign companies, according to the survey.

MNA/Xinhua

400 litres of solution-form cocaine seized in HK

HONG KONG, 12 Dec—Police seized 400 litres of suspected solution-form cocaine and arrested four men on a fish raft in Sai Kung of Hong Kong's New Territories early Friday morning.

Investigations suggest that by successfully converting the 400-litre solution into powder-form cocaine, a total of 20 kilos, valued at about four million HK dollars (512,820 US dollars), could be made available for sale, according to a police report released Friday.

It was estimated that a profit of 12 million HK dollars could be made if it was sold on the market.

Four men — three Hong Kong citizens and one South American, aged 41 to 46 — were arrested. Initial investigations indicate that the cocaine was smuggled into Hong Kong from South America. —MNA/Xinhua

HK to set up four research, development centres

HONG KONG, 12 Dec— Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government will set up four research and development centres, which will also subsume research and development (R&D) works in five technology areas under the Applied Science & Tech-

nology Research Institute development plan. According to a government Press release Friday, Hong Kong Commissioner for Innovation Technology Anthony Wong said the proposal, endorsed by the Steering Committee on Innovation & Technology Thursday, follows a pub-

lic consultation exercise.

Wong said under the new strategy, R&D centres for automotive parts and accessory systems, logistics and supply chain management enabling technologies, textile and clothing, and nanotechnology and advanced materials will be set up. —MNA/Xinhua



Wounded Iraqi Ministry of Education employees rest in Baghdad's Yarmouk hospital on 11 Dec, 2004, after guerillas opened fire on their bus in the capital's Ghazaliyah district on early Saturday. —INTERNET

1,289 members of US military killed since beginning of Iraq war

WASHINGTON, 12 Dec—As of Sunday, 12 December, 2004, at least 1,289 members of the US military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,007 died as a result of hostile action, the Defence Department said. The figures include three military civilians.

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

The British military has reported 74 deaths; Italy, 19; Poland, 13; Spain, 11; Ukraine, nine; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary and Latvia one death each. Since 1 May, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,151 US military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes

at least 898 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers. The latest deaths reported by the military:

A US Marine was killed Sunday in action in Anbar province.

A US soldier was killed Saturday by a roadside bomb in. The latest identifications reported by the military:

Army Chief Warrant Officer Patrick D Leach, 39, Rock Hill, SC, and Army 1st Lt Andrew C Shields, 25, Campobello, SC.

Internet

Iraq trucks to remain unprotected

WASHINGTON, 12 Dec— Some US military vehicles in Iraq may not get armour needed to survive guerilla attacks until summer, the Hampton Roads, Va, Daily Press reported Sunday.

The upgrade would

come several months after the next big push to rotate fresh troops into Iraq.

A House Armed Services Committee report said the installation of high-quality ballistic-tested armour on Humvees in Iraq was more than three-

quarters completed by late last week, but armour for military supply trucks has lagged far behind, with only 15 percent having the armour. The report said the remaining Humvees should be outfitted by March. —Internet

Pakistan spends \$650m on stabilizing rupee

ISLAMABAD, 12 Dec— The Pakistani Government has spent 650 million US dollars from its foreign currency reserves in the past few weeks to stabilize rupee and avoid pressure on exchange rate in the wake of unprecedented hike in oil prices, *The Nation* newspaper reported Saturday.

Unnamed sources were quoted as saying that Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves fell to 11.711 billion dollars on 4 December from 11.987 billion dollars on 27 November, registering a significant decline of 276 million dollars just within a week.

To kill two birds with one stone, the State Bank of Pakistan intervened into the situation rightly for which it had to pay the cost of 650 million dollars from reserves to stabilize rupee in the recent past and also helped the country for continuation of capping of oil prices.

"The State Bank of Pakistan has given sacrifice of 650 million dollars

for providing stability to rupee which evaporated pressures on exchange rate," a high-level official told the paper Friday.

The rupee against dollar touched the level 63 rupees per dollar rate two months back. The timely decision by the State Bank of Pakistan allowing oil companies to make payments for oil import in rupees instead of dollars also helped in reducing pressures on it.

The rupee gained 2.7 percent value in November 2004, rising to 59.70 rupees per dollar at the end of last month from 61.37 rupees at the end of October.

MNA/Xinhua

HK launches Web Care Campaign

HONG KONG, 12 Dec— The Web Care Campaign 2005 organized by the Internet Professionals Association (iProA) was launched here Saturday.

As introduced, targets of this year's campaign are to organize Internet training classes for 3,000 individuals, and to recruit more organizations to participate in the Web Care Award so as to raise the number of web sites eligible for the award to 200.

The campaign also aims to enlist 33 high schools in School Web Care so that more parents can learn how to access the Internet. School Web Care is also in the hope of enhancing communication between members at the same time.

MNA/Xinhua

Mastermind of UN workers kidnapping arrested in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 12 Dec— Authorities in Pakistan said Saturday that Jaishul Muslimeen head Syed Akbar Agha, who masterminded last month's kidnapping of three UN election workers in Afghanistan, has been arrested in Pakistan's port city of Karachi.

A report of the local Geo Television said that Pakistani Information Minister Sheikh Rashid confirmed Agha's arrest and said he is being questioned and has not been handed over to the Afghan Government.

Some of his former Afghan colleagues who quit Jaishul Muslimeen after accusing Agha of pocketing 1.5 million US dollars in ransom in return for the sudden release of three foreign hostages claimed their ex-boss was picked up by Pakistani intelligence officers from a Karachi home last Friday.

MNA/Xinhua

Six Army reservists court-martialed for scrounging equipment in Iraq

COLUMBUS, 12 Dec — At a time when some US troops in Iraq are complaining they have to scrounge for equipment, six Ohio-based reservists were court-martialed for taking Army vehicles abandoned in Kuwait by other units so they could carry out their own unit's mission to Iraq.

The soldiers say they needed the vehicles, and parts stripped from one, to deliver fuel to Iraq, but

their former battalion commander said Sunday the troops should at least have returned the vehicles

to their original units.

Members of the 656th Transportation Company based in Springfield, west of Columbus, said they needed the equipment to deliver fuel that was needed by US forces in Iraq for everything from helicopters to tanks.

The reservists took two tractor-trailers and stripped parts from a five-ton truck that had been abandoned in Kuwait by other units that had already moved into Iraq, one of the reservists, Darrell Birt of Columbus, told The Associated Press on Sunday. — Internet



The Army is seeking more production of the most fully armour-protected 'Humvee' military vehicles, defence officials said on 10 Dec, 2004, after a soldier's complaint to Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld that troops had to use scrap metal to protect vehicles in Iraq. —INTERNET

ဝက်ဟွမ်အား ခေတ်ကျော်သွား

Guangdong's GDP to top two trillion yuan in 2006

GUANGZHOU, 12 Dec— The gross domestic product (GDP) of Guangdong Province, one of China's economic powerhouses, is expected to reach two trillion yuan (241.83 billion US dollars) at the end of 2006, double that of 2000, governor Huang Huahua said recently.

Huang said that Guangdong has seen a new surge of economic growth since 2003. The province's GDP for the first 10 months of this year totalled 1.27 trillion yuan, a rise of 14.5 per cent year on year. The total GDP for the whole year of 2004 is expected to exceed 1.6 trillion yuan (193.47 billion US dollars).

Huang made the remarks when speaking about Guangdong's economic

development during a recent visit to the Zhongshan University. This is four years ahead of the original target given Guangdong's GDP hit two trillion yuan in 2006, Huang said.

According to the original target set by the provincial government, the GDP is to reach two trillion yuan and the per capita GDP to hit approximately 3,450 US dollars by 2010, double that of 2000. — MNA/Xinhua



Women dressed in traditional Laotian costumes welcome drivers from Thailand upon their arrival in Vientiane after they crossed the Friendship Bridge from Thailand to Laos recently. —INTERNET

Two US soldiers killed in Iraq fighting

BAGHDAD, 12 Dec— A US Marine was killed in Iraq's volatile Anbar Province Sunday and another soldier died in a roadside bombing, while suicide car bombers hit American military vehicles west and north of the capital, killing three attackers but causing no coalition casualties.

Also Sunday, guerrillas fired mortars and rocket-propelled grenades at Iraqi National Guardsmen in downtown Baghdad as part of a campaign to derail next month's nationwide elections and target Iraqi forces who collaborate with US-led troops. There were no casualties reported. A day earlier guerrilla attacks left three senior Iraqi police officers dead.

The US military said in a statement that a Marine assigned to the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force was killed in action Sunday "while conducting security and stabilization operations" in Anbar province, a vast region comprising the battleground cities of Fallujah and Ramadi west of Baghdad. The Marine was the second to die in combat in two days in Anbar.

Meanwhile, a roadside bomb killed a Taskforce Baghdad soldier in the capital's northern suburbs and wounded three other troops Saturday, the military said. Fourteen troops were wounded in separate attacks in northern Iraq, including a car bomb ambush in the northern city of Mosul that wounded eight. —Internet

Don't smoke

China's foreign trade mix changes for better

BEIJING, 13 Dec— Though China's average trade volume per capita remains lower than that of developed nation, the country's foreign trade structure has keep improving.

"In the past 20-plus years, China's foreign trade has experienced three stages with textiles, mechanical and electronic products and finally hi-tech products as the country's major supports," said Chai Haitao, a researcher with the Ministry of Commerce, at a forum last week.

Government statistics show in the 1980s, textile products contributed to 61 per cent of the exports increase. In the 1990s, 50 per cent of the exports increase came from traditional mechanical and electronic products, which now account for over 54 per cent of China's total export volume.

"In the past three years, hi-tech goods represented by information technology have shown growing vitality in the coun-

try's imports and exports," Chai acknowledged.

Ministry of Commerce statistics show that the growth rate of hi-tech exports has reached 52 per cent this year, 17 percentage points higher than the increase of China's total imports. Hi-tech products account for 27.4 per cent of total exports. Exports of laptops, mobile telecommunication equipment, and integrated circuits have grown by 70-90 per cent this year.

China's exports were mainly in general trade for a long time. But in recent years, the rise of processing trade has changed the trade mix, noted Chai. Processing trade has amounted to 55 per cent of China's total exports and 39 per cent of total imports. — MNA/Xinhua

Chinese V-P calls for sound construction of Qinghai-Tibet rail way

BEIJING, 13 Dec — Various government departments and construction units should make concerted efforts to ensure construction safety and quality in the Qinghai-Tibet railway, Chinese Vice-Premier Zeng Peiyan said at a recent State Council meeting.

"The Year 2005 will be significant for the railway construction, as it matters great much to the completion of the entire project," Zeng said after listening to a report on building the railway.

China launched the Qinghai-Tibet plateau railway project in 2001.

With a total investment of 26.2 billion yuan (3.16 billion US dollars), the railway is scheduled to be put into operation in 2007.

So far, the main body of roadbed, bridges, culverts and tunnels have

been roughly completed, and related housing, electric power and telecommunications facilities have been launched, Zeng said.

"The railway is expected to be completed ahead of schedule," he said.

Till this month, 738 kilometres of track has been laid, and it has extended to Gulu Town in Nagqu County in northern Tibet. The 1,142-kilometre line runs at an average altitude of over 4,000 metres.

MNA/Xinhua

Russian Defence Minister starts China visit

BEIJING, 13 Dec— Russian Defence Minister Sergei Ivanov arrived here Sunday night for a four-day visit to China.

During his stay in Beijing, Ivanov will meet with Chinese leaders, especially top military officers. Besides Beijing, he is also scheduled to visit Sanya, a seaside resort on the southern tip of Hainan Province, south China.

Ivanov is here as guest of Chinese Defence Minister Cao Gangchuan, who is also vice-chairman of the Central Military Commission and state councillor.

MNA/Xinhua



A US soldier is silhouetted while on patrol at dusk in Iraq on 12 Dec, 2004.—INTERNET

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China, Thailand work out new anti-AIDS herbal drug

BEIJING, 13 Dec— In a major breakthrough, Chinese and Thai scientists have jointly developed a new anti-AIDS herbal drug that has proven effective in 89 per cent of the patients in a recent clinical trial, the state media reported on Sunday.

The compound "SH", a herbal formula, was developed by the Kunming Institute of Botany of the Chinese Academy of Sciences in collaboration with Thai experts.

The Thai Ministry of Public Health has approved the drug imported into Thailand on a long-term basis, Xinhua news agency quoted a source with the institute based in Kunming, capital of southwest China's Yunnan Province as saying.

The clinical trial has been conducted by Thai hospitals on 120 HIV-positive patients, said Gan Fanyuan, a specialist with the botany institute.

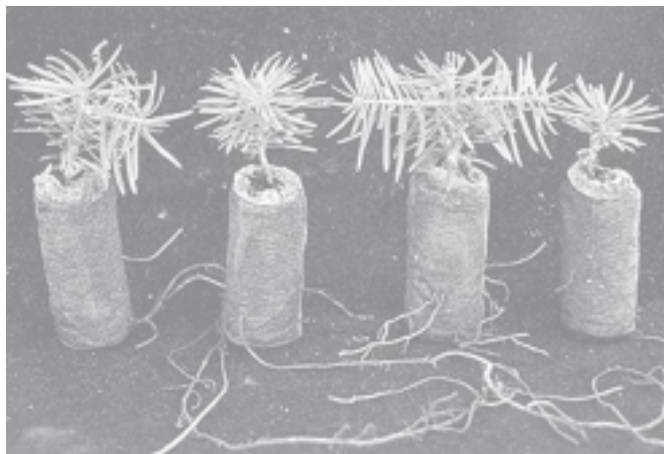
The two countries are negotiating the details of China exporting the herb to Thailand as the raw material to mass produce the new drug. China has also reached deals with the United States and Nigeria, two potential importers of the new formula, Gan said.

He noted the drug was a

major breakthrough in Sino-Thai cooperation in traditional Chinese medicine.

"It'll play an important role in the global fight against HIV/AIDS and will popularize Chinese herbal medicine around the world," Gan said.

According to Gan, the practice of traditional Chinese medicine became legalized in Thailand in 1999 and the two countries have carried out extensive cooperation in the field ever since. — MNA/Xinhua



Splitting tiny Nordmann fir tree shoots, measuring only 0.2 millimetre, in two, researchers freeze one half and cultivate the other, nurturing it in a sterile incubator and then in a greenhouse.—INTERNET

US soldier admits to killing severely wounded Iraqi teenager

BAGHDAD, 12 Dec— A US soldier pleaded guilty to killing a severely wounded Iraqi teenager the latest of several similar incidents that have undercut efforts by the United States to win support among Iraqis and defeat a rampant guerrilla attack.

Friday's conviction of Staff Sergeant Johnny M Horne Jr, 30, comes almost a month after the November 13 killing of another wounded Iraqi found lying in a Fallujah mosque among the bodies of several people killed during a weeklong operation to retake that city from guerrillas. Horne is the first of four soldiers from Company C, 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry Regiment, based in Fort Riley, Kansas, to face court-martial on charges of murdering Iraqis during fighting in Baghdad's impoverished Sadr City in August.

This week in Germany, a US tank company commander was ordered court-martialled after being accused of shooting and kill-

ing a critically injured Iraqi driver for radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr on 21 May near Kufa, 100 miles south of Baghdad. As in Horne's case, witnesses have said Captain Rogelio Maynulet, 29, shot the wounded man out of compassion. Maynulet will be tried on charges of assault with intent to commit murder and dereliction of duty, which carry a maximum combined sentence of 20-1/2 years.

Critics say poor understanding by young US troops of the rules of military engagement leads to the killing of civilians.

Garlasco, speaking from New York, said there were 1,000 "questionable deaths" of Iraqi civilians at

the hands of military forces between the start of the war in March 2003 until the fall of Baghdad three weeks later. The deteriorating security situation has made it impossible to count such deaths since then, he said.

In a plea bargain Friday, Horne pleaded guilty to one count of unpremeditated murder and one count of soliciting another soldier to commit unpremeditated murder under Articles 118 and 81 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice. Horne had originally been charged with the more serious offenses of premeditated murder, conspiracy to commit murder and solicitation of another soldier to commit murder.

MNA/AP

More Beijingers buy gold for fashion, investment purposes

BEIJING, 13 Dec — Sales from major retailers of gold products in Beijing show that an estimated 255 million yuan (30.7 million US dollars) of savings deposits has flown into the gold market, despite increased prices for the precious metal.

The figure is tiny compared with the 11.6-trillion-yuan (1.4 trillion-US-dollar) savings deposits outstanding recorded at the end of October, and the capital taken in by such products as gold bars and ornaments is expected to continue to grow rapidly, according to industry analysts.

In the first three quarters of this year, gold jewellery consumption increased 12 per cent year-on-year, though the gold price moved upward from 123 yuan (14.8 US dollars) per gramme at the beginning of the year to the current 132 yuan (15.9 US dollars) per gramme.

Caibai Department Store, a leading gold retailer that claimed approximately 40 per cent of the gold jewellery market in Beijing, reported average monthly

sales of more than 10 million yuan (1.2 million US dollars). Its sales for the second half of this year grew 30 per cent over the first half.

Industry analysts said the brisk sales were partly driven by a worldwide promotion for K-gold ornaments kicked off by the World Gold Council at the beginning of this year.

Besides fashion, Beijingers also bought more gold bars and commemorative coins for investment purposes, the analysts said.

Analysts predicted that prices of gold products would go up further, but that would not dampen the confidence of both investors and consumers. The price hike might in turn continue to stimulate demand.

MNA/Xinhua

Jewellery becomes hot item of consumption in China

KUNMING, 13 Dec — Jewellery has emerged as the third leading consumption item in China after housing and automobiles, China Gem Association Secretary-General Sun Fengmin said recently.

The jewellery industry in China recorded double-digit growth in recent years with an annual sales value of more than 100 billion yuan (12 billion US dollars), Sun said at the first Yunnan international gem and jade expo held in Kunming, capital of southwest China's Yunnan Province.

China leads the world in the consumption of platinum, gold and diamonds. The country consumes 1.2 million ounces of platinum and 250 tons of gold annually. More than 20,000 Chinese engage in diamond polishing with a processing volume of three million carats each year. The leading pearl producer in the world, China turns out more than 500 tons of pearls annually, accounting for 90 per cent of the world's total. The country has become the world's largest centre for

jade processing and consumption as well, selling 6,000 tons of jade per year.

The Chinese Government has taken a series of measures to promote the development of the jewellery industry. It has lowered the tariff rate from 15.3 per cent in 2001 to 10 per cent this year, and it allowed silver, long considered a special commodity in China, to be traded on the open market in January 2000. The Shanghai diamond exchange was officially opened in October 2000. China's first gold exchange opened in Shanghai in October 2002.

China has readjusted the tax rate on diamond sales and gold imports to fulfil its World Trade Organization commitments and has promulgated a number of regulations governing gems' grading.

MNA/Xinhua

Mozambique, India to jointly manage Beira rail system

MAPUTO, 12 Dec — The Indian consortium Rites and Ircon International (RII) and Mozambique's publicly-owned port and rail company, the CFM, has launched a joint venture to manage the Beira rail system in central Mozambique.

According to an agreement signed Thursday, the CFM leased the management of the entire Beira rail system to the newly-established Beira Railway Company (CCFB), of which 51 per cent shares were owned by RII and 49 per cent owned by CFM.

The Beira rail system consists of two lines, the Machipanda line, from Beira to Zimbabwe, which is fully operational, and the Sena line to the coal mines at Moatize in the western Mozambican province of Tete, and including a spur into Malawi.

The Sena line was comprehensively sabotaged by civil war. No trains have run along the

Sena line for over two decades.

The chairman of the CFM board of directors, Rui Fonseca, said he was optimistic at the partnership with RII, which he described as an example of "genuine South-South cooperation".

The general director of CCFB, Anil Madan, appointed by the Indian consortium said "this will be a successful project. Mozambique and India will both benefit, with the support of all".

RII promised to invest 55 million US dollars in the system, while the World Bank will provide a loan of 110 million US dollars.

MNA/Xinhua

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ဆန်းစစ်ချက်



Passengers disembark from a United Airlines' Boeing 747-400 after the first passenger flight to Vietnam by a US carrier since the fall of Saigon in 1975.—INTERNET

HK's education priorities for next year outlined

HONG KONG, 13 Dec — Deciding the way forward for the academic structure reform for senior secondary and higher education and seeking public views on the medium of instruction and secondary school places allocation system are top of next year's education agenda in Hong Kong.

Speaking at the Education Commission's annual reporting session Saturday, Secretary for Education and Manpower Arthur Li said that by 2005, when views on the two major reviews are finalized, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government will have completely covered what it has promised in the education reform blueprint launched in 2000.

According to the secretary, professional development of principals and teachers will continue to be of top priority, and a qualifications register will be in place next year to promote lifelong learning. The first batch of industry training specifications will be available by mid-2005.

Li promised the bureau will step up its networking capacity. This will help promote professional sharing and rally parental and community support in a concerted effort to nurture a new generation of people who would be responsible citizens, lifelong learners, critical thinkers, and good communicators, he added.

MNA/Xinhua

Death penalty abolished in Senegal

DAKAR, 12 Dec — Senegal's Lower House on Friday voted overwhelmingly for the abolition of death penalty for all crimes, leaving the western African country the fourth in the region to abolish death penalty.

The other three countries were Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau and Cote d'Ivoire.

Senegal has only carried out the death penalty twice since it gained independence from France in 1960. The first time

was against a man believed to want to kill independence president Leopold Senghor, the second time against an individual who killed a member of Parliament. — MNA/Xinhua

16 killed in Venezuelan military plane crash

CARACAS, 12 Dec — A Venezuelan military airplane crashed Friday in Juniquito, northeast of the coastal state of Vargas, killing all 16 people on board, authorities said.

Among the dead were top-ranking officers, said Antonio Rivero, director of the Civil Protection and Disaster Management.

The aircraft was to participate in a military parade in the central state of Aragua, as part of celebrations for the anniversary of the Venezuelan Air Force, Rivero said.

The cause of the accident is under investigation.

MNA/Xinhua



The Millau Viaduct, designed by the English architect Lord Norman Foster, crosses the cloud-covered valley of the River Tarn in Millau, on 9 Dec, 2004.

INTERNET

Myanmar Traditional Medicine and the Six Priority Diseases

Professor Dr. Paing Soe

Department of Medical Research

In Myanmar, the National Health Plan has been implemented by the Ministry of Health under the guidance of the Head of State. As such, the NHP has been aimed to solve the problem of six diseases identified as top priority in Myanmar in accordance with their prevalence and their burden inflicted upon the health sector. One of the objectives is to effectively control and treat the diseases utilizing the locally available resources, including traditional drugs and indigenous practices. The six priority diseases include:

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| (1) Malaria | (2) Tuberculosis |
| (3) Diabetes | (4) Hypertension |
| (5) Diarrhoea and | (6) Dysentery |

Globally, during the past decade, it has been increasingly recognized that modern allopathic medicine itself is insufficient to solve many aspects of the current health problems and the WHO has envisaged the upgrading and involvement of traditional medicine as an alternative medicine to serve as a complementary arm within the current health care sector. The main aim and duty of any doctor is to alleviate the ailments of his patients without inflicting untoward effects. The same goes with traditional medicine physicians, and it thus, becomes a necessity to prevent the loss of valuable traditional remedies with time due to underuse, misuse and abuse following the lack of research, documentation and quality control.

Myanmar traditional medicine has stood a long history of self-sufficiency even before the use of western medicine. Even under the colonial rule, prominent traditional practitioners like Saya San, have kept the traditional practices alive and active.

When the State Peace and Development Council took over, the Head of State has taken a very keen interest in the upgrading and supporting traditional medicine and country-wide traditional medicine conferences and exhibitions were held for public awareness towards Myanmar traditional medicine and its healing ability.

Traditional health services were made available to the public through opening of 14 new township hospitals and 237 dispensaries all over Myanmar. School of Traditional Medical Sciences and Traditional Medicine University were opened in Mandalay. As such, Myanmar Traditional Medicine can be considered to have entered a new era, becoming more scientific, it has gained widespread acceptance and has now been incorporated into the 3rd MB curriculum. Likewise, since acupuncture has gained worldwide acceptance and its definitive beneficial effects have been proven, it has thus, been included in the teaching curriculum of traditional medicine as an alternative medicine. Traditional Medicine became a separate department under the Ministry of Health and research into traditional medicine gained much support from the Head of State. Myanmar Traditional Medicine research also gained worldwide acceptance and many prominent international researchers and ASEAN country representatives including the Prime Ministers from Malaysia and Laos, and Ministers for Health from Vietnam and Cambodia, visited Myanmar. Myanmar delegates were also invited to Malaysia for traditional medicine exhibition.

The Department of Medical Research (Lower Myanmar) has undertaken the responsibility of conducting research and utilization of locally available traditional remedies in the treatment of the 6 priority diseases of Myanmar for many years.

Malaria

With the global upsurge of malaria within the last decade, malaria is considered the number one priority disease in Myanmar. In addition, the increas-

ing problem of multi-drug resistance has added a greater burden, not only on the individual patients, but also for malaria control in general, especially when cost and availability is concerned. With the aim to increase the utilization of locally available resources and attainment of self-sufficiency, the State Peace and Development Council, under the guidance of the Head of State, has formed a committee concerning the development of drugs against malaria using locally available resources. The role of the Ministry of Health, as a member in this committee, is concerned with the aspect of disease control, treatment of malaria, drug production/procurement and finally, to conduct research against malaria. The outputs of such research were expected to contribute to the Ministry of Industry (1) in the production of effective antimalarial drugs in future. Since 1984, the Department of Medical Research (Lower Myanmar) has been conducting research on various plants and traditional medicine, reputed to have antimalarial action, including locally available *Artemisia annua* (ခေါ်နွေဝါ) and the production of quinine from locally available cinchona trees.

Tuberculosis

Tuberculosis, previously considered the disease of the poor, has now become a threat worldwide because of the growing problem of multi-drug resistance. It also stands the second priority disease in Myanmar and in spite of extensive research and search for newer effective drugs and treatment regimes; both mortality and morbidity remains high even in young people in their most productive age. This added a greater burden, not only on the individual patients, but also for tuberculosis control in general, since patients with untreatable disease then became a vector for additional generation of drug resistant TB among the above populations due to overcrowding, poor living conditions and malnutrition. In addition, not only were the second line drugs extremely expensive, they were less effective and more toxic than the first-line drugs and a greater default rate and non-compliance make these regimes impracticable. Increasing prevalence of MDR-TB and lack of effective standard regime has initiated the search for effective anti-tuberculosis drugs and treatment regimes, which includes screening of reputed plants available locally in Myanmar.

With tuberculosis, development of resistance occurs readily and multiple-drug combination therapy has been recommended, even with potent and bactericidal western drugs, like rifampicin and pyrazinamide. The same principle applies with traditional medicine where 5 plants are used and for ethical reasons and patient reassurance, these are combined with currently used western second-line anti-TB drugs. However, since dosage regimens for these plants were not well established scientifically, exploration step by step through dose-finding studies starting from the traditionally recommended dose to the maximum tolerable dose had to be done and the appropriate dosage regime developed initially before the actual main trial was implemented. In the main trial, 14 Out of 16 patents recruited showed chest X-ray improvement and sputum conversion to negativity after 2 months of treatment and also showed no relapse up to 6 months. No significant toxicity and side effect were observed throughout project period. Thus, preliminary results tend to indicate that traditional medicine may have a beneficial complementary role in the treatment of MDR-TB patients. The only drawback is that the patients had to take a vast amount of drugs (4 western and 5 traditional), which may question compliance if the patients were not under close supervision. Thus, further studies should be done to refine and develop

the optimal regime for western-traditional combined therapy with minimal effective drugs based on both compliance and efficacy. Further details and application of traditional medicine in tuberculosis will appear in the later articles.

Diabetes Mellitus

Diabetes mellitus is one of the chronic debilitating diseases that are regarded as incurable by Western Medicine. Non-insulin dependent diabetes mellitus (NIDDM) occurs mainly in adults and old age where the main aim is to prevent the development of complication like heart diseases, renal diseases, hypertension, cerebro-vascular disorders, neuropathy and gangrene. Current management consists of a "shared care", between several professionals, medical and non-medical, and the active participation of the patient and his family. In Myanmar, traditional medicine is widely used in diabetes mellitus since most people still believe that diabetes mellitus is curable by traditional medicine. For this reason, scientific evaluation of antidiabetic efficacy of Traditional Medicine Formulations approved and used by the Department of Traditional Medicine as well as plants reputed and used by the traditional medicine practitioners was carried out at the Department of Medical Research (Lower Myanmar), with the aim to document their therapeutic utility and safety for long-term use by the Myanmar community.

Hypertension

Hypertension is a worldwide problem afflicting millions of people even during their most productive age and causing complications such as stroke, coronary heart disease and renal failure. By culture, Myanmar people regularly consume salty foods daily as salted, dried or pickled fish, or fish paste used in many tasty Myanmar curries. Industrialization, urbanization and change of life style to sedentary work had also caused a dramatic increase in incidence of hypertension and it is now regarded as one of the priority diseases in Myanmar. For this reason, 11 medicinal plants reputed and used by the traditional medicine practitioners were screened for their anti-hypertensive activity at the DMR (LM). Among those screened, *Plantago major* (Linn) (အကြွေးဝါး:တစ်ထောင့်) which was undertaken for her MSc (thesis) by Daw Aye Than, Pharmacology Research Division, was found to be most promising in animal models. Since serial short-term and long-term toxicities studies did not indicate any signs of adverse effects, the plant was further subjected to short-term and long-term studies in humans.

With the approval of the National Ethical Committee, a preliminary clinical trial was conducted by Prof. Dr. Tin May Nyunt, Consultant Physician, Thingangyun Sanpya Hospital in collaboration with Dr. Ohnmar May Tin Hlaing, Pharmacology Research Division, DMR (LM). After extraction and formulation of plant material into tablets and the development of a rational therapeutic regime for use in hypertension, 10 mild to moderate hypertensive patients were recruited and were given *Plantago major* tablets for one month. It was found that *Plantago major* significantly reduced the blood pressure of these patients, proving its antihypertensive activity. No adverse effects were detected during the trial period. However, more detail studies are needed, like in diabetes, before its therapeutic profile for use in hypertension will become fully established.

Diarrhoea

Diarrhoea is one of the commonest diseases in Myanmar, occurring irrespective of time, age or occupation, but most frequently during the rainy season and occurring in children under 5 years of age.

(See page 11)

Sri Lankan PM Mr Mahinda Rajapakse...

(from page 1)

different eras at Lacquerware Museum. The Prime Minister then signed in the visitors' book. Principal U Thauang Lwin presented gifts to the Prime Minister.

Prime Minister Mr Mahinda Rajapakse and Madame Shiranthi Rajapakse and party visited Bagan Archaeological Museum with keen interest. The Prime Minister then signed in the visitors' book and Curator U Myint Soe Aung presented gifts to the Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister also observed lacquerwares at U Ba Nyein Lacquerware Shop in Bagan Myothit.

The visiting Prime Minister and party went to Mandalay by air. They were welcomed at

Mandalay International Airport by Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint and wife Daw Myat Ngwe, Chairman of Mandalay City

Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Yan Thein and senior military officers. The Prime Minister and party went to Myanan Sankyaw Shwenandaw where Director of Archaeological Department U Moe Kyaw Kyaw reported on the history of Myanan Sankyaw Shwenandaw. The Prime Minister and wife and party observed Thihathana Throne and artistic works. They also visited Shwenandaw Cultural Museum of Department of Cultural

Institute. The Prime Minister then signed in the visitors' book.

The Prime Minister visited Shwepyikyaw Lunyakyaw weaving industry in Mandalay. In the evening the Prime Minister and party climbed the Mandalay Hill and paid obeisance to Buddha images at Hsutaungpyi Pagoda. There, they enjoyed the twilight scene and scenic view of Mandalay. The Prime Minister presented cash to the pagoda. They went to Maha Muni

Yokeshindawmyat and offered flower, water and lights at the pagoda and presented Shwethingan to the image. Chairman of the pagoda board of trustees Lt-Col Maung Pu presented a glass-sculpture of Maha Muni



Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint and party welcome Sri Lankan Prime Minister Mr Mahinda Rajapakse and party at Mandalay International Airport. — H

Yoeshindawmyat to the visiting Prime Minister.

In the evening, Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint hosted dinner in honour of Prime Minister Mr Mahinda Rajapakse and Madame Shiranthi Rajapakse and party at the guest house of the Central

Command.

Before and after dinner, Myoma Musical Troupe and Fine Arts Department entertained the guests.

Next, the Prime Minister and the commander exchanged gifts. The commander and

wife presented souvenirs to the visiting Prime Minister and wife. Prime Minister Mr Mahinda Rajapakse presented a flower basket to the artists. The visiting Prime Minister and party arrived back here in the morning.

MNA



Member of the Pagoda Board of Trustees presents gift to Sri Lankan Prime Minister.

MNA



Sri Lankan Prime Minister Mr Mahinda Rajapakse and party being welcomed at Bagan-Nyaung U Airport by Chairman of Magway Division PDC Col Phone Maw Shwe. — MNA

Sri Lankan Prime Minister tours downtown Yangon

YANGON, 13 Dec — The visiting goodwill delegation led by Prime Minister of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka Mr Mahinda Rajapakse and wife Madame Shiranthi Rajapakse together with Deputy Minister for Education U Myo Nyunt and wife, Sri Lankan Ambassador Mr D.M.M Ranaraja and the officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs made a study trip to downtown Yangon this morning and afternoon.

First, the Sri Lankan Prime Minister and wife and party arrived at Myanma Gems Emporium on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road at 10 am. They were welcomed by Deputy Minister for Mines U Myint Thein and wife, Director-General U Khin Oo of the Myanma Gems Enterprise and officials.

The Prime Minister, his wife and

party viewed round the emporium and the Prime Minister signed the visitors' book. Deputy Minister U Myint Thein presented mosaic of Inlay Lake to Sri Lankan Prime Minister as a souvenir. The Prime Minister and party arrived at National Museum on Pyay Road at 2 pm and they were welcomed by Deputy Minister for Culture Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung,

Director-General U Myint Thein Swe of the Department of Culture Institute and officials.

The Sri Lankan Prime Minister and party looked round the museum where they were conducted by officials and the Prime Minister signed the visitors' book.

Later, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung presented the souvenirs to the Sri

Lankan Prime Minister and party. The Sri Lankan Prime Minister and party proceeded to Myanmar Sri Lanka Rama Monastery in Tamway Township. They paid homage to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Nañinda and the Sayadaw administered the Five Precepts to them.

The Sri Lankan Prime Minister then offered alms to the Sayadaw and left there in the evening. — MNA



Sri Lankan Prime Minister Mr Mahinda Rajapakse and party visit National Museum. — MNA

Cooperatives Minister tours Pyin Oo Lwin

YANGON, 13 Dec — Minister for Cooperatives Col Zaw Min yesterday inspected the computer training centre, computer aided language room and library at Mandalay Cooperative College and fulfilled the requirements.

Next, the minister and party went to the dairy factory of the Mandalay Division Cooperative Syndicate in Pyin Oo Lwin and inspected the production of milk products and other foodstuff. During his tour, the minister oversaw the shop opened by the Pyin Oo Lwin Township Cooperative Society and Pyin Oo Lwin District GEC shop and attended to the needs. Before he left the township, the minister also inspected Ye Nge Village Cooperative Society.

MNA

Use Natural Gas Vehicles and save fuel oil

- * In automobiles, natural gas can be used in place of petrol and diesel.
- * The use of natural gas can not only save fuel oil but also extend engine life.
- * Natural gas exploited at home can be used effectively and safely.
- * Natural gas burns cent per cent and is environment-friendly.
- * Adequate supply of natural gas helps facilitate passenger and cargo transport.

Kyaukphyu to become important deep-sea port...

(from page 16)

State becomes the nation's leading pepper growing region. Plans should be laid down to plant other perennial crops such as thitsein and rubber that grow well in the region in accord with the guidance of the Head of State. The Kyaukphyu region will have to conduct sea lobster farming in addition to running an offshore and deep-sea fishing industry. Families should raise local strains of chicken to increase their income and help develop the economy township-wise.

The Government has been building infrastructures in all important sectors and implementing the five rural tasks to narrow the gap between the urban and the rural areas to the highest possible degree. The Government has been providing assistance to the project for Kyaukphyu to become an

important deep-sea port in the near future. The deep-sea port will help develop trade and economy of the region. Thus, departmental personnel are required to work hard with true goodwill for the regional development.

Chairman of Kyaukphyu Township Peace and Development Council U Myint Hlaing also outlined the geographical condition and low enforcement, as well as health, education and transport sectors of the township. Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Commander of Western Command Brig-Gen Min Aung Hlaing and Chairman of District PDC Lt-Col Myo Tint presented other salient points.

After the meeting, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than visited Sein-le-nyo Farm and heard a report

on pepper cultivation presented by Lt-Col Myo Tint. The farm has planted over 30,000 saplings of pepper and over 22,000 saplings of kyat-sa-ne.

At the regional battalion, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than held a meeting with Tatmadaw members and families, and discussed the education, health and agricultural sectors.

He urged them to strive to conduct agriculture on manageable scales to raise family income and extend welfare projects.

He also inspected Kyaukphyu District Hospital including the medical store, delivery room, and operation theatre as well as x-ray room, and dental ward at Kyaukphyu District Hospital. Officials conducted him around the facility. Finally, he inspected the development of Kyaukphyu by car.

MNA



Nepalese Minister of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation Mr Deep Kumar Upadhyaya offers Shwethingan at Kyaukhtiyo Pagoda. — MNA

Nepalese Minister of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation visits Kyaukhtiyo Pagoda

YANGON, 13 Dec—Nepalese Minister of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation Mr Deep Kumar Upadhyaya and his daughter Ms Smriti Retmi Sharma, accompanied by Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko and wife Daw Myint Myint Yi, Charge d' Affaires at Royal Nepalese Embassy Mr Dilip Kumar Paudel and wife and officials, arrived at Kyaukhtiyo Pa-

goda in Kyaukhtiyo Township yesterday.

The minister and party were welcomed by Tactical Operations Commander of Kyaukhtiyo Station Col Kyaw Kyaw Win, Chairman of Kyaukhtiyo Township Peace and Development Council U Myint Oo and members of the pagoda board of trustees.

The minister offered flowers, lights and water to the pagoda and pre-

sented cash for the pagoda to alternate members of the pagoda board of trustees who presented certificate of honour and the picture of the pagoda.

The minister signed in the visitors' book and he presented Shwethingan to the pagoda. The minister and party presented offerings to five members of the Sangha.

They arrived back here in the evening.

MNA

Education Minister addresses conclusion ...

(from page 16)

can shape natural resources of the country, ability of the people and development of national economy.

That is why constant measures are being taken to open universities and colleges the length and breadth of the nation, the

minister said. And emphasis has been placed on the extension of various subjects that have emerged from the result of developing world.

Now, any one can witness that the State is applying the modern methods of teaching aids to catch up with the

emerging science and technology and diversity of academic subjects throughout the world.

To wind up, the minister said, faculty members on their part are to strive for the successful undertaking of the national education programmes by making full use of these

educational resources.

On behalf of Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee, Minister for Education U Than Aung presented model awards to outstanding trainees. Afterwards, the

trainee leaders donated cash for Lawka Chantha Abhaya Labha Muni Buddha Image, Tooth Relic Pagoda (Mandalay), renovation of ancient Bagan pagodas, National Convention, USDA, Pre-Primary

School at CICS, Zibingyi Village Basic Education High School to Minister U Than Aung.

After the ceremony, the minister cordially greeted the trainees. The course lasted four weeks—MNA



On behalf of the Chairman of MEC, Minister for Education U Than Aung delivers an address at closing of Special Refresher Course No 3 for Faculty Members at CICS (Upper Myanmar). — MNA

Experiences on AIDS control measures shared

YANGON, 13 Dec—The Myanmar Business Coalition on AIDS (MBCA) and other business coalitions in the region shared experiences on AIDS control measures at Traders Hotel on Sule Pagoda Road on 8 December morning. First, Chairman of MBCA U Martin Pan extended greetings.

Next, Resident Representative of UNAIDS Mr Brain Williams, Deputy Director of AIDS and Venereal Diseases Control Division of the Ministry of Health Dr Min Thwe, MBCA Executive Director Dr Khin Aye Aye, Chairman of MBCA (Pyay Branch) U Tin Win, Executive Directors of Thailand Anthony Pramulratana and Mr Simon Graham and Ms S Solomon of Singapore shared experiences on measures taken to control AIDS by businessmen in the region.

Afterwards, officials concerned replied to queries raised by those present.—MNA

Commander, minister meet members ...

(from page 16)

U Myint Thein reported on progress of work of the steel plant, member of subcommittee for water supply Director of Irrigation Department U Wai Phyo on progress in constructing of Nantse Dam, member of subcommittee for electricity supply superintending electrical engineer U Kyaw Thang on progress in connecting of power lines and deputy

superintending engineer of state development affairs committee U Byar Noe on paving the production roads in the factory and water supply.

Next, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi gave instructions on timely completion of project, training of factory staff in handling the machine sufficiently, arrangements to be made for continuous running of

the factory with raw materials needed, systematic use of financial resources and arrangements to be made for environmental conservation.

Afterwards, the commander and the minister inspected progress of work of construction of Machine Shop, Ware House, Forging Shop and Foundry Shop, Nantse Creek Dam, machines from abroad.

After that they inspected fertilizers, fibre articles, auto and parts and farm equipment displayed in industrial zone. The minister looked into Storage and Distribution Sector of Myanmar Petroleum Products Enterprise in Shwenyaung and Civil Aviation Sector in Heho and instructed officials so as not to run out of fuel, to be good quality, security and prevention against danger of fire. — MNA



CEC member of USDA Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung lays cornerstones at Shwedagon replica Pyilonechantha Wizaya pagoda in Mezaligon village, Ingapu. — FORESTRY

USDA CEC member inspects rural development task

YANGON, 13 Dec—Member of Central Executive Committee of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung inspected construction of Yekyaw Bridge at Shangaungbye Village in Ingapu Township yesterday morning.

After that, the CEC member proceeded to Mezaligon Village and unveiled the stone plaque of the station hospital that had been renovated.

Next, the CEC member and party attended the cornerstone laying ceremony of Shwedagon replica Pyilonechantha Wizaya pagoda at the vil-

lage. Next, he met local people at Zaygyi Village and Zayatgon Village and fulfilled requirements on regional development.

In the evening, he watched the final match of the USDA CEC member's Shield Soccer Tournament of Hinthada District and presented prizes to the winners.— MNA



Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min inspects construction of coaches in Myintnge on 12 December. — RAILWAYS

Delegates who attended World Buddhist Summit leave for Mandalay

YANGON, 13 Dec—Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min, accompanied by the Managing Director of Myanma Railways and

officials, saw off 315 delegates from 28 nations, who attended the World Buddhist Summit and are going to visit Mandalay, at the Yangon Railways Station, at 3.30 pm today.

The minister has made arrangements for ensuring the convenience of the visitors.

MNA



Patron of school board of trustees U Hla Shwe presents prize to outstanding pupil Maung Nyan Min Htut of No 29 BEPS, South Okkalapa Township on 4-12-2004.

(H)

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



President of MWAFF Daw Than Than Nwe delivers an address at the meeting of the MWAFF. — MNA

MWAFF holds meeting

YANGON, 13 Dec — Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation held its meeting today at MWAFF Office to discuss its future work programmes.

In her address, President of the federation Daw Than Than Nwe said that the members

must discharge duties in accord with the guidance of Head of State, and serve the interest of other members and the federation itself.

Vice-President Daw Khin Lay Myint explained the organizational set up of the federation. General

Secretary Dr Daw Khin Mar Tun also gave a speech, followed by a general round of discussions. The president in her concluding address highlighted the future work programmes and extension of organizational campaigns. — MNA



Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe inspects upgrading tasks of Ahlon Shipyards. — TRANSPORT

Minister Maj-Gen Thein Swe inspects Ahlon Shipyards and port

YANGON, 13 Dec—Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe, accompanied by Deputy Ministers U Pe Than And Col Nyan Tun Aung, yesterday arrived at Ahlon Shipyards where they heard a report presented by Managing Director of Inland Water Transport U Soe Tint on the history of IWT and other salient

points.

The minister gave instructions to officials and staff.

Next, the minister and party inspected upgrading project for Ahlon Shipyards and gave instructions to officials concerned.

On arrival at Ahlon Jetty of Myanma Port Authority, MD U Tun Myint Naing of Asia world Co

Ltd presented a report to the minister on measures being taken for upgrading the jetty.

Next, the minister inspected construction of No 1 Wharf and fulfilled the needs.

After that, the minister and party inspected construction of retaining wall of Bargaya Jetty.

MNA

Home Affairs Deputy Minister returns from India

YANGON, 13 Dec — Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Phone Swe arrived back here by air yesterday evening from New Delhi, India, after attending the first meeting of Joint Task for Prevention against Violence in BIMSTEC region held in New Delhi, the People's Republic of India on 9 and 10 December.

The delegation was welcomed back at the Yangon International Airport by the heads of Myanmar Police Force and departments and

family.

Myanmar delegation members Head of Transnational Crimes Department of MPF Police Col Sit Aye, Director of the Attorney-Gen-

eral's Office U Kyaw Sein and Director of the International Organizations and Economic Department U Nyunt Swe also arrived back on the same flight.— MNA



Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Phone Swe being welcomed back at the airport.— MNA

Commerce Minister inspects Myawady border trade centre, rubber production in Thaton

YANGON, 13 Dec — Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein together with Chairman of Kayin State Peace and Development Council Col Khin Kyuu and local authorities arrived at border trade centre in Myawady Township on 11 December evening. The minister met with departmental staff and entrepreneurs. He then inspected checks on import and export, and tasks of various departments in cooperation with Directorate of Border Trade and gave necessary instructions on promotion of border trade, providing assist-

ance to importers and exporters. On 12 December morning, the minister and party proceeded to Myanmar-Thailand friendship bridge and inspected arrival and departure there.

The minister and party

continued to Thaton Township and inspected rubber nurseries of quality strain, rubber plantation and production process of it and gave necessary instructions on its production.

MNA



Deputy Director U Soe Tint delivers at the concluding of On-job Training Course for Health Staff held at Alon Township on 11-12-2004.—NLM

Myanmar Traditional ...

(from page 7)

It is mainly caused by pathogenic microorganisms including bacteria (*E. coli*, *V. cholerae*, *Salmonella species*) and viruses (Rotavirus) which spread through contaminated food and water, either through flies or unhealthy environment or unhygienic food handling and preparation.

Preliminary research on diarrhoeal diseases was extensively undertaken by Daw Mar Mar Nyein, from the Bacteriology Research Division, DMR (LM), using in vitro and culture laboratory techniques. Studies indicated that 11 TMFs produced and used by the Department of Traditional Medicine and 15 medicinal plants used by the traditional medicine practitioners for diarrhoea, had either bactericidal or bacteriostatic action on various organisms that caused diarrhoea. The findings were presented at the "Third Meeting of the ASEAN Expert Group on Herbal and Medicinal Plants" in July 2000. Based on the above in vitro studies, further in-depth clinical studies were conducted by Dr. Thaw Zin from the Pharmacology Research Division DMR (LM) on diarrhoeal patients admitted to the Infectious Disease Hospital, Yangon. It was found that 2 out of 3 TMFs that have usually been prescribed for non-specific diarrhoea were as effective as the standard western drug, loparamide. No significant adverse effects were noted and it was thus recommended for community use in acute non-specific diarrhoea. These formulation are now locally available from the DTM as well as in many private TM shops.

Dysentery

Dysentery is caused by infection in the gut with pathogenic microorganisms such as amoeba (*Entamoeba histolytica*) or bacteria (*Shigella dysenteriae*). Both infections usually spread through faecaloral route and most frequently result from consumption of contaminated food and water. In the bacteria group, *Shigella flexna* & *shiga* species are particularly severe and may even cause death if untreated. On the other hand, dysentery caused by *E. histolytica*, if localized to the large intestine, may cause distressing symptoms like tinismus and blood and mucous in stools but not death. However, there is danger of spreading through the blood stream into the liver and can result in amoebic hepatitis and liver abscess. Further spread can later occur to other organs especially the brain and can have fatal consequences.

Preliminary studies on reputed plants having anti-dysentery activity were also done by Daw Mar Mar Nyein who investigated 16 medicinal plants using in vitro and culture techniques and those with promising results had been recommended for further clinical trials in dysentery patients. Clinical trials on dysentery patients were conducted by Dr. Thaug

Hla from the Clinical Research Unit (Traditional Medicine), DMR (LM) who investigated the effect of *Brucea javanica* (ram'es.) on amoebic dysentery patients. It was found that giving 5 kernels of *Brucea javanica* once a day for 5 days possess strong amoebicidal action, and effectively curing the dysentery with little or no adverse effects. Technical transfer of research findings to the Myanmar Pharmaceutical Factory, Ministry of Industry (1), was affected on 30.9.2002 for mass production and for economic and safe use by the community.

These above mentioned findings regarding the use of traditional medicine for the six priority diseases had, not only patriotically revived the national asset of medicine with long history of use in Myanmar, but also, provided significant steps in attaining self-sufficiency and in moving towards the goal "Health for All" with easily available natural resources.

For over 40 years, the Department of Medical Research (Lower Myanmar), in collaboration with the Department of Traditional Medicine, has been carrying out research on traditional medicine. However, only recently, under the directions and support of the Head of State, had they been technically transferred for mass production and publicized in Traditional Medicine Exhibitions for education towards rational and safe community use. Professor Dr. Paing Soe, Director General, DMR (LM), had personally undertaken to continue all potentially fruitful research regarding medicinal plants and traditional medicine formulations. The aim is to fulfill any gap in the current health system through integrated approach with western medicine and utilizing whatever technology modern equipment can offer to research, in achieving the goal "Health for All" for the people of Myanmar.

The Myanmar Traditional Medicine Formulary, 1989, is now available to traditional medicine practitioners for reference in their practicing. "Abstracts on Postgraduate MSc Theses from 1974 to 1996", which consists of concise and unbiased scientific research on traditional medicine, had been compiled and documented for future reference for MSc and PhD students from various fields who wish to pursue research on traditional medicine.

With the inspiration and guidance of the Head of State, scientifically tested medicinal plants and their therapeutic uses on 13 commonly occurring ailments and diseases in Myanmar had been compiled and published. The aim was not only directed for reference by traditional medicine practitioners in their practice, but also as home-based simple and practical methods that can be used as home based medicine by the community. It was published in both Myanmar and English version. Health and Myanmar Medicinal Plant (1999) is also available in

an English version on CD-ROM.

In the year 2001-2002, Professor Dr. Paing Soc, Director General, Department of Medicine Research (LM) initiated the preparation to CD-ROM of five volumes set of books on traditionally and clinically used 59 Traditional Medicine Formulations for proper storage and easily retrieval by future generations whenever needed. This project was previously undertaken by the Pharmacology Research Division under a UNDP grant, "Standardization, Pharmacological and Toxicological Evaluation of Traditional Drugs and Herbal Medicine". Since then, continued action has now been undertaken to conserve the valuable research findings which will remain as the pride and national asset of the people of Myanmar in future. If one would either like to read or buy the above-published books, they are available at the Department of Medical Research (Lower Myanmar).

Overall, it can be concluded that all the above research and developments have been done under the guidance of the Head of State and the support of the National Health Committee. Research utilization, not only has become the provision of knowledge and the solution of health problems, but has now progressed to support of health services and development of technology for industry as well.

Important antimalarials such as quinine from cinchona bark and artemisinin compounds from *Artemisia annua* (ခေါင်းခေါင်း), can now be produced locally without importation or outside assistance. Myanmar traditional drugs have now been successfully used as complementary arm in multi-drug resistant tuberculosis where first lines drugs have failed. Myanmar traditional food, *Momordica charantia* L. fruit (ကြိတ်တင်းခါးသီး), proven as potential antidiabetic drug, has now been produced by the Myanmar Pharmaceutical Factory, with the technology transfer developed by research. Plants for hypertension have now been scientifically documented for clinical use.

Traditional formulations proven for use in non-specific diarrhoea are available from the Department of Traditional Medicine and have now been popularly used by the community. Research has also indicated coconut milk as an alternative for oral rehydration in diarrhoea. Long-time popular *Brucea javanica* (ရာဇာနိဓေ) for dysentery has been scientifically evaluated for community use and technology transfer has been done for production by the Myanmar Pharmaceutical Factory, Ministry of Industry (1), and the Department of Traditional Medicine. All these achievements of the nation proved the wisdom and goodwill of the National Health Committee, effort of the various departments concerned, and the availability of rich resources in Myanmar, in the fight against the six priority diseases which have inflicted a great burden upon the health of the people of Myanmar for so many years.

TRADEMARK CAUTION
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India. 14 December 2004

Iran writes to Annan to show support

TEHERAN, 12 Dec— Iranian President Mohammad Khatami on Thursday wrote a letter to UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, voicing his support for Annan's continuance in office, the official *IRNA* news agency reported on Saturday.

In his letter, Khatami praised the Secretary-General's "wise leadership and firm commitment" to the UN Charter, saying he believed the ongoing moves by some powers in the UN to oust Annan were politically motivated and would fail to tarnish Annan's image as a human rights defender.

Khatami further expressed hope that Annan would hold his position and never hesitate to carry on with his "noble work and responsibilities toward materializing the ideals for which this universal organization was established".

Kofi Annan's son, Kojo Annan, has been allegedly involved in a scandal of the now-defunct oil-for-food programme.

The United States has asked Annan to resign, while many other countries have expressed support to him.

MNA/Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV BOUGAIN VILLA VOY NO (072)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BOUGAIN VILLA VOY NO (072) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14.12.04 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S PREMIER SPECTRUM**
Phone No:256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV KOTA MUTIARA VOY NO (163)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA MUTIARA VOY NO (163) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14.12.04 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Probe finds two Army "Patriot" crews mistook Navy jet

WASHINGTON, 12 Dec— A Navy fighter jet accidentally shot down during the US-led invasion of Iraq had been misidentified by two Army *Patriot* missile batteries as an incoming Iraqi missile, a military investigation has found.

Soldiers also violated standard procedures involving the launch of the missiles, the investigation determined, but a summary of the inquiry released Friday provided no more detail.

The fighter's pilot, Lieutenant Nathan White, 30, of Mesa, Arizona, was killed over Iraq on 2 April, 2003, as he flew his *F/A-18C Hornet* back to his aircraft carrier, *USS Kitty Hawk*. A summary of the investigation's findings was posted on the US

Central Command's web site Friday.

It does not say why the *Patriot* batteries wrongly identified White's aircraft. The batteries, which include several radar vehicles and missile launchers, both reported to a command centre they had detected an incoming Iraqi missile.

Based on this, the command centre staff "had to quickly launch a countermissile capable of successfully intercepting the Iraqi missile," the investigation report says. "The (command centre) ordered the targeted battery to launch status and two *Patriot* interceptor missiles were launched. However, proper procedures for obtaining launch status were violated in the process."—MNA/AP

US fugitive ex-finance sentenced to over 16 years in prison

NEW HAVEN (Connecticut), 12 Dec — Former financier Martin Frankel, an international fugitive who was captured in Germany, was sentenced to more than 16 years in prison for masterminding a scheme to loot insurance companies of more than 200 million US dollars to pay for a life of luxury.

Frankel asked for leniency in a rambling, 45-minute speech in which he quoted from the Bible and offered justification

ပြည်တွင်းပြင်ပဆက်သွယ်ရေး

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

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**

New Zealand celebrates new smoke-free era

WELLINGTON, 12 Dec — All workplaces in New Zealand have gone smoke-free since Thursday midnight, a move Associate Health Minister Damien O'Connor has described as "start of a new era for New Zealand" and hailed as exciting and timely.

"From all accounts, cheers erupted at bars right around the country when the clock struck twelve, and there was a huge amount of celebration. Although it's early days, reports of compliance have also been very positive," O'Connor said in a statement released Saturday.

He said the new law was a proactive and com-

prehensive approach to reducing smoking harm. "No longer will non-smokers have to put up with the blue haze of smoke-filled bars, with the stench of tobacco on their clothes the next day, and with the risk that they may be one of the almost 400 people who die each year due to second hand smoke."

O'Connor said the time was right for the change. "There has been a huge amount of support for the move, from even the most unexpected quarters. People really do see this as a positive step towards improving the health of New Zealanders."

MNA/Xinhua

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LL.B, D.B.L., LL.M (UK)
For PORZALLANFABRIK
TETTAU GMBH
#626, Traders Hotel, Yangon
Dated: December 14, 2004.

Iran-China trade to reach \$7b in 2004

TEHERAN, 12 Dec — Iran-China trade is expected to reach seven billion US dollars by the end of this year, the official *IRNA* news agency reported on Saturday.

Ali Hamzeh Nejad, official of the Iran-China Chamber of Commerce was quoted as saying that the current level of bilateral cooperation was good and the bilateral trade stood at 5.6 billion US dollars in 2003. He pointed out that China's exports to Iran stood at two billion dollars while Iran's exports to China stood at 3.6 billion dollars in 2003. The official said the annual bilateral trade was expected to reach 10 billion US dollars by 2010.

MNA/Xinhua

DRIVE WITH CARE

မညာရေးနှင့် ခေတ်စိမ့်ပြီးတိုးတက်လာ နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်ဆုံ

Search suspended for missing crew from wrecked ship off Alaska

ANCHORAGE (Alaska), 13 Dec—The search for six crew members missing from a wrecked cargo ship off an Alaska island has been suspended, and authorities are focusing on the cleanup of spilled bunker fuel oil from the vessel, an official said on Saturday.

With water temperature of 43 degrees Fahrenheit (6 C) and the missing crewmen lacking survival gear, chances for their survival are slim, said Marti Early, an Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation official working at the joint command post set up by the US Coast Guard.

"The active search has been suspended, but they of course will continue to look as they go out and do other oil-related activity," she said.

The decision was made late Friday, Early said.

The ship, the Malaysian-flagged *Selendang Ayu*, split into two pieces late Wednesday

after grounding off the coast of Unalaska, one of the Aleutian islands. The six crew members were lost when a Coast Guard helicopter crashed during a rescue operation conducted during stormy conditions.

The other 20 members of the *Selendang Ayu's* crew and all the Coast Guard helicopter crewmen were rescued, however.

Late Friday, the ship's owner issued a statement about the end of the active search.

Five of the missing crewmen were from India and one was from the Philippines, according to news reports.

Weather was preventing environmental officials from determining how much fuel oil had

spilled off the island, an important site for marine mammals, seabirds and fish.

Initial estimates put the size of the fuel spill at about 140,000 gallons (636,400 litres), Early said. One of the fuel tanks was breached when the ship split open, she said. "They don't know about any of the other tanks," she said.

Early said the forecast was for winds of up to 45 knots with gusts to 55 knots and seas up to 24 feet (7.32 metres).

The *Selendang Ayu*, which was ferrying soybeans from Washington state to China, was carrying nearly 500,000 gallons of fuel oil, as well as 21,000 gallons of diesel fuel.

MNA/Reuters

G-7 agrees to set up bioterrorism crisis centre

PARIS, 12 Dec—G-7 health ministers have agreed to set up a bioterrorism crisis centre to marshal a global response to germ warfare attacks, and pledged to provide millions of shots for a global "vaccine bank".

The move comes amidst concerns since the September 11, 2001 attacks on the United States that militants such as al-Qaeda might use biological weapons in any future strike.

"Despite our efforts, we have to admit that 'they' can still hit us at any moment," US Health Secretary Tommy Thompson told *Le Figaro* daily in an interview published on Saturday.

The United States has earmarked the equivalent of 80 million doses of smallpox vaccine for a 200-million-dose vaccine bank, run by the World Health Organization (WHO), to which Britain, France, Germany and Canada have also made pledges.

Ministers said after a meeting in Paris on Friday that the crisis centre could also help manage natural disasters like the Asia bird flu outbreak, which has killed 29 people this year.

The new crisis centre will be based at the G-7 health ministers' secretariat in Ottawa.

"We don't have the right to say a bioterrorism attack could never happen. A bioterrorist attack is not a virtual threat, it is a real threat," French Health Minister Philippe Douste-Blazy told reporters.

An around-the-clock hotline between G-7 health ministries is already up and running and should cut the response times to future crises.

MNA/Reuters



Faith Akin, Turkish actor-director of 'Gegen Die Wand,' poses with his trophies at the European Film Awards Ceremony in Barcelona, on 11 Dec, 2004.

INTERNET

Japanese encephalitis vectors found in Hong Kong

HONG KONG, 13 Dec — Japanese encephalitis vectors have been found in Hong Kong, according to a survey released here Saturday by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department.

The department's known JE vector commonly found in Hong Kong in the vicinity of Shek Wu Wai and Shan Pui Tseun in Yuen Long.

He noted that JE is an endemic disease of local pigs, and the mosquitoes may acquire the virus from birds and pigs which

are known as the reservoir and amplifying host of the disease.

Ho said: "We will strengthen mosquito control actions in the areas concerned and provide technical support to other departments and organizations involved in operations against mosquito breeding—MNA/Xinhua

35,000-year-old flute unearthed in S-W Germany

BERLIN, 12 Dec—A 35,000-year-old flute made from a woolly mammoth's ivory tusk has been unearthed in a German cave by archaeologists, the University of Tuebingen said on Friday.

The flute, one of the oldest musical instruments discovered, was pieced together from 31 fragments found in a cave in the Swabian mountains in southwestern Germany, the university said.

The mountains have

yielded rich pickings in recent years, including ivory figurines, ornaments and other musical instruments. Archaeologists believe humans camped in the area in winter and spring.

Mammoths, now extinct, were large elephant-like creatures with hairy

coats and long, upcurved tusks. They lived during the Pleistocene period from two million to 11,000 years ago.

The university said it planned to put the instrument on display in a museum in Stuttgart.

MNA/Reuters

US Govt, deficit up in first two months of fiscal 2005

WASHINGTON, 12 Dec—The US Government recorded a budget deficit of 115.2 billion US dollars in the first two months of the 2005 fiscal year beginning from 1 October, the Treasury Department announced on Friday.

The shortfall was slightly larger than the deficit of 112.5 billion US dollars posted for the corresponding period of fiscal year of 2004.

The report said that the US Government spending in October and November totalled 386.6 billion US dollars while the revenues was only 271.4 billion dollars.—MNA/Xinhua

Ford recalls 474,000 Escape SUVs for accelerator problem

WASHINGTON, 12 Dec—Ford Motor Co announced on Friday that it is recalling about 474,000 Ford Escape sport utility vehicles worldwide because of an accelerator problem that can cause the engine to race.

The recalled vehicles are from model years 2002 to 2004 and the vast majority are in the United States, Ford spokeswoman Kristen Kinley said in Detroit. The company said that it does not know of any accidents or injuries related to the problem.

MNA/Xinhua

Oil producers, consumers alike must act responsibly on energy use

RABAT (Morocco), 12 Dec—US Treasury Secretary John Snow said on Saturday that oil producers and consumers alike must act responsibly on energy use, a day after OPEC oil producers agreed to slash production to keep prices up.

At a news conference following a forum designed to encourage countries in the Middle East and North Africa to adopt more free-enterprise policies, Snow was asked whether the global economy faced a threat from the producers' action. "Obviously it is a matter we will want to follow and follow closely," Snow said.

"The global economy is on a good growth path. It's important that we continue to stay on that growth path, and staying on (it) requires all of us to

do what we can to maintain the current momentum," he added.

OPEC representatives meeting in Cairo said on Friday they would withdraw one million barrels daily of production — around 3.5 per cent of current supply — from 1 January and meet again on 30 January to discuss whether further cuts were necessary.

The OPEC cuts will hit countries in the northern hemisphere during the peak winter heating season, potentially adding pressure to prices at a

time when policymakers worry that inflation risks more broadly are on the rise.

The OPEC countries are seeking to stabilize the prices that they receive for their product, fearing that a buildup in stocks of oil could lead to a sharp drop in prices.

Still, prices are around 30 per cent above the start of the year, although US crude has dropped by nearly 13 US dollars from a record high of 55.67 US dollars a barrel in late October.

MNA/Reuters

US Delphi Corp plans to cut 8,500 jobs next year

WASHINGTON, 12 Dec—US Delphi Corp announced on Friday that it plans to cut 8,500 jobs worldwide next year as part of an ongoing restructuring.

The cut will account for about 4.6 per cent of total work force for Delphi Corp., the largest automotive supplier in the United States and in the world.

Of the total job-cut announced Friday, Delphi said 3,000 of the cuts were expected to be US hourly employees and 5,500 would be from outside the United States.

MNA/Xinhua

SPORTS

Valencia notch 4th Primera Liga win

MADRID, 13 Dec— Valencia put their European woes behind them on Sunday to notch their fourth Primera Liga win in a row with a 1-0 victory at home to basement side Numancia.

Centre-half Carlos Marchena scored the winner on 21 minutes when he headed in from point-blank range at the far post after Numancia keeper had palmed a Vicente free kick off the line.

The win put Claudio Ranieri's side—who exited the Champions League midweek—into provisional second spot in the table, 10 points behind leaders Barcelona who snatched a late 2-1 win away to Albacete on Saturday.

Real Madrid and Espanyol, who are two points further adrift in the standings play their matches against Real Sociedad and Real Mallorca later on Sunday.

Deportivo Coruna, who exited the Champions League group phase without scoring a goal after their 5-0 defeat against Monaco on Wednesday, were only able to manage a 2-2 draw at home to Sevilla, a result that left them in eighth place in the table.

MNA/Reuters

Portugal's Porto win World Club Cup on penalties

TOKYO, 13 Dec— Porto of Portugal outscored Once Caldas of Colombia 8-7 from penalty shootouts to win the World Club Cup in Yokohama, Japan on Sunday.

In the shootouts after a goalless draw, Pedro Emanuel kicked home the winner to help the European Cup holders Porto take their second world club title after the 1987 trophy.

In a game dominated by Porto, South Africa striker Benni McCarthy had a goal controversially ruled offside early on.

For Porto, Luis Fabiano hit the bar in the 18th minute and playmaker Diego's free kick bounced off the post seven minutes before the half break.

McCarthy also blasted a 30-metre effort against the bar in the 66th minute.

Diego was sent off after covering Porto's first kick in the penalty shoot-out.—MNA/Xinhua



Celtic striker Chris Sutton. Champions Celtic returned to the top of the Scottish Premier League table with a 2-0 away win to Dunfermline at East End Park.—INTERNET

Chelsea come back from goal down to hold Arsenal to 2-2 draw

LONDON, 13 Dec— Premier League leaders Chelsea twice came back from a goal down to hold champions Arsenal to a 2-2 draw in a pulsating encounter played with all the spirit and passion of a cup tie at Highbury on Sunday.

Goals from Chelsea captain John Terry and striker Eidur Gudjohnsen cancelled out two strikes from Thierry Henry, who played superbly only to miss a clear chance to grab all three points for his team 13 minutes from time.

Chelsea stay top after 17 games with 40 points, four ahead of Everton who are a point better off than Arsenal after beating Liverpool 1-0 in Saturday's 200th Merseyside derby. Manchester United, who visit Fulham on Monday, are fourth with 30 points.

Arsenal started the match as if the defence of their title depended on this 90 minutes alone and with just 75 seconds on the clock they were in front.

A Jose Antonio Reyes header found Henry on the edge of the box and the Frenchman controlled the ball with his right foot before lifting it into the corner of the net with his left.

Chelsea were finding it difficult to get through an Arsenal defence pushing up to compress the midfield but when they finally did they were almost immediately back on level terms.

A characteristic stinging drive from midfielder Frank Lampard was saved well by Manuel Almunia, selected in goal for the fourth straight game at the

expense of Jens Lehmann.

From Arjen Robben's corner, however, Chelsea captain Terry rose unmarked to head the ball past the Spaniard into the back of the net for his sixth goal of the season.

The game then opened up and both sides had chances before the champions regained the lead in the 29th minute with a controversial goal courtesy of a little more Henry magic.

Chelsea were still arguing about a free kick awarded for a foul on Robert Pires when Henry, with barely any backlift, curled the ball fully 25 metres through the smallest of gaps and beyond the despairing dive of Petr Cech.

The goal took the defence unawares as it was scored before referee Graham Poll had retreated and with the visitors still assembling their wall. Robben was booked for dissent after several Chelsea players complained that it was allowed to stand.

Arsenal went in at the break well worth their lead, but it was gone just seconds after the restart when a Lampard free kick was headed across the box by halftime substitute Didier Drogba and Gudjohnsen was on hand to head home the equalizer.—MNA/Reuters

AC Milan crush Fiorentina 6-0

MILAN, 13 Dec— Italian champions AC Milan crushed Fiorentina 6-0 at the San Siro on Sunday with Andriy Shevchenko and Clarence Seedorf scoring two goals each.

Ukrainian Shevchenko, widely tipped to be named European Footballer of the Year on Monday, took his season tally to 11 goals as Milan moved within a point of leaders Juventus who are away to Bologna later on Sunday.

Inter Milan drew for a remarkable 12th time in 15 games with a late Christian Vieri strike giving them a 2-2 draw away to lowly Siena who had defender Stefano Argilli sent off in the 57th minute.

Brazilian Adriano, who had opened the scoring, missed a 59th minute penalty and Tore Andre Flo's 87th minute header looked to have given Siena a 2-1 win until Vieri struck in injury time.

AS Roma also left it late—a penalty deep in injury time from Brazilian Mancini giving them a 1-0 win away to Brescia.

Milan have hit top form at just the right moment as they face rivals Juve at the Delle Alpi stadium next Sunday in a game which could determine who goes into the New Year in first place.

Carlo Ancelotti's side went ahead in the 16th minute when Andrea Pirlo's penalty was pushed out by Fiorentina keeper Cristiano Lupatelli but Dutchman

Seedorf reacted quickly to head home the loose ball.

Milan doubled their lead when Brazilian Kaka fed Argentine striker Hernan Crespo who slipped the ball past the advancing Lupatelli and Fiorentina defender Giorgio Chiellini's attempt to clear ended up in his own net.

Eight minutes after the break Shevchenko made it 3-0, with a cool finish at the end of a flowing move led by Kaka and then Crespo, looking back to his best, fired home superbly after being put through by a long pass from Pirlo.

Shevchenko's second and Milan's fifth came after a smart exchange with Crespo and then Seedorf tapped in a Massimo Ambrosini pass to make it 6-0 in the 83rd minute.

Inter's latest point leaves them well out of the title running in fifth place and once again they paid for their poor defending.

Adriano fired Inter ahead from the penalty spot in the 36th minute but the lead lasted just five minutes as Siena defender Daniele Portanova, who had conceded the spot kick with a foul on Esteban Cambiasso, was left unmarked to head the Tuscans level.—MNA/Reuters

VfL Wolfsburg thrash Arminia Bielefeld 5-0

FRANKFURT, 13 Dec— VfL Wolfsburg roared back to form on Sunday with a 5-0 home win over Arminia Bielefeld that took them back up to fourth place in the Bundesliga at the halfway stage of the season.

Thomas Rytter volleyed in the opening goal after 14 minutes and a Diego Klimowicz header and two Thomas Brdaric strikes put them 4-0 ahead by the interval. Martin Petrov got the fifth from the penalty spot in the 67th minute.

Victory took the early-season leaders back to within four points of Bayern Munich, who held on to top spot going into the six-week winter break after fighting back from 2-0 down to claim a 2-2 draw with VfB Stuttgart on Saturday.

Bayern lead the standings with 34 points, ahead of Schalke 04 on goal difference after they were held to a 1-1 draw at home to bottom club SC Freiburg

on Saturday. Stuttgart are third on 31, followed by Wolfsburg on 30.

In Sunday's other game Bayer Leverkusen drew 1-1 away to Borussia Muenchengladbach.

Wolfsburg had slipped down to seventh place after a run of three successive league defeats and another loss would have made it a depressing holiday period for the club, particularly after so much early-season promise.

Accurate crossing was the key to their spectacular recovery on Sunday. Andres d'Alessandro's perfect ball over to the far post set up Rytter to score with a low volley before Petrov's masterclass settled the game. MNA/Reuters

Aston Villa outplayed, lost 2-1 to Birmingham City

LONDON, 13 Dec— Aston Villa's unbeaten home record disappeared in the worst way possible on Sunday when they were outplayed 2-1 by local rivals Birmingham City in a robust Premier League derby.

The victory was only Birmingham's second away from home all season and continued their impressive record against Villa since their return to the Premier League, having chalked up three wins and two draws in their five meetings since 2002. Birmingham went ahead after nine minutes when Clinton Morrison fired in a low shot that bounced awkwardly and went through the hands of goalkeeper Thomas Sorensen.

David Dunn doubled the lead in the 18th with a well struck shot from near the penalty spot and it was no more than Birmingham deserved against a home side who had barely woken up.

MNA/Reuters



Real Madrid's Brazilian Ronaldo (R) celebrates his goal against Real Sociedad with teammate Frenchman Zinedine Zidane (L) during their Premier League football match in Santiago Bernabeu Stadium in Madrid. Spectators at Real Madrid's Santiago Bernabeu Stadium were evacuated following a bomb scare.—INTERNET

Good public order attracts more tourists to Macao

MACAO, 13 Dec — Tourists to Macao, one of the world's major tourism attractions, cannot help but admiring its safety and convenience.

With a land coverage of 27 square kilometres and a population of some 460,000, Macao, receives more than one million tourists a month, according to this year's official counting.

Statistics show that the number of criminal cases in the first three quarters of this year came to 7,186, a drop of 4 per cent from the same period of last year.

Local media attributed the good public order to the importance attached by the government of the Macao Special Administrative Region (SAR), hard efforts made by public security force and the support from the central government and relevant departments in China's Mainland. "Only by maintaining a good public order, can economy develop steadily," Macao's Chief Executive Edmund Ho Hau Wah stressed soon after he took the post in December 1999.

The Macao security forces' crackdown on criminal offenses has effectively protected residents' life and property, and maintained public order and social stability over the past five years.

Macao was haunted with gangdoms, robbers, murderers and kidnappers before it returned to the Motherland in 1999. According to Cheong Kuoc Va, secretary for security of the Macao Special Administrative Region, the public security forces dealt a heavy blow on organized crimes and controlled and improved public order in the first year after Macao's return to the Motherland. At the same time, they streamlined the organizational structure by way of strengthening jail organization and preparing for the establishment of the Customs office and the general police bureau.

The public security forces optimized their operational capacity and improved personnel quality and the image of police in the second year, improved their internal management to raise work efficiency in the third year, upgraded personnel quality and introduced advanced technology and equipment in the fourth year, and maintained good public order to guarantee citizens' normal life and work this year.

In addition, the public security forces have stressed the publicity of observance of laws and regulations among residents, young people in particular.

MNA/Xinhua

Peru's Production Minister visits China for eco cooperation

LIMA, 13 Dec — A delegation led by Peru's Production Minister Alfonso Velasquez departed for China Saturday to seek economic cooperation with the fast-growing economy and try to attract investment to the Andean country.

The goal of this trip is "to see what we could offer to the Chinese for the amazing growth of their imports," Velasquez said before his departure.

The minister said he was certain that they will get responses from Chinese entrepreneurs, which will not only allow Peru to make use of its raw materials, but to attract investment as well.

The delegation, which comprises private investors in various production fields, will arrive first in Beijing before visiting other important cities, Velasquez said. Peruvian President Alejandro Toledo met with his Chinese

counterpart Hu Jintao during the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum held last month in Chile's capital Santiago. Velasquez said the two sides then addressed a wide range of issues "to be discussed again in this official visit."

The minister said during this visit Peru will help make itself a recognized "tourist destination of China," and discuss with China on issues of small-sized companies, competitiveness improvement, technical and credit assistance, and a sanitary agreement on agricultural products.

MNA/Xinhua

Grey heron found H5 positive in HK

HONG KONG, 13 Dec — A grey heron found in Hong Kong earlier has been confirmed an H5 avian flu suspect, and further tests are underway for the nature of the virus, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department said Saturday.

The department collected the bird in Lok Ma Chau on December 3. Appearing to be sick at the time, it was sent to the New Territories North Animal Management Centre for isolation and observation. It died the following day.

A postmortem later at the department's Tai

Lung Veterinary Laboratory showed the bird was an H5 suspect. Subsequent tests on the bird all indicated an H5 positive result.

As a precautionary measure, Hong Kong's Centre for Health Protection has traced all six staff who had contact with the bird, and found they are in good health. Their medical condition will be monitored over the next few days. — MNA/Xinhua

Liaoning Province woos increasing number of overseas tourists

SHENYANG, 13 Dec — Northeast China's Liaoning Province, a traditional industrial base, has attracted more than one million overseas tourists so far this year, a local tourism official has announced.

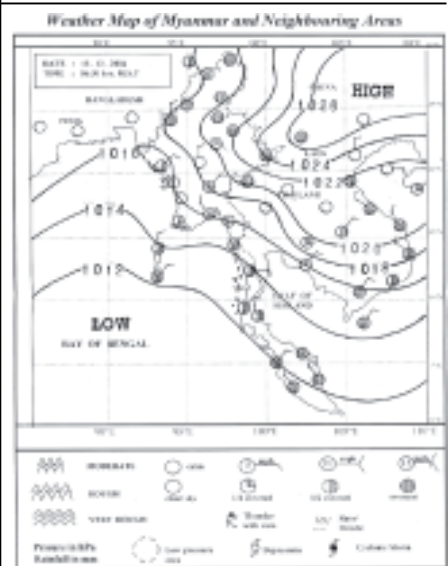
Ying Zhongyuan, deputy director of the provincial tourism administration, said the number of overseas tourists to the province has increased drastically over the past several years, rising from 600,000 in 2000 to 900,000 in 2002 to the current more than one million.

Ying attributed the increase to the launch of the central government's strategy to rejuvenate the northeast rusty industrial

belt, local rich tourism resources which include six world heritage sites and icy and snowy scenes. Tourists from Japan, South Korea and Russia make up the majority of overseas tourists to the province due to geographical vicinity.

Occupancy rates of hotels in major cities such as the provincial capital of Shenyang and coastal city of Dalian have exceeded 60 per cent.

MNA/Xinhua



WEATHER

Monday, 13 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 Chin State, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions, (6°C) above normal in Kachin State, (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in northern Shan State, Bago and Yangon Divisions, (5°C) to (6°C) below normal in eastern Shan State and Mandalay Division and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Namsan (4°C), Kengtung (5°C) Pyin Oo Lwin, Lashio and Mindat (6°C) each.

Maximum temperature on 12-12-2004 was 92°F. Minimum temperature on 13-12-2004 was 56°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 13-12-2004 was 73%. Total sunshine hours on 12-12-2004 was (8.5) hours approx. Rainfall on 13-12-2004 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 5 mph from Northwest at (7:30) hours MST on 13-12-2004.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 14-12-2004: Weather will be partly cloudy in Ayeyawady, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions, generally fair in the remaining areas. **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 to moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters. **Outlook for subsequent two days:** Decrease of night temperatures are likely in the eastern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 14-12-2004: Partly cloudy. **Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 14-12-2004:** Fine weather.



Tuesday, December 14

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
- 7:50 am**
5. ကဗျာပန်းဥယျာဉ်
- 8:00 am**
6. Songs of yesteryears
- 8:10 am**
7. အတုမြင့်

- 8:20 am**
8. သူ့ရောင်းတံတား
- 8:30 am**
9. International news
- 8:45 am**
10. Let's go
- 4:00 pm**
1. Martial song
- 4:15 pm**
2. Songs to uphold National Spirit
- 4:30 pm**
3. English for Everyday Use
- 4:45 pm**
4. Musical programme
- 5:00 pm**
5. အဝေးသင်တန်းသို့လုပ်ငန်းရပ်နားခြင်းသင်တန်းစာတတ်ယူရန် (စာတတ်စာအရေးအကြီး) (စာတတ်စာ)
- 5:15 pm**
6. Dance of national races

- 5:30 pm**
7. စာအုပ်အသစ်တေးဂီတဝင်
- 5:40 pm**
8. Sing and Enjoy
- 6:15 pm**
9. နိုင်ငံခြားကားတိုင်းစာတတ်လမ်းတွဲ "မောင်မင်းညွန့်" (အပိုင်း-၅၀)
- 6:30 pm**
10. Evening news
- 7:00 pm**
11. Weather report
- 7:05 pm**
12. သွေးလွှာစစ်ဆေးရေးစာတတ်
- 7:20 pm**
13. သားငါးဖွံ့ဖြိုးခြင်းအကျိုး
- 7:35 pm**
14. The mirror images of the musical oldies
- 8:00 pm**
15. News
- 8:05 pm**
16. International news
- 8:10 pm**
17. Weather report
- 8:15 pm**
18. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတတ်လမ်းတွဲ "သံခွံမိမိသွေး" (အပိုင်း-၂၀)
- 8:20 pm**
19. The next day's programme

Tuesday, December 14

Tune in today:

- 8:30 am**
Brief news
- 8:35 am**
Music: December will be magic again
- 8:40 am**
Perspectives
- 8:45 am**
Music: I was born on X'mas day
- 8:50 am**
National news/Slogan
- 9:00 am**
Music: -Winter melody
- 9:05 am**
International news
- 9:10 am**
Music: -Rocking around the X'mas Tree
- 1:30 pm**
News/Slogan
- 1:40 pm**
Lunch time music -Ripper of piece -Driving home for X'mas -The children's X'mas song
- 9:00 pm**
English Speaking Course Level-II Unit 14
- 9:15 pm**
Article/Music
- 9:25 pm**
Weekly sports reel
- 9:35 pm**
Music for your listening pleasure -Silver bells -I'll be home for X'mas
- 9:45 pm**
News/Slogan
- 10:00 pm**
PEL



Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than delivers an address in meeting with officials at Yamaway Hall in Kyaukphyu, Rakhine State.—MNA

Kyaukphyu to become important deep-sea port in near future

YANGON, 13 Dec — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than met with district and township officials in Kyaukphyu, Rakhine State, on 9 December.

At the meeting, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than explained that he was in Kyaukphyu region to make

arrangements for regional development, boosting the farming industry and extension of paddy cultivation for regional food sufficiency. Officials concerned will have to reclaim up to 6,000 acres for cultivation, while applying four means to increase per acre yield of all crops cultivated in the region. In addition, they should

strive to grow beans and pulses, edible oil crops and summer paddy, and provide assistance for cultivating 300,000 pepper plants. He commended that pepper should be grown in the shade of trees, on manageable scale and with the use of scientific methods till Rakhine

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Education Minister addresses conclusion of special refresher course No 3 for faculty members

YANGON, 13 Dec — The conclusion of special refresher course No 3 for faculty members was held at Yadana Hall of the Central Institute of Civil Service (Upper Myanmar) in Pyin Oo Lwin Township, Mandalay Division, yesterday morning, with an address by Minister for Education U Than Aung on behalf of the Chairman of the Myanmar Education Committee.

Also present were Minister for Cooperatives Col Zaw Win, Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office Brig-Gen Pyi Sone, Deputy Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Brig-Gen Than Tun, Deputy Minister for Culture Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung, Deputy Minister for Labour Brig-Gen Win Sein, member of Civil Service Selection and Training Board U Hla Myint Oo, senior military officers, officials of the SPDC office, heads of department, members of division, district and township PDCs, the rector of the CICS (upper Myanmar), pro-rectors, and trainee faculty members.

At the concluding ceremony, Minister U Than Aung spoke on the occasion. On behalf of the Chairman of the MEC, he said that nowadays, the govern-



Minister U Than Aung presents award to an outstanding trainee.—MNA

ment is nurturing new generation youths through the education sector to become intellectuals and intelli-

Commander, minister meets members of Supervisory Committee for Ayethaya Industrial Zone

YANGON, 13 Dec — Chairman of Shan State Peace and Development Council Commander of Eastern Command Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint and Taunggyi Industrial Zone in-charge Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi attended a ceremony to meet members of supervisory committee for industrial zone held in Ayethaya Industrial Zone this morning.

During the meeting, Secretary of foundry plant construction committee



Commander Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint and Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi inspect power tillers at Taunggyi Ayethaya Industrial Zone. —MNA

gentsia to overcome the challenges to be faced in the future with an eye to seeing the Union of Myanmar prevailing stability and developing national economy.

At a time when the cutting edge of science and technology is penetrating not only into the education field but also into the fields of economy, social, State defence and security, it is indispensable that the education sector is to enhance human resources that

(See page 9)

All 5,070 prisoners released

YANGON, 13 Dec — The State Peace and Development Council has dissolved the National Intelligence Bureau since 22 October this year.

It was observed that the NIB might have committed irregularities. After due review of the case, prison terms of 5,070 convicts were suspended on 11 December 2004 and all of them were released from the respective prisons on 12 December 2004. It was the third time the convicts are released. — MNA