

# The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Wednesday, 15 December 2004

## Prime Minister of Sri Lanka Mr Mahinda Rajapakse and Madame Shiranthi Rajapakse conclude visit to Myanmar

YANGON, 14 Dec

—The goodwill delegation led by Prime Minister of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka Mr Mahinda Rajapakse and Madame Shiranthi Rajapakse left for home this afternoon after visiting Myanmar at the invitation of Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win.

Prime Minister of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka Mr Mahinda Rajapakse and Madame Shiranthi Rajapakse and party arrived at Yangon International Airport at 12.30 pm. Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe cordially met Sri Lankan Prime Minister Mr Mahinda Rajapakse and Madame Shiranthi Rajapakse and party in the special lounge at the airport. Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win presented a documentary video tape and album.



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win sees off Sri Lankan Prime Minister Mr Mahinda Rajapakse and wife and party. — MNA

Sri Lankan Prime Minister Mr Mahinda Rajapakse and Madame Shiranthi Rajapakse and party left here by air for home. They were seen off at the airport by Prime

Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon

Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and wife Daw Khin Thet Htay, Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win and wife, Minister

for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Deputy Minister for Education U Myo Nyunt and wife, Myanmar Ambassador to Sri Lanka U Than Tun

and wife, Ambassador of Sri Lanka Mr DMM Ranaraja and wife, embassy staff, Director-General of Protocol Department Thura U Aung Htet and officials. — MNA

## 2004 ASEAN Open Optimist Championship opens

YANGON, 14 Dec — The 2004 ASEAN Open Optimist Championship began at Chaungtha Beach in Patheingyi, Ayeyawady Division, attended by Chairman

of Myanmar National Olympic Council Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein.



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein cordially greets contestants of the 2004 ASEAN Open Optimist Championship. — MNA

Sixty-five under-15 yachters from Indonesia, Malaysia, host Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand, Japan, and Sri Lanka are taking part in the championship that will be held till 20 December.

The State Flag of the Union of Myanmar was raised and the national anthem played. Speaking on the occasion, Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint said that Myanmar hosted the Second South-east Asian Games, which included the yachting event, in 1961. Myanmar also hosted the Fifth SEA Games in 1969 and the yachting events were held in Ngapali. Founded in 1924, the Myanmar Yachting Federation is now 80 years old. Myanmar hosted the Ninth ASEAN Open Optimist Championship in Inya Lake in 1996 soon before the nation joined the Association. Fifty athletes from two Asian nations in addition to ASEAN nations took part in the competition.

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### INSIDE

The Summit, sponsored by the Ministry of Religious Affairs of the Government of Myanmar, under the ovada of the Sayadaws of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee, has achieved success as one of the most important and glorious conferences in Myanmar's history of religion.

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AUNG KYAW HSAN (MRCS)

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

## PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 15 December, 2004

## Build more roads and bridges for further socio-economic development

The inauguration of the 552-foot-long Thanthamagyi bridge constructed by Public Works under the Ministry of Construction on the Yangon-Kyaukphyu road in Yanbye Township was successfully held on 12 December. Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence attended the opening ceremony and delivered an address.

Though rich in terrestrial resources, Rakhine State was difficult of access as it had to rely only on water and air ways for transport in the past.

Nowadays, the Government is building roads and bridges in every state and division for regional development, and Rakhine State is not the exception. The Yangon-Sittway highway having been constructed, people in the region are now able to travel to Yangon and other states and divisions easily. Moreover, the Sittway-MraukU-An road, the Taunggup-Padaung-Pyi road and the Thandwe-Gwa-Nagthaingchaung road are all weather roads and they contribute a lot to regional development and trade.

Now, the Yangon-Kyaukphyu highway and bridges along it are under construction. Out of the fourteen river-crossing bridges to be built in the Taunggup-Maei-Kyaukphyu section of the highway, the newly-opened Thanthamagyi bridge was the tenth to be completed.

As the Thanthamagyi bridge on the Yangon-Sittway highway has been opened, more than 100,000 people in Yanbye and An townships will enjoy economic, social and transport development. Better transport is the key to the development of a region. Therefore, the better the transportation is, the more the trade and economy of that region will improve. This being the case, the Government is spending huge sums of money on the construction of new roads and bridges all over the nation. The newly-opened Thanthamagyi bridge is one of the major bridges on the Yangon-Kyaukphyu highway and it is the 177th built by Public Works since 1988. We believe that the construction of networks of roads and bridges across the Union will pave the way for social and economic development of all the regions and strengthen the national unity.

## Bio gas-fired power station put into service

YANGON, 14 Dec — Bio gas-fired power station was inaugurated in Zepingyi Village in PyinOoLwin Township, Mandalay Division, on 7 December.

It was built at a cost of K 4,425,430 contributed by the village Union Solidarity and Development Association and locals. The station can supply electricity to 245 fluorescent lamps and 15 TVs in the village. PyinOoLwin District Peace and Development Council Chairman Lt-Col Myo Myint and Secretary of the district Union Solidarity and Development Association U Maung Maung Lwin and Chairman of Zepingyi Village Peace and Development Council U Than Tun formally opened the station. — 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

## Mawgun Award holders invited to Armed Forces Day celebrations

YANGON, 14 Dec — Arrangements are under way to invite Mawgun Award holders to the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day.

The one who will attend the ceremony must be a resident of Yangon Division, clear from party politics, a pensioner as the war veteran, and attend the ceremony in person.

The Mawgun Award holders will have to present their name, national registration card number, Mawgun Award number and date and address to the invitation committee at 212 Theinbyu Road, Yangon, not later than 4 pm on 31 December. — MNA

## Sri Lankan PM and party visit Shwedagon Pagoda

YANGON, 14 Dec — Sri Lankan delegation led by Prime Minister of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka Mr Mahinda Rajapakse and Madame Shiranthi Rajapakse this morning visited Shwedagon Pagoda.

The delegation was welcomed there by Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Director-General of the Religious Affairs Department Dr Myo Myint and members of the pagoda board of trustees.

At the pagoda, Mr Mahinda Rajapakse and party paid obeisance to the jade Buddha Image and tolled the great bell donated by King Thayawady.

Next, they also observed the old Htidaw (umbrella of the pagoda)

donated by King Mindon in 1871. Before they left the pagoda, the delegation posed for the documentary photos together with Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung and Deputy Minister U Myo Nyunt and wife. Next, they signed in the visitors' book. Mr Mahinda



Prime Minister Mr Mahinda Rajapakse and Madame Shiranthi Rajapakse visit Shwedagon Pagoda. — MNA

## Deputy Foreign Minister leaves for Vietnam

YANGON, 14 Dec — Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint left here this morning by air to attend the Fifth Meeting of Myanmar-Vietnam Joint Commission to be held in Hanoi, Vietnam from 15 to 17 December.

The delegation was seen off at Yangon International Airport by directors-general and officials of Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ambassador of Socialist Republic of Vietnam Mr Pham Quang Khon.

The Deputy Minister was accompanied by Director-General U Nyan Lynn of Consular, International Law and Treaties and Research Department of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Director-General U Tin Htut Oo of Ministry of Agricultural and Irrigation, Police Col Thein Kyi of Myanmar Police Force, Director U Than Tun of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Director U Kyaw Soe Myint of Ministry of Sports, Deputy General Manager U Tint Lwin of Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs and Deputy Director U Zaw Zaw Aung of Ministry of Commerce. — MNA

Poem:

## If we accept their standard

- \* Democracy being shouted at top of voice  
Though this is being done  
If you look carefully  
You'll find what they want is different.
- \* Human rights is another matter  
With standard raised for all the people of the world  
They're moving up front  
Though they are organizing  
What they want is different.
- \* Do what he asks, support his acts  
Accept his policy, his men  
That nation's automatically recognized  
As having democracy already in place
- \* If all their designs, Western  
Are accepted instantly by government  
And acts to their liking, the people of that land  
Will be accepted totally  
Up to standard  
Enjoying all benefits, human rights  
They'll accept it thus easily.
- \* 'Tis high time their democracies are discerned
- \* 'Tis high time their brand of human rights is discerned
- \* If we accept their standard  
The nation will be enslaved.

Byan Hlwar (Trs)

pagoda. Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung accepted the donations and presented the picture of the pagoda to the prime minister as a Dhamma gift.

MNA

## Library, Museum and Exhibition Supervisory Committee members inspect Thai Trade Fair

YANGON, 14 Dec — Members of the Library, Museum and Exhibition Supervisory Committee inspected booths of the Thai Trade Fair-2004 to be staged at the Yangon Trade Centre in Mingalar Taungnyunt Township this evening.

Items to be displayed at the trade fair by 175 booths of 140 companies include car accessories and spare parts, chemical products, toys, personal goods, foodstuff, packing materials, cosmetics and others.

Deputy Director (Admin) of News and Periodicals Enterprise U Mya Hlaing presented a permit to the Managing Director of TTF (Yangon) Co Ltd, who is also the In Charge of the Trade Fair. — MNA



## India, Pakistan to hold talks on combating narcotic smuggling

**NEW DELHI, 13 Dec**— India and Pakistan will hold talks from Monday to combat smuggling of narcotic and psychedelic substances and are expected to exchange drafts of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to explore ways to fight the menace.

A five-member Pakistan delegation, led by its Anti-Narcotics Force Director General Major-General Nadeem Ahmed, arrived here on Saturday night for the two-day talks to be held as part of the ongoing composite dialogue process between the two countries.

The Indian team will be headed by Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) Director General Swaraj Puri.

The two sides will discuss methods for mutual detection of narcotic drugs and ways to control their smuggling, official sources said.

The delegations are scheduled to exchange drafts of an MoU to combat drug smuggling, the sources said. However, the MoU will be finalized at a later date only after due consultations, they added. An Indian delegation from NCB had visited Pakistan in June for the first round of talks to check smuggling of narcotic drugs which, in this region, originate mainly from Afghanistan.

Before the start of the talks, the Pakistan delegation would call on Home Minister Shivraj Patil on Monday.

MNA/PTI

ထိုက်ကုန်နှစ်သ ထိုးမြင်းကြ



A peasant girl eats her dinner of rice guel and peanuts as children gather around her in a village outside of Yueyang on 14 Dec, 2004. — INTERNET

## Latin America, Caribbean heavily hit by global warming

**BUENOS AIRES, 13 Dec** — Experts warned Saturday Latin America and the Caribbean are suffering from global warming, and the problem may become more serious due to the lack of proper measures.

The statement came in the report "Climate Change in Latin America and the Caribbean" presented to the ongoing World Meeting on Climate Change, which will last 12 days and end here on Friday.

The experts believed that the climate change caused by greenhouse gases will bring serious consequences to Latin America and the Caribbean although the countries are seldom blamed for causing the problem.

About 70 per cent of the greenhouse gases in Latin America are produced by Brazil, Venezuela and Argentina, which however accounted for only 8.0 per cent of the world's total. Latin America's output of industrial carbon dioxide reached only 4.3 per cent of

the global total, the report said.

Nevertheless, poverty, degradation of natural resources, and lack of plans to cope with damages have made the region vulnerable to climate change.

Increased intensity and frequency of hurricanes, changes of rain patterns, rising river levels, reduction of glaciers in Patagonia and the Andes are all symptoms of global warming in Latin America and the Caribbean, the report said.

The experts asked Latin America and the Caribbean to demand developed countries cut the emission of greenhouse gases.

MNA/Xinhua

## Two Marines killed in Iraq's Anbar Province

**BAGHDAD, 13 Dec**—Two US Marines were killed in action in Iraq's volatile western Anbar Province, the military said Tuesday, taking the number of Marines reported killed in the region in past three days to 10.

A military statement said two Marines assigned to the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force were killed in action Monday "while conducting security and stabilization operations" in the vast Anbar province west of Baghdad, which includes the battle-

ground cities of Fallujah and Ramadi.

Seven Marines died in action Sunday in Anbar, the deadliest day for the Marines since eight of their service members were killed by a car bomb 30 Oct. outside Fallujah. Another

Marine was killed Saturday. It was unclear where in Anbar the Marines died.

The deaths brought to nearly 1,300 the number of American troops killed in Iraq since the invasion in March 2003.

Internet



Guerillas, using small arms and mortars, launch an attack on US forces in Fallujah, Iraq, on 13 Dec, 2004.—INTERNET

## Sri Lankan hostage in Iraq returns home

**COLOMBO, 13 Dec**— Sri Lankan truck driver Dinesh Rajaratnam taken hostage in Iraq in October has returned home, the state radio announced here Sunday.

Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation said Rajaratnam who was released by the militant group known as the Islamic Army has arrived at the Bandaranaike International Airport Sunday morning.

The 37-year-old Rajaratnam from the Tamil minority who was employed as a driver in Iraq along with a Bangladeshi national had been taken hostage on October 28.

Sri Lankan nationals had been warned not to travel to Iraq after the US led war in Iraq began in March 2003.

MNA/Xinhua

## Survey shows Norway's research status wanes

**STOCKHOLM, 13 Dec** — Norway is again the left in the corner compared to its Nordic neighbours' research efforts, Norwegian newspaper *Aftenposten* reported on Saturday quoting a Danish study.

The Danish Centre for Research Analysis lists Norway in last place in most of the parameters in its latest report on research in the region, *Aftenposten* reported.

Norwegian researchers are least quoted in international journals, Norway has the lowest state and industrial research effort, the fewest number of people working in the field, the fewest doctorates and the fewest patents.

The bright spots are in education, where Norway is on a leading level, with Sweden and Denmark, and in the number of professors, where Norway is a leader thanks to its qualifications-based promotion system.

The head of the Forskerforbundet (Norwegian Association of Research Workers), Kolbjorn Hagen, found this little consolation.

MNA/Xinhua

## Oil prices rise on cold weather, Iraq sabotage

**LONDON, 13 Dec**—Oil prices rose on Monday as cold weather in the US northeast pushed heating oil prices higher and after sabotage again disrupted Iraq's oil exports.

Temperatures in the US northeast were expected to be below normal for the next five days, increasing demand for heating oil.

US light crude was up 74 cents at \$41.45 a barrel after earlier falling to \$40.25, the lowest price since the end of July. London's Brent crude was up 97 cents at \$38.35 a barrel.

US heating oil prices were up nearly four percent at \$1.2710 a gallon.

Heating oil stocks last week were nearly 8 percent below the same time last year.

While stockpiles have been slowly rising, their relatively low level has prompted concern in oil markets that supplies may be insufficient if the US winter is particularly cold.

In Iraq, sabotage stopped the flow of oil through the country's northern export pipeline to the Turkish terminal of Ceyhan on Sunday.

The pipeline only restarted exports on Friday after a 12-day halt. Exports have been sporadic since an explosion damaged the pipeline in early November. Oil has been under pressure from the view that world crude stocks will be sufficient this winter despite Friday's OPEC decision to rein in 1 million barrels a day of excess output.—Internet

# Indonesian volcano erupts

**JAKARTA, 14 Dec—** A volcano erupted in Indonesia's north Sulawesi Province, spewing hot dust and ash over neighbouring villages, an official said.

Mount Soputan in northern Sulawesi Province erupted at 6 am local time on Sunday, sending out thick smoke and ash as high as 1,000 metres, said Sandy Manengkey, a local volcanologist who was quoted by Indonesian daily *Kompas* here on Monday.

Though the volcano spread ash over at least 500 villages at the base of the mountain, no one was hurt or evacuated, he said.

The official said that the volcanic activities in the mountain escalated on Saturday night and created clouds and dust around the mountain's peak.

Residents near the mountain had been alerted since October about the escalating volcanic activity in the 1,783-metre high volcano and were urged to avoid any activities around it.

Mount Soputan erupted twice in 2003, spewing lava and clouds of dust high into the air that fell as far away as the provincial capital Manado, around 40 kilometres (25 miles) to the north.

The mountain is among at least 100 active volcanoes in Indonesia.

MNA/Xinhua

စက်မှုဥစ္စာအား လေထဲတုတ်လွှား



*A volcano in Indonesia's northernmost province of north Sulawesi belched smoke and heatclouds and blanketed a town and several villages with ash, an official said recently.—INTERNET*

## Four killed, five missing in new landslide in eastern Philippines

**MANILA, 13 Dec—** At least four people were killed and five were missing after a fresh landslide hit the eastern Philippines on Monday, two weeks after back-to-back storms unleashed landslides and flooding that left nearly 900 dead and hundreds missing, officials said.

Continuous rains around Tinambac Town in Camarines Sur Province have loosened soil, causing it to collapse onto houses, regional disaster coordinating council director Arnel Capili said.

"The report we got is that the landslide buried

five houses," Capili said.

He said that two boys, ages five and 16, were among the dead, and another two boys were among the missing. Five people also were injured, he said. Capili said rescue teams and ambulances were sent to the area, and

a backhoe was dispatched to clear the road.

Camarines Sur is about 170 miles southeast of Manila, and just south of Quezon Province, which was the hardest hit by the devastating storms on November 29 and December 2. At least 893 people

were killed and 480 were missing, officials said.

More than 2.3 million people were affected by the storms, which also caused about 3.8 billion pesos (67.8 million US dollars) in damage, the Office of Civil Defence said. —MNA/AP

## US soldier killed in roadside bomb attack in northern Baghdad

**BAGHDAD, 13 Dec —** A US soldier was killed when a roadside bomb struck a patrol in northern Baghdad on Sunday and a Marine was killed in the restive province west of the capital, the US military said.

Three other soldiers were slightly wounded in the roadside bomb attack.

The deaths of the servicemen raised to at least 1,010 the number of Americans killed in action in Iraq.

A statement said the Marine died while conducting security operations in Anbar Province, which includes the violent cities of Fallujah and Ramadi.

No further details of the incidents were given.

Roadside bombs, typically artillery shells buried in verges and detonated by remote control, are a daily hazard for US forces, accounting for a large proportion of their casualties.

The Pentagon is seeking to increase production of armoured Humvee patrol vehicles after a soldier put Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld on the spot at a public meeting last week by complaining that troops in Iraq lack sufficient armour plating. —MNA/Reuters

## Thai Govt in drive to cut number of new smokers, drinkers

**BANGKOK, 14 Dec—** The Ministry of Public Health of Thailand voiced hope that the government's crackdown on underage cigarette and alcohol sales would help slash the number of first-time smokers and drinkers, while young people expressed backing for the ministry's enforcement measures.

Speaking at a workshop on reducing cigarette and alcohol consumption on Sunday, Deputy Public Health Minister Suchai Charoenrattanaichai announced that the government hoped to reduce al-

cohol consumption to no more than 53.53 per cent of the 15-24 age group next year, while cutting smoking in the over-15 age group to no more than 37.7 per cent, the *Thai News Agency* reported Monday.

To achieve these goals, the ministry will create a campaign network to discourage teenagers to take up smoking and drinking, and to support people wanting to kick their habit.

MNA/Xinhua

## Indonesia signs \$4.2b energy contracts

**JAKARTA, 14 Dec —** The Indonesian Government signed 46 oil and gas contracts valued at 4.2 billion US dollars on Sunday night.

The signing was witnessed by Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and other senior officials.

According to the Indonesian daily *Kompas* here on Monday, these contracts included 15 deals on cooperation of oil and gas, and 18 agreements on the sale of natural gas and Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) for the domestic market.

Indonesian Mines and Mineral Resources Minister Purnomo Yugiantoro said that the massive value of the contracts on gas and LPG reaffirmed the government's commitment to promoting the use of gas as an alternative source of energy, and thus gradually reducing the nation's dependence on crude oil. —MNA/Xinhua

## 1,296 members of US military killed since beginning of Iraq war

**WASHINGTON, 13 Dec—** As of Monday, 13 Dec, 2004, at least 1,296 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 1,016 died as a result of hostile action, the Defence Department said. The figures include three military civilians.

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

The British military has reported 74 deaths; Italy, 19; Poland, 13; Spain, 11; Ukraine, nine; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary and Latvia one death each.

Since 1 May, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,158 US military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 907 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

One US soldier was killed Monday in a vehicle accident near Balad, Iraq. Seven Marines were killed Sunday in Anbar Province. —Internet



*US Marines patrol the restive city of Fallujah, 50 kms west of Baghdad, on 13 Dec, 2004.—INTERNET*



## Aziz says Pakistan to boost ties with China

ISLAMABAD, 13 Dec— Pakistani Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz said here on Sunday that his country will further enhance the relations with China.

The Prime Minister, who will pay an official visit to China from December 14 to 18, told *Xinhua* in an interview that he will bring a band of Cabinet members and business people to China in an effort to strengthen the bilateral cooperation in political, economic, cultural, defence and other sectors.

The friendship between Pakistan and China could be dated back to the Silk Route period, said the Prime Minister, adding that Pakistan has long been one of the closest supporters of China since it gained independence from the British colonial reign in 1947.

In a bid to boost the bilateral link to "a new height", the Prime Minister said during his visit he will update the Chinese leadership on the fresh development of Pakistan and discuss with them on the possibility of stronger cooperation.

A number of agreements and Memorandums of Understanding are likely to be signed during his stay in China, he said. "I will also take a message to Chinese companies, inviting them to come here," the Prime Minister said, adding that Pakistan will take strict measures to guarantee the security of Chinese people working in Pakistan.

MNA/Xinhua

## Cargo plane crash in Brazil kills three

BRASILIA, 13 Dec— A cargo plane crashed into a house Saturday in Brazil's southeastern city of Uberaba, killing two pilots and one man on the ground.

The two-engine mail plane crashed at about 5.30 am (0730 GMT) prior to landing at the airport in Uberaba, killing the pilot, the copilot and one resident of the house.

The cause of the accident has not known yet.

MNA/Xinhua

## 24 suspected bird flu cases found in Thailand in second half of '04

BANGKOK, 13 Dec— There were 24 suspected bird flu cases in Thailand in the second half of 2004, according to the Thailand Avian Influenza Operations Centre.

Eleven of these cases were in the south, seven in the north, four in the north-east, and two in the Central Region, the *Thai News Agency* reported Sunday.

According to the report, all patients were under medical supervision, while the results of laboratory tests were pending.

Since the country was hit by a second round of bird-flu outbreak in mid-

2004, Thailand has recorded five confirmed cases of bird flu. Four of them died, while one of the patients recovered, the news agency quoted the Avian Influenza Operations Centre as saying.

More than 1,200 locations in 57 provinces were identified as suspected epidemic areas, where a large number of fowls were culled. — MNA/Xinhua

## "Forum for Future" concludes with vow to continue reform

RABAT, 13 Dec — Ministers of some 22 Middle East and North African countries and G-8 nations ended their one-day meeting of "the Forum for the Future" and vowed to continue their reforms.

In a chair summary, the meeting reaffirmed the countries' commitment to continuing political, economic and social reforms now underway and planned.

Foreign and finance ministers from 18 Arab countries and four non-Arab countries in the region and the Group of Eight (G-8) industrial nations, delegates of civil

and business groups as well as international organizations attended the forum.

The participants presented proposals at the meeting, which include a microcredit programme to assist small business in the region, training projects for young businessmen and foreign investment as well as a plan to fight illiteracy. — MNA/Xinhua



Iraqi men mourn outside a hospital following a suicide attack in Baghdad on 13 Dec, 2004.—INTERNET

## China leads Europe by over 2,000 years in pig iron casting

BEIJING, 14 Dec— China invented smelting and casting techniques of pig iron in the Fifth Century BC, leading Europe by more than 2,000 years, said an expert with the metallurgical and material history research institute under Beijing University of Science and Technology.

China began to smelt and cast pig iron in the Fifth Century BC, techniques Europe did not master until the Renaissance, said Han Rufen, former director of the institute.

The conclusion was drawn from research on unearthed ironware, including shovels from a ce-

ment factory in Luoyang City in central China's Henan Province and shovels in ancient tombs in Changsha City in central China's Hunan Province. Dr Li Yanxiang, a research fellow at the institute, said compass, gunpowder, paper-making and printing are the four

greatest scientific inventions in ancient China in terms of their contribution to Western civilization.

Li also said that in terms of contribution to Chinese civilization, iron and steel smelting and casting ranked first in the great inventions.

MNA/Xinhua



A ship docks at Port Klang, west of Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 14 Dec, 2004.

INTERNET

## US forces, guerillas clash in Baghdad neighbourhood

BAGHDAD, 13 Dec— Clashes broke out between US forces and guerillas in central Baghdad on Sunday, eve of the anniversary of the capture of the toppled Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

*Xinhua* correspondents heard gun shots and sporadic explosions behind the magnificent apartment buildings in the Haifa Street, which was twice cordoned off in the morning for searches.

Media reports said Iraq's National Guard troops were targeted by guerillas, who fired rocket-propelled grenades and small fire. The guards returned fire and confiscated weapons in following raids. There was no word on casualties.

Elsewhere, a car bomb detonated near an Ameri-

can convoy. No soldiers were killed or injured in the incident, which took place on a road west of Baghdad, said the US military.

The violence erupted one day before the anniversary of the capture of Saddam, who was found hidden in an underground hole near his hometown in northern Iraq and did not make any attempt to resist before he was handcuffed by US troops.

The declaration of the capture was followed by car bombings and gun battles in Baghdad,

which has been a daily scene of clashes and bombings in the past year.

Stretching alongside the western bank of the Tigris River, Haifa Street, where Saddam graduated from a high school, has now become a stronghold for anti-US militants.

"They are not necessarily Saddam supporters," said Dhafer Mahmoud, a vendor in the street, adding "they come with masks and it is said some of them are from foreign countries".

MNA/Xinhua

## Fiji's HIV/AIDS cases increase

WELLINGTON, 14 Dec— Fiji's "HIV/AIDS" cases have increased from 156 to 171, according to Fiji's official government statistics reaching here Monday.

Public Health Acting Director Timaima Tuiketeti confirmed the total accumulative figure from 1989 to December 1 this year as 171.

Of the 171 confirmed cases, 101 are males and 70 are females; 144 are Fijians, 20 Indians and seven of other ethnicities.

Tuiketeti said while

the mode of transmission was 87 per cent heterosexual, a high 75 per cent of it was detected in the 20-49 years age category.

MNA/Xinhua

## Xingwen park applies for UNESCO's new geoparks list

CHENGDU, 14 Dec—The Xingwen Geopark in southwest China's Sichuan Province is expected to be included on the second geoparks list of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), a local governmental official said.

Sources from Sichuan's Xingwen County Government, where the park is located, said that a group of domestic and UNESCO geologists have just concluded field inspection. They spoke highly of the local government's efforts in protecting the geological relics.

Currently, the Xingwen Park has passed the examination and been listed as one of China's four candidates for UNESCO's second geoparks list.

The final appraisal for whether the Xingwen Park will be on the UNESCO list will be made at the second international conference on geoparks to be held in Paris in February 2005, according to the Xingwen County Government.

The Xingwen Park is reported to have well-preserved carbonate stratum ranging in ages from 250 million years to 490 million years. The variform stone forests, water-eroded caves and hol-

lows on land surface have made the park an encyclopedia of geology.

After the park was listed as one of China's state geoparks in January this year, the local government started the UNESCO application.

China hosted the first international conference on geoparks in June this year, in which the UNESCO announced the first 25 UNESCO-identified world geoparks. Eight are located in China: Huangshan Mountains in Anhui Province, Lushan Mountains in Jiangxi Province, Yuntaishan Mountains in Henan Province, Stone Forest in Yunnan Province, Danxiashan Mountain in Guangdong Province, Zhangjiajie Nature Reserve in Hunan Province, Wudalianchi, five volcanic lakes in Heilongjiang Province, and Songshan Mountains in Henan Province.

MNA/Xinhua

## Gas leak forces 600 people to leave homes in western Canada

OTTAWA, 14 Dec—About 600 people in a community in the western province of Alberta were forced from their homes Sunday after a gas-well leak was discovered on Sunday, reports reaching here said Monday.

Workers noticed the underground leak at the Acclaim Energy Trust well site in the northern part of the province on Sunday morning. Oil could be seen spurting from the decades-old well later in the day, and the smell drifted into the pro-

vince's largest city of Edmonton. Emergency crews are trying to cap the well, and the company believes the leak may have been caused by a ruptured casing.

Officials decided to evacuate homes in the area because of concerns that

people could breathe in a combination of natural gas and hydrogen sulphide.

A nearby secondary highway was closed, and everyone living within 1.5 kilometres of the well site was told to leave, although it was voluntary.

MNA/Xinhua



Santa Claus students learn how to deliver gifts to their children at a school for Santa Claus training in Tokyo on 14 Dec, 2004.—INTERNET

## Bulgarian PM starts first visit to Japan in 34 years

SOFIA, 13 Dec—Bulgarian Prime Minister Simeon Borissov Saxe-Coburg-Gotha left here Sunday for an official visit to Japan, the first one by a Bulgarian Prime Minister to the Asian nation in 34 years, the *Bulgarian Telegraph Agency* reported. During the visit, Simeon will meet Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro

Koizumi and sign documents on political partnership and technical cooperation between the two countries.

Simeon, accompanied by Bulgaria's Minister of Economy and a group of industry leaders, is also expected to attend a forum on Bulgaria-Japan economic cooperation. — MNA/Xinhua

**The best time to plant a tree was  
20 years ago.  
The second best time is now.**

မြို့ခြံရွာတာ၊ လိပ်ပါးလေလွင့်၊ ထုတ်ကုန်မြင့်



Chinese farmer works his fields in Guangxi Province on 14 Dec, 2004.

INTERNET

## Mekong countries prepare for summit in China

HANOI, 14 Dec — Delegates from Cambodia, China, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam gathered in Laos' capital of Vientiane on Monday to discuss topics and goals of the 2nd Great Mekong Sub-region (GMS) Summit to be held in China next year.

During the 2nd Task Force Meeting for the Preparation of the 2nd GMS Summit, the delegates touched upon overall ways of boosting the GMS' development via closer regional cooperation in major socio-economic fields, according to sources from Laos on Monday. The 1st Task Force Meeting was held in Beijing, China, in late July 2004. The 2nd GMS Summit will take place in the Chinese city of Kunming in early July 2005.

Leaders of six countries sharing the Mekong River gathered in Cambodia for their first Summit on 3 November, 2002,

mainly to promote further economic cooperation. They reaffirmed their commitment to sub-regional economic cooperation and a shared vision of equal partnership in the pursuit of economic growth and greater prosperity.

GMS countries, namely Cambodia, China, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam, have worked together for closer economic ties by speeding up the implementation of the GMS Economic Cooperation Programme (GMS Programme) since it was initiated by the Asian Development Bank in 1992.

MNA/Xinhua

## Researchers may have discovered causes of psoriasis

WASHINGTON, 13 Dec—Researchers said on Sunday they may have discovered what causes psoriasis, a common and irritating skin ailment, and said their findings may open the way to an effective treatment.

They found that it takes a combination of a protein called STAT3 and an active immune system to cause psoriasis, which experts estimate affects as much as 2 per cent of the population.

Their finding suggests that psoriasis may start with an over-enthusiastic attempt by the body to heal wounds.

And the researchers at The University of Texas M D Anderson Cancer Centre made a skin cream that blocked the process that leads to psoriasis in mice.

"We may have found an entirely new treatment option for psoriasis," said MD Anderson's John DiGiovanni, who led the study.

"We have developed a mouse model that exhibits all the major features of human psoriatic lesions and shown we can reverse those steps."

Psoriasis is a chronic condition in which patches of skin become inflamed and become itchy, red and flaky. There is no good treatment, although symptoms can be alleviated.

The disease involves skin cells called keratinocytes that grow too fast and too abundantly.

"There has been an ongoing controversy about whether the primary defect in psoriasis is in the immune system or in the keratinocytes," DiGiovanni said in a statement.— MNA/Reuters

## King of Jordan to visit Singapore

SINGAPORE, 14 Dec—King Abdullah II Bin Al Hussein of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan will make a working visit to Singapore starting from Tuesday, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement on Monday.

During his three-day visit here, Abdullah II will call on Acting President of Singapore Abdullah Tarmugi and meet Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong.

It will be the third time for Abdullah II to visit Singapore since he was enthroned in 1999. He made his first two visits to the island state in 2001 and 2003.

MNA/Xinhua



# The World Buddhist Summit concludes successfully

*Aung Kyaw Hsan (MRCS)*

Myanmar hosted the World Buddhist Summit in Yangon for three days from 9 to 11 December with the following objectives:

- to promote friendship, mutual understanding and cooperation among the Buddhist countries;
- to maintain Buddha's teachings and practice among the Buddhist countries;
- to promote Buddhistic education based on the studies of Buddhist sculptures in nations of the world;
- to create a peaceful world by the Buddhists for all humanbeing;
- to propagate the original teaching of the Buddha in the world.

The Summit was sponsored by the Ministry of Religious Affairs of the Government of the Union of Myanmar.

**It is also a rare and delightful opportunity even in a life time for one to pay respects to all the venerable monks, learned monks and chief monks of Buddhist Ganas from nations around the world at a single place at the same time.**

It was my immense pleasure to have the golden opportunity to attend the Summit as a delegate and a Buddhist together with venerable monks and Buddhist scholars from 38 nations. Based on mutual friendship, unity and forbearance, the most venerable monks, chief monks of the Buddhist Ganas, senior researchers of Buddhism, and the other delegates to the Summit exchanged views on the religion. The discussions at the Summit have erected a milestone in Myanmar history.

During His life time, the Lord Buddha taught the monks to be in unity and indivisible like the mixture of milk and water. Myanmar hosted the World Buddhist Summit in accord with one of the Buddha's teachings, which said that if the monks meet frequently to work for the Sasana in unity, there is always prospect for success.

It is also a rare and delightful opportunity even in a life time for one to pay respects to all the ven-

erable monks, learned monks and chief monks of Buddhist Ganas from nations around the world at a single place at the same time.

With great pleasure and auspiciousness, I was able to listen to the addresses delivered by the renowned monks at the Summit, and the messages of the Head of State of Myanmar, heads of state and government of other Buddhist nations read out at the Summit. The essence of the papers presented by senior world Buddhist researchers, and the discussions of the four groups of learned persons are the strength towards perpetuation of the Buddha Dhamma in the world. The Buddhist monks at the Summit are the true sons of the Lord Buddha, who have dutifully served the interests of the Sasana.

Thanks to the learned monks at the Summit, the Buddhists will be able to study the teachings of the Buddha more clearly. The Buddha's teachings have focused on human mind, action and words. The Buddhist treatises quoted the Buddha as teaching human beings to purify their mind and stay away from hatching evil plots or committing sins; that only then will they be able to find a correct path to Nirvana, which is free from all sufferings.

Terrible events do occur in the world because of the arms race, terrorism, and hegemonism resulting from the rich-poor gap. The root cause of those horrible things is extreme greed, violent anger, excessive pride and delusion. We should always control our mind to be free from greed, anger, and delusion. The Buddha's way to control and end all the defilements is the practice of Four Cardinal Values — metta (loving kindness), karuna (compassion), mudita (appreciative joy) and upekkha (equanimity). Only with the practice of the Four Cardinal Values, will all the human beings be able to free themselves from sufferings and build a world of peace and happiness. The essence of the Buddha's teachings is the Noble Eightfold Path, which is like the water that will put out the fire caused by burning anger, lust, greed and delusion.

By practising the Noble Eightfold Path, the embryo-Buddha attained the Buddhahood. The Noble Eightfold Path that is free from both extremes teaches mankind the Middle Way, the correct path to Nirvana. The essence of Sasana is sila (moral

precepts), samadhi (mental discipline) and pañña (wisdom). And if we analyze these three concepts we can elaborate as the Nobel Eightfold Path — right understanding, right thought, right speech, right action, right livelihood, right effort, right mindfulness and right concentration. Of them, right speech, right action and right livelihood belong to the realm of sila (moral precepts), while right effort, right mindfulness and right concentration are the quali-

**Thanks to the learned monks at the Summit, the Buddhists will be able to study the teachings of the Buddha more clearly. The Buddha's teachings have focused on human mind, action and words.**

cations of samadhi (mental discipline) and right understanding and right thoughts are components of pañña (wisdom). The perpetuation and flourishing of the Sasana means the storing of the Noble Eightfold Path in the hearts of mankind.

What I have stated in the above paras are what a lay person like me have gained from attending the World Buddhist Summit as a delegate. For those who have greater wisdom, knowledge and concentration will achieve benefits beyond imagination from it. Thus, the Summit has the power to produce invaluable benefits for the race and religion, the entire mankind, and the future of the peaceful world.

For two years, Myanmar had made preparations to host the World Buddhist Summit, utilizing a large extent of both manpower and financial power. The Summit, sponsored by the Ministry of Religious Affairs of the Government of Myanmar, under the ovada of the Sayadaws of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee, has achieved success as one of the most important and glorious conferences in Myanmar's history of religion. I wish peace and happiness for all who took part in the Summit in the respective sectors, and perpetuation of the Sasana. Buddha Sasanam Ciram Titthatu

*(Translation: TMT)*

*Kyemon, Myanma Alin: 14-12-2004*

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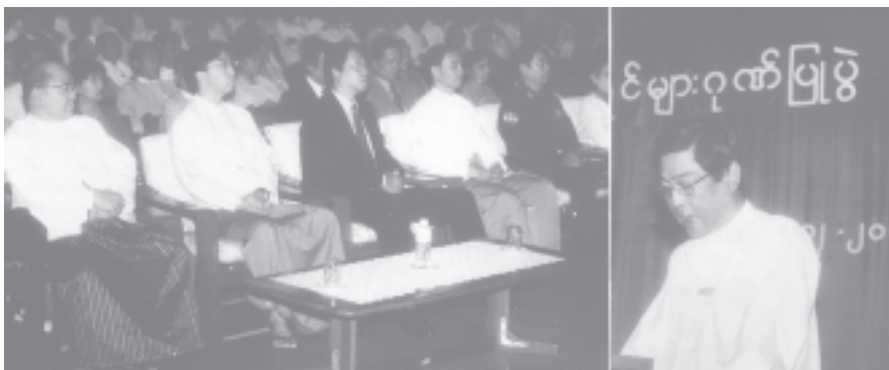
## Blood donors honoured

YANGON, 14 Dec—The 28th Anniversary of Blood Donors' Day was observed and blood donors were honoured at a ceremony held at the Institute of Nursing on Bogyoke Aung San Street here this morning.

Director-General of the Department of Health

Dr Tin Win Maung extended greetings and presented gifts to 21 persons who have donated blood 100 times and above.

It was also attended by 748 persons who have donated blood 50 times and above. — MNA



Director-General Dr Tin Win Maung addresses ceremony to observe Blood Donors' Day and to honour blood donors. — HEALTH



**RICE DONATED:** Principal U Aung Kyi, teachers and students of Insein Township No 1 Basic Education High School made a donation of 36 bags of rice on 10-12-2004. The headmaster and teachers hand over the donation to an official. The donation is to be offered to the Shwezigon Pagoda in NyaungU, Mandalay Division, and members of the Sangha on 29-12-2004. — MNA

## 2004 ASEAN Open Optimist...

(from page 1)

Myanmar people are active, kind-hearted and have loving kindness. In her drive to build a peaceful, modern and developed state, Myanmar has been giving priority to sports for the health and fitness of the national people. Sports is free from racial discrimination, cultural and political differences. It is a pride for Myanmar to see athletes from Asian nations gathering at the Chaungtha. The contest will help promote friendship and understanding among the Asians.

Former Chairman of International Optimist Dinghy Association (IODA) Mr Albert Chandler read out the message of Chairman of IODA Mr Rene Kluin.

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing, and Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint formally opened the championship. They also greeted the yachters cordially. Girls from high schools in Patheingyi performed dances and physical exercises at the opening ceremony. Accompanied by the commander, ministers, the Deputy Minister for Health and officials, the Secretary-1 observed the Chaungtha beach, and met with yachters and local people cordially. He arrived back here in the evening. — MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing and Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint open the 2004 ASEAN Open Optimist Championship. — MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and ministers attend opening of the 2004 ASEAN Open Optimist Championship. — MNA

## Minister meets industrialists

YANGON, 14 Dec — Chairman of Myanmar Industrial Development Committee In-charge of Mandalay Industrial Zone Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung inspected the project to develop industrial zones in Mandalay today. He observed the progress in erecting the foundry shop, forging shop and heat treatment buildings and related facilities as well as roads.

At the project office, he met with members of Industrial Zone Supervisory Committee and industrialists. Officials explained the progress in erection of a steel plant, and shares for the project. The minister fulfilled the requirements, speaking of the need to strive for development of the zones and build more factories.

MNA



Minister U Aung Thaung meets members of Mandalay Industrial Zone Supervisory Committee and industrialists. — INDUSTRY-1

## Organizational courses No 5/2004 of MWVO open in, Yangon, Mandalay, Magway

YANGON, 14 Dec — An organizational course No 5/2004 of Myanmar War Veterans Organization was opened at Training School of MWVO in Nyaungnapin in Hmawby Township yesterday. On behalf of Chairman of Central Organizing Committee of MWVO, Vice-Chairman Vice-Admiral Kyi Min (Retd), delivered an address.

Present were members of Central Organizing Committee of MWVO Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay, Deputy Minister for Industry-2 Lt-Col Khin Maung Kyaw, Vice-Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Vice-Mayor of Yangon Col Maung Pa, Commandant of Defence Services Record Office Brig-Gen Myo Myint, heads of departments, members of Yangon Division War Veterans Supervisory Committee, members of District and Township War

Veterans Supervisory Committees and trainees.

Vice-Chairman of Central Organizing Committee of MWVO, Vice-Admiral Kyi Min (Retd) explained formation of MWVO, objectives, five tasks, seven future tasks, investment of MWVO, agriculture and livestock breeding, services, industries, social welfare and community welfare services.

Vice-Admiral Kyi Min (Retd) then greeted the trainees and inspected training hall, hostels and messing hall. Similar courses were opened in Mandalay and Magway Divisions. Chairman of Mandalay City Development Committee Mandalay Mayor Brig-Gen Yan Thein and Secretary of Magway Division Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Zaw Thein delivered speeches at the opening ceremonies respectively.

MNA

## Delegates who attended World Buddhist Summit leave

YANGON, 14 Dec — Prominent Buddhist monks and Buddhist leaders, world Buddhist researchers and observers, who had attended the World Buddhist Summit, left here by air for home beginning this morning.

They were seen off at the airport by Chancellor of Sitagu World Buddhist Academy Ovadacariya Honorary Professor Sayadaw of International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Jotikadhaja Maha Dhammakathika Bahujana Hitadhara Dr Ashin Nyanissara, Chairman of the World Buddhist Summit Organizing, Invitation and Accommodation Subcommittee Director-General of Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana U Sann Lwin and officials. — MNA

## Workshop on Kunming-Mandalay-Kyaukpypu/Sittwe Development Corridor opens

YANGON, 14 Dec — The workshop on Kunming-Mandalay-Kyaukpypu/Sittwe Development Corridor, organized by Human Settlement and Housing Development Department of the Ministry of Construction, was opened at Sedona Hotel on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road here this afternoon.

It was attended by Deputy Minister for Construction U Tint Swe, departmental heads and officials, resource persons from the People's Republic of China, India, Germany and Czech Republic and guests. First, the deputy minister addressed the workshop. Next, Prof Li Xiaoxi of the PRC, Prof Sanjoy Hazarika of India, Mr Norbert von Hofmann of Friedrich Ebert Foundation, Bonn and Berlin of Germany and Deputy Director General of HSHDD U Win Myint made speeches. Later, the workshop commenced at 2:45 pm. It continues till 16 December. — MNA





Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win presents video tape and photo album to Sri Lankan counterpart Mr Mahinda Rajapakse. (News on page 1)—MNA



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win bids farewell to Sri Lankan Prime Minister Mr Mahinda Rajapakse and Madame Shiranthi Rajapakse at the airport. —MNA

## Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspects...

(from page 16)

gave instructions on durability of the bridge and maintenance.

At the construction site, District Senior Engineer U Kyi Soe reported on earth work, paving of roads and progress of work.

of the bridges.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspected Thazin Tanpauk Bridge construction project. Thazin Tanpauk Bridge is 592 feet long and 24 feet wide. Clearance of the bridge is 100 feet wide and 6 feet high and it can withstand

Head of Township General Administration Department U Thein Sint reported on location of the township and other conditions.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than said he came to Maei to fulfill requirements. The An-Maei-



Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspects Kyaukphyu Station Hospital. —MNA

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than made arrangements for supply of materials. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party arrived at Kyauksauk Village and observed the scenic beauty of the region.

On arrival at Minkyoung Creek Bridge construction site, senior engineer U Tin Soe reported on progress of work. The reinforced concrete Minkyoung Creek Bridge is 2,704 feet long and 24 feet wide. Clearance of the bridge is 171 feet wide and 38 feet high and it can withstand 60 tons of load.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party went to Maei-Kyaukphyu Road Project Office where Deputy Superintending Engineer U Than Nyunt reported on construction

60 tons of load. Efforts are being made for completion of the bridge. He also inspected construction of Thanthamachay Bridge and gave instructions on safety and completion of the bridge in time. Thanthamachay Bridge is 707 feet long and 24 feet wide. Clearance of the bridge is 100 feet wide and 6 feet high and it can withstand 60 tons of load.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspected Maei-Kyaukphyu project site in Taungup. He gave instructions on durability of the bridge and preservation of the forest.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and Commander Brig-Gen Min Aung Hlaing met local people at Maei Basic Education High School.

Taungup Road and Maei-Kyaukphyu Road are being built. Thandwe-An bus service has started. Out of ten bridges on Kyaukphyu-Maei Road six had been built. Arrangements have been made for running of passenger bus service from Taungup-Maei to Kyaukphyu.

The township will develop in the future as it is at the crossroads. He called on local people to make efforts for development of the township.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and the commander cordially greeted those present at the meeting. They then inspected a new building for the school which is under construction. They also inspected offices and the police station.—MNA

## Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than on tour of Manaung Township

YANGON, 14 Dec — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Rakhine State PDC Chairman Western Command Commander Brig-Gen Min Aung Hlaing, Col Aung Thaw of Kyaukphyu Station and officials, arrived at Yekyun Village (North) in Manaung Township by watercraft on 12 December morning after they had attended the inauguration of Thanthamagyi Bridge.

First, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party met the village people at the village primary

school. The chairman of the township PDC reported on population, education, eco-nomy, social, health and agriculture of the village. In response to the reports, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than said he had learnt that the village is known for its thriving plantations of paddy and onions. Particularly, first priority should be given to growing the onions, he urged. Officials responsible for agricultural services will provide necessary assistance to the growers for cultivation of quality strains. That's why village people are urged to extend the cultivation of onions that are most suitable to the soil condi-

tions of the region. In addition, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than stressed the need for the villagers to take measures for village security and fire prevention and to present education and health requirements to the regional officials if necessary.

Next, Commander Brig-Gen Min Aung Hlaing extended greetings to the village elders. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than made cash donations for the village education.

Later, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party inspected developments of the village and cordially greeted those present.

MNA

## Holding of Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners' Conference coordinated

YANGON, 14 Dec—A coordination meeting on holding the fifth Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners' Conference took place at the Pyidaungsu Hall on Kyaukkasan Grounds this

morning.

Meeting Chairman Director-General of Traditional Medicine Department Professor Dr Thein Swe made a speech on the occasion.

Delegates present on

the occasion discussed seven proposals to be presented at the conference and selected those who are to present the proposals and those who are to second them.

MNA

## Conference of ASEAN Engineering Federation on 18-19 December



### CAFEO 22

(၂၂)ကြိမ်မြောက်

အာဆီယံနိုင်ငံအတွင်းရှိ နယ်လမ်းများအတွက်

ညီလာခံ

ဒီဇင်ဘာ ၁၈-၁၉၊ ၂၀၀၄ ခုနှစ်၊ နိုဘယ်၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့



YANGON, 14 Dec — The 22nd Conference of ASEAN Engineering Federation organized by

Myanmar Engineering Society will be held on 18-19 December at Sedona Hotel.

At the conference, papers on engineering will be submitted. Members of the MES wishing to attend the conference may enroll at Room 5, Building No 6 of MES in MICT and may contact Ph 652294, 652295. MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Minister Maj-Gen Sein Htwa and Attorney-General U Aye Maung pay respects to aged doyen literati. — NLM

### MWJA observes Sarsodaw Day, pay respects to doyen literati

YANGON, 14 Dec — Myanmar Sarsodaw Day for 1366 ME organized by Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association was held in conjunction with the ceremony to pay respects to doyen literati at Town Hall this morning. Out of 109 doyen literati, 66 attended the ceremony.

The ceremony was also attended by Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa, Minister for Cooperatives Col Zaw Min, Attorney-General U Aye Maung, Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein, Justice of Supreme Court Dr Tin

Aung Aye, members of MWJA and guests.

At the ceremony,

Next, on behalf of literati, Cartoonist U Ba Ga Lay and Joint Secre-

with cash and kinds at their respective home.

MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan presents cash and kind to an aged journalist.

NLM

those in attendance paid respects to the literati and presented cash and kind to them individually.

tary of MWJA Dr Tin Tun Oo spoke words of thanks.

MWJA will also provide the rest of the literati

### Workshop on Energy Efficiency and Conservation in Major Industries in Southeast Asian Region held



Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi and those present pose for a documentary photo at the workshop. — ENERGY

YANGON, 14 Dec — Workshop on Energy Efficiency and Conservation in Major Industries in Southeast Asian Region co-sponsored by the Ministry of Energy of Myanmar, the ASEAN Centre for Energy (ACE) and the Energy Conservation Centre, Japan (ECCJ) was opened at the Traders Hotel on Sule Pagoda Road here this morning.

Present on the occasion were Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Than Htay, the directors-

general and managing directors of departments and enterprises under the ministry, the executive director of the ASEAN Centre for Energy, scholars of ECCJ, scholars of major industries in Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia and the Philippines, representatives from the Ministry of Energy, the Ministry of Electric Power, the Ministry of Industry-1, the Ministry of Industry-2, the Ministry of Mines and the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi, Mr Hideyuki Tanaka of ECCJ and Executive Director Dr Weerawat Chantanakome of ASEAN Centre for Energy made speeches on the occasion.

After the opening ceremony, scholars from major industries in Myanmar, Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore and the Philippines presented papers and discussed matters related to energy efficiency and conservation in major industries in Southeast Asian region. — MNA

### Maintenance of 3,000-ton jade inspected

YANGON, 14 Dec — Deputy Minister for Mines U Myint Thein and Director of the Myanma Gems Enterprise U Thein Swe inspected the exploration of ruby at the mining blocks in NamtYarSeik ruby land in Myitkyina Township on 9 December.

On 10 December, Chairman of Kachin State Peace and Development Council Commander of Northern Command Maj-

Gen Maung Maung Swe, the Deputy Minister and party inspected tasks for maintenance of the 3,000-ton jade in Namhmaw region in Phakang Township. The Deputy Minister called for earlier completion of the tasks.

The Deputy Minister held a meeting with the staff of Lonkhin jade office (branch) on 11 December.

MNA

### Kalay-Monywa-Mandalay bus-line launched

YANGON, 14 Dec — The inauguration of the Kalay-Monywa-Mandalay bus-line took place at the highway bus terminal in Kalay on 5 December morning.

It was attended by Brig-Gen Khin Maung Aye of Kalay Station, Col Myo Myint of Bandoola Travel Co, senior military officers, local authorities, departmental officials, social organizations and lo-

cal people.

Brig-Gen Khin Maung Aye and Col Myo Myint formally opened the bus-line.

Altogether six air-conditioned buses of the Bandoola Travel Co run the 228-mile Ywagyi newly-built road via newly built Chindwin River Bridge in Monywa and Myitha River Bridge in Kalewa.

MNA



Minister Maj-Gen Sein Htwa presents cash and kind to an aged writer. — NLM

### USDA CEC member inspects regional development tasks in Mon State

YANGON, 14 Dec — CEC member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint went to Natkyichaung village in Paung Township on 12th December and encouraged trainees of Basic Organizing Course 2/2004 opened there by the USDA.

After inspecting production of hydro electric power in Santaik village, the minister instructed officials to supply electricity the whole year. On arrival at Htanpinchaung salt field of Myanma Salt and Marine Chemicals Enterprise, he watched preparation of the salt fields and the responsible personnel in-

structed to exceed the production target. In Paung Township USDA's office, organizers reported to the minister on performances in respective zones and their requirements. Regarding the reports, the minister gave suggestions and instructed them to actively participate in realization of seven-point Road Map of the State and rural development tasks. At the hall of Thaton, he met with secretaries and executives of state, district and township levels and gave instructions.

On 13 December, the minister inspected the watched production of hydro electric power in Got village of Thaton Town-

ship and generation of electricity in Shwehlay village of Bilin Township. On arrival at Shwehlay village, he urged to keep a variety of books on knowledge and other topics. He also met with executives and members of Bilin Township USDA. After hearing reports at the meeting, the minister instructed them to step up regional organizing power, to closely cooperate in the fields of education and health of rural people. In the evening, he inspected construction of Saw Naing Gyi Village Basic Education Primary School in Kyaikto Township and presented cash assistance for the school.

MNA



## Monks and representatives to World Buddhist Summit visit Bagan, Mandalay



*Buddhist monks from abroad pay homage to the Maha Muni Buddha Image in Mandalay on 13-12-2004. — MNA*

YANGON, 14 Dec—Chancellor of the Sitagu International Buddhist Academy Ovadacariya Honorary Professor of the International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University of the Union of Myanmar Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Maha Dhamma Kathika Bahujana Hitadhara Dr Ashin Nyanissara, leading and senior monks, nuns and Buddhist researchers from Lao PDR, Cambodia, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Brazil, Czech Republic, Britain, Germany, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mexico, Mongolia, Nepal, the Netherlands, Romania, Vietnam, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand and the US, accompanied by Chairman of the Invitation and Reception Subcommittee for the Summit Director-General of the Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana under the Ministry of Religious Affairs U Sann Lwin, and officials of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, left here and arrived at Bagan-NyaungU Airport on 12 December morning. Member 1 of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commissioner of Division General Administration Department U Kyin Lin, Chairman of NyaungU District PDC Lt-Col Teza

and departmental officials paid reverence to the members of the Sangha at the airport.

On arrival at the Gupyauckkyi Pagoda, the members of the Sangha and the representatives offered flowers, water and lights to the pagoda. Principal (Director) of the Archaeological Training School U Hla Gyi Maung Maung conducted them round the pagoda. They also visited the Thatbyinnyu Pagoda and paid homage to the Buddha images and signed in the visitors' book.

Next, they offered flowers, water and lights to the Shwezigon Pagoda. In the afternoon, they visited the Bagan Archaeological Museum. Deputy Director-General of the Archaeological Department (Upper Myanmar) U Aung Kyaing supplicated on the archaeological region. Curator U Myint Soe Aung offered VCD and books on the archaeological region to the venerable Monks, who then posed for a documentary photo and signed in the visitors' book.

Afterwards, they visited the Myanmar traditional lacquerware enterprise and the Bu Pagoda and enjoyed the sunset beauty. In addition, they visited the Shwenanyindaw Kyaungtaik, the Gawtaut Pallin Pagoda

and the Manuha Pagoda. On 13 December, they left Bagan-NyaungU by air for Mandalay. Chairman of the Diamond Palace Co Ltd U Thein Than and family offered Soon and alms to the venerable monks at the Zaygyo Hotel. They visited the Maha Loka Marajin Pagoda and the Maha Muni Buddha Image. Then, they proceeded to SunU Ponnyashin Pagoda on Sagaing Hill in Sagaing. They visited the Sitagu International Buddhist Academy on Sagaing Hill and made donation of cash and kind to the Academy through Sayadaw Dr Ashin Nanissara. They arrived back here in the evening. — MNA

### Myanma Airways to operate more flights

YANGON, 14 Dec—The Myanma Airways under the Ministry of Transport is spreading its wings occasionally. Starting from 1st January next year, it runs Yangon-Mawlamyine-Myeik-Bokpyin-Myeik-Mawlamyine-Yangon flights once a week on Wednesday, and Yangon-Mandalay-Pakokku-Kyaukhtu-Pakokku-Mandalay, on Thursday. — MNA



*Foreign Buddhist monks, nuns, researchers and representatives pay reverence to the Buddha Image of the Aranda Pagoda in Bagan on 12-12-2004. — MNA*

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**Knorr-Naehrmittel Aktiengesellschaft**, a Company incorporated in Switzerland, of Bahnhofstrasse 8240, Thayngen, Switzerland, is the Owner of the following Trade Mark:-

**KNORR**

Reg. No. 5546/2004

In respect of "Meat, fish, poultry and game; meat extracts; preserved, dried and cooked fruits and vegetables; jellies, jams, compotes; eggs, milk and milk products; edible oils and fats in International Class 29. Coffee, tea, cocoa, sugar, rice, tapioca, sago, artificial coffee; flour and preparations made from cereals, bread, pastry and confectionery, ices; honey, treacle; yeast, baking powder; salt, mustard; vinegar, sauces (condiments); spices; ice in International Class 30".

Fraudulent imitation or unauthorized use of the said Trade Mark will be dealt with according to law.

Win Mu Tin, M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L. for **Knorr-Naehrmittel Aktiengesellschaft**  
P.O. Box 60, Yangon  
Dated: 15 December 2004

**DRIVE SAFELY**

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

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

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

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

2. Tender documents are available at the office of the Deputy General Manager (Supply), Myanma Railways, Corner of 51<sup>st</sup> 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, Myanma Railways, Botataung, Yangon**

Organized by Department of Export Promotion, Ministry of Commerce, Thailand  
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**10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Thailand Exhibition'2004**

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15-18 December 2004

Yangon Trade Center

Upper Pazundaung Road, Yangon

10:00 am to 08:00 pm daily

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

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**ARRIVAL/CLAIMS DAY NOTICE  
MV "MANDALAY" VOY NO 142/N**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV "MANDALAY" Voy No 142/N are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving at Yangon port on 15.12.04 and will be berthing on about 16.12.04 and cargoes will be discharged into the premises of Myanma Port Authority where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the bye-laws and conditions of the port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:30 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.

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**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 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2005 instead of 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2004.

**Managing Director  
Public Works**

**Italian national railways company bans all  
smoking on trains**

ROME, 13 Dec — A total smoking ban on Italian trains takes effect on Sunday, according to the Italian national railways company Trenitalia officials. Trenitalia began banning smoking on its trains in April 2003 starting with

the regional and local commuter lines. In March of this year smoking was prohibited on the high-speed Inter City trains and on the Eurostar service, except two cars reserved for smokers on each long-distance train. Trenitalia CEO

**S African man  
sets world record  
in solving Rubik's  
cubes**

JOHANNESBURG, 13 Dec — A South African man set a new *Guinness World Record* in solving the most Rubik's cubes in one hour in Johannesburg on Saturday, local media reported.

Mitchell Brom, a 21-year-old electrical engineering student, solved 42 cubes at Sandton City Camera Land, the SAPA news agency said, quoting a statement of Brom's sponsor Prima Toys.

Brom first solved the cube when he was eight years old, much to the frustration of his friends and the adults in his life.

Brom said he was very excited to get his name into the *Guinness World Record* book. Rubik's cube was invented by Erno Rubik, a Hungarian obsessed with three dimensional geometry, leading to a worldwide craze in the 1980s. — MNA/Xinhua

**TRADEMARK CAUTION**  
Notice is hereby given that **NOLSON CANADA**, of 30 Cullingview Drive, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, M9W 5E4, Manufacturers and Merchants, are the Owners and Sole Proprietors of the following trade mark:-

**CARLING BLACK LABEL**  
(Reg. No. 114408/10000)

This said trademark is used in respect of the description of goods following, that is to say: "Alcoholic brewery beverages including, beer, ale, lager, porter, and stout."

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

Hsin Lin Co (LLJ) Advocate  
MYANMAR TRADEMARK AND

PATENT LAW FIRM for  
DEFENDING & DEFENDING

Patent and Trade Mark Agents  
10, Government Plaza East  
Kallang 700 089

Intellectual Property House  
31 South Bank Road  
Chennai-600 038

Alexandra Building  
16 Hopeson Sea Road  
Mumbai-400 038

MA-99 Moulali Road  
DLF Phase-III

National Capital Region 120002  
India. 15 December 2004

**Britons arrested  
on alleged swindle  
of Nat'l Lottery  
released on bail**

LONDON, 13 Dec — Police have released on bail eight out of nine people arrested over an alleged multi-million pound swindle of the National Lottery and children's charities, Scotland Yard said on Sunday.

The scam used bogus grant applications to defraud the charities and the Big Lottery Fund, which distributes 600 million pounds a year of National Lottery money to good causes, media reports said.

The nine were arrested on Saturday. Two of the people released on bail will return to a police station in January and the other six will return in February, a Scotland Yard spokeswoman said. None have been charged with any offence. — MNA/Reuters

**New high-speed train launched  
between Berlin, Hamburg**

HAMBURG, 13 Dec — Germany's two biggest cities were brought closer together on Sunday with the launch of a new high-speed train line cutting the journey between Berlin and Hamburg by more than half an hour to 90 minutes.

World War II and Germany's Cold War divisions that had throttled the dazzling "Flying Hamburger" line of the 1930s to six hours were finally overcome with the long overdue upgrade of the rail connecting the two cities 177 miles apart.

"Hamburg is now a suburb of Berlin and Berlin is within commuting

range of Hamburg," said Deutsche Bahn AG chief executive Hartmut Mehdorn at a launch ceremony in Hamburg's rail station. "It's a great day for Berlin and Hamburg and a historic day for the railway."

Government and industry leaders travelled from Hamburg, the wealthy northern port of two million, to Berlin, the capital with 3.4 million, on one of the first Inter-city Express trains.

It hit a speed of 143 miles per hour and averaged 20mph—the fastest train between major cities in Germany.

MNA/Reuters

**Tanzanian flamingo death  
cause reconfirmed**

DAR-ES-SALAAM, 13 Dec — The cause of the death of some 10,000 flamingoes in a Tanzanian national park earlier this year has been reconfirmed by a German research institute to be the high concentration of toxins in algae the birds consumed.

The Leibniz Institute of Freshwater Ecology and Inland Fisheries in Berlin, which got samples of the dead flamingoes, analysed and decided on the cause, Tanzanian newspaper *Daily News* reported on Saturday. The Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute earlier pinned down as the cause

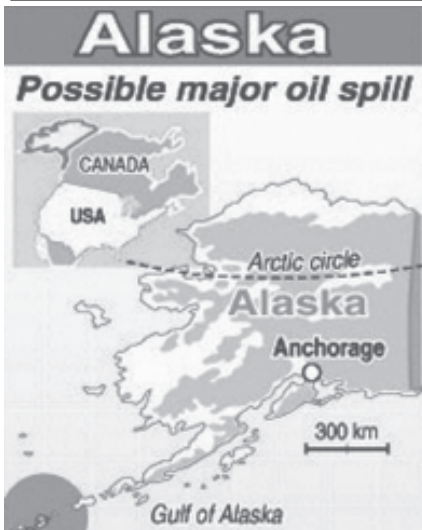
through analyses concentration of cyanobacteria toxins in algae which is flamingoes' main food at the Lake Manyara National Park.

"The dwindling water levels resulted in the concentration of the toxins," the newspaper quoted park warden Betty Loibooki as saying. "This is what killed the birds, according to the German scientists." Thanks to recent rainfalls, the lake is being refilled up. Lake Manyara in northern Tanzania is home to over 390 species of birds including more than three million lesser flamingoes.

MNA/Xinhua



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Graphic showing the location of an oil spill from a damaged freighter in a pristine wildlife refuge in Alaska.—INTERNET

## Aleutian chain needs environmental protections

ANCHORAGE, 14 Dec—Alaska's Aleutian Island chain, where a broken cargo ship has been leaking fuel oil for five days, needs the type of environmental protections that are given to better-known areas, a marine wildlife activist said on Monday.

The wreck of the *Selendang Ayu*, the 738-foot Malaysian-flagged cargo ship broken in two and grounded off Unalaska Island, illustrates the vulnerability of the 1,000-mile Aleutian chain, said Rick Steiner, a University of Alaska marine science professor and prominent Alaska environmentalist.

MNA/Reuters

## NASA administrator to resign

WASHINGTON, 13 Dec—NASA Administrator Sean O'Keefe, whose tenure has been shadowed by the 2003 *Columbia* disaster, plans to resign as head of the US space agency, an official familiar with the decision said on Sunday.

O'Keefe, who formerly worked at the federal Office of Management and Budget and as US Navy secretary, could leave NASA before the expected May or June lift-off of the first shuttles to launch since the *Columbia* accident, the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

O'Keefe has applied to become the chancellor of Louisiana State University, a university spokesman said.

"He is a very strong candidate and the university is thrilled to have his application and expects that he will be a very strong contender for that post," said Charles Zewe, a spokesman for the university's board of directors. — MNA/Reuters

## Formerly conjoined twins to have more surgery in New York

NEW YORK, 13 Dec—The formerly conjoined Aguirre twins are scheduled to undergo more surgery this week, just months after they were separated by doctors in the Bronx, hospital sources said Saturday.

They said Carl and Clarence Aguirre will undergo on Wednesday the first in a series of reconstructive surgeries at Montefiore Children's Hospital to complete skin grafts and to construct full skulls.

In August the boys, who were attached at the head, were separated in a 17-hour procedure that

was their fourth operation since coming to the United States last year. A team of doctors performed the separation surgery over a 10-month period.

The Aguirre boys have been at the Blythedale Children's Hospital in Westchester since late August learning how to walk. — MNA/Xinhua

## E-waste threatens India's silicon valley

NEW DELHI, 13 Dec—Industry estimates indicate India's silicon valley is set to choke under a heap of e-waste generated by obsolete computers and electronic components containing harmful toxic substances, the *Indo-Asian News Service* (IANS) reported Saturday.

By the end of 2005, about 1,000 tons of plastic, 300 tons of lead, 0.23 ton of mercury, 43 tons of nickel and 350 tons of copper are expected to be generated in the IT capital alone.

"With over 1,200 technology firms, including 500 multinationals, Bangalore generates the largest e-waste annually

among cities in the country," IANS quoted an industry source as saying on the sidelines of a seminar in Bangalore on e-waste and restriction of hazardous substances.

Bangalore, located in Karnataka State in south India, is considered India's silicon valley, with most bellwether companies such as Infosys and

Wipro, as well as international companies such as Dell, Microsoft and IBM, operating there.

"At the rate (40 per cent) the industry is growing, the city will face an uphill task in handling its e-waste unless drastic measures are initiated now."

Though second-hand parts and reusable com-

ponents from outdated PCs and electronic goods find their way into the grey market for recycling by low-cost assemblers or junk dealers, plastic frames and circuit boards are burnt in illegal dump yards, releasing toxic fumes and carcinogenic substances in the air.

MNA/Xinhua

## Jordan to suspend flights to Casablanca

AMMAN, 13 Dec—Jordanian aviation company Royal Jordanian (RJ) has decided to suspend flights to Morocco's Casablanca, local newspaper *Al Rai* reported Sunday.

Due to economic reasons, all flights to the tourist city will be halted at the beginning of February 2005, the company's President Samer Majali was quoted as saying.

The decision to suspend the two weekly flights to Casablanca was taken following a thorough feasibility study on the commercial and economic benefits, he added.

The company's stud-

ies also included the suspension of flights to Kuala Lumpur and Jakarta and the introduction of new regular flights to Moscow, Khartoum and Barcelona.

Referring to the new plans, Majali said RJ is also planning to launch regular flights to the Chinese capital Beijing in coordination with the Jordanian Tourism Ministry, describing the Chinese tourist market as very

promising.

RJ's 16 aircraft, which currently fly to 49 destinations, include four *Airbus 340s* which operate on long-range routes, seven *Airbus 310s* covering medium-range destinations and five *Airbus 320* planes for short-range routes. New additions to the fleet are expected to begin operation during the last quarter of 2005.

MNA/Xinhua

## Pulitzer Prize-winning US reporter dies of gunshot wound

SACRAMENTO (California), 13 Dec—Gary Webb, a Pulitzer Prize-winning investigative reporter who wrote a controversial series of stories linking the CIA to crack cocaine trafficking in Los Angeles, has died at age 49.

Webb was found Friday morning at his home in Sacramento County, dead of an apparent suicide. Moving-company workers called authorities after discovering a note posted on his front door that read, "Please do not enter. Call 911 and ask for an ambulance". Webb died of a gunshot wound to the head, according to the Sacramento County coroner's office.

Webb was part of the San Jose *Mercury News* reporting team that won a 1990 Pulitzer Prize for its coverage of the Loma Prieta earthquake. Webb's 1996 series in the *Mercury News* alleged that Nicaraguan drug traffickers had sold tons of crack cocaine in Los Angeles and funneled millions of dollars in profits to the CIA-supported Nicaraguan Contras during the 1980s. — MNA/AP



Smog enveloping the skyline of Los Angeles, California, on 13 Dec, 2004. US emissions of greenhouse gases increased 0.7 percent in 2003 from, driven by increased consumption of fossil fuels, the Department of Energy said.

INTERNET

## Some 80,000 Ugandans infected with TB every years

KAMPALA, 13 Dec—Uganda ranks 14th among the world's 22 countries with the highest tuberculosis (TB) burden of 80,000 new cases per year, Radio Uganda reported on Sunday.

Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni was quoted by the government radio as saying that TB is a big burden to the social-economic development because a person infected with TB loses six to eight months of work during treatment.

The President made

the remarks in his written speech read by Minister in charge of the Presidency Kirunda Kivejinja when launching the Uganda Stop TB Partnership Conference at week-end.

Museveni said the most affected age group of TB is 11 to 45 years and the TB patient is not

economically active.

He pointed out that the burden to special groups like the Army, police, prison and the internally displaced persons poses a major socio-economic threat to Uganda.

The President, however, recognized the contributions made by various stakeholders in com-

bating the TB scourge like donors and religion-based organizations.

He observed that with the support of development partners, Uganda is progressing toward the attainment of the set targets of finding 70 per cent of infection cases and curing 85 per cent by 2005.

MNA/Xinhua

## SPORTS

## Nakazawa named J-League player of the year

YOKOHAMA (Japan), 14 Dec— Yokohama F-Marinos defender Yuji Nakazawa was named the J-League player of the year on Monday. The dread-locked Japan international helped Yokohama retain their J-League title at the weekend and played a central role in Japan's Asian Cup triumph in August.

"This award should go to all the players at Yokohama," said Nakazawa, who became the first defender to win the award. "But I have no problem accepting it on their behalf." Nakazawa's club manager Takeshi Okada was voted coach of the year for the second year in a row after masterminding Yokohama's third J-League championship. Yokohama won both stages of the J-League season in 2003 and the first stage this year. They overcame second-stage winners Urawa Reds on penalties in the two-leg championship final.

The player of the year honour completed a remarkable turnaround for the 26-year-old Nakazawa who was left out of Japan's World Cup squad in 2002. —MNA/Reuters

## UEFA calls on FIFA to allow referees to use electronic "aids"

ROME, 14 Dec — Italy's soccer federation has called on the sport's governing bodies to allow referees to make use of electronic aids such as video replays.

In a letter to FIFA and UEFA, the federation said on Monday it was time soccer mirrored the use of electronic hardware in tennis, rugby and American football.

"In a faster and faster football where players are savvy, (referees') eyes are not able to compete always with tens of video cameras around the pitch," Franco Carraro, head of the FIGC federation, said in his letter.

The idea of technology to judge penalty and offside appeals is opposed by those who fear it would hold up the flow of a match and undermine the authority of the referee.

Carraro said video footage was already used by television commentators to reveal referees' errors and by officials for post-match disciplinary cases.

"Obviously, it is on this 'virtual

reality' that public opinion emerges, debates and judges the behaviour of referees, players, coaches and officials... it will make no difference if this device was used during the match," Carraro said.

One popular Italian soccer talkshow, "The Monday Trial," devotes a sizeable part of its three-hour slot to poring over referees' mistakes from the weekend's games.

The executive committee of UEFA, European soccer's ruling body, is due to discuss the issue at a meeting in Geneva this week, FIGC said. FIFA, world soccer's ruling body, has said it is firmly against the idea. —MNA/Reuters

## Poll defends decision to allow Henry's goal

LONDON, 14 Dec— Referee Graham Poll has defended his decision to allow Arsenal striker Thierry Henry to score with a quick free kick in the champions' 2-2 draw with leaders Chelsea at Highbury on Sunday.

The Frenchman made the score 2-1 with his cheeky effort, which surprised goalkeeper Petr Cech, and Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho has criticized the official.

Chelsea's Portuguese coach said Poll wrongly implemented the laws of the game by telling Henry he could take it quickly. The Arsenal striker caught the Chelsea defence napping by clipping the ball home before referee Poll had retreated and with Chelsea still assembling their wall.

However, Poll believes his own actions were correct and a fuss has been made over nothing.

"Controversy? What controversy as far as I am concerned," Poll told the BBC. "It is standard practice that referees do at free kicks.

"Don't forget the team who have been fouled have had an advantage taken away and that needs to be given back. Cech was unprepared, which I would say was probably a mistake on his part."

Poll also reminded Chelsea that they did not complain when he let former striker Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink score with a quick free kick in an FA Cup tie with West Ham United two years ago.

MNA/Reuters

## Fulham hold 1-1 draw to Man United

LONDON, 14 Dec — A late equalizer from Pape Bouba Diop gave Fulham a 1-1 draw at home to Manchester United on Monday and prevented Alex Ferguson's team from moving back into to the thick of the Premier League title race.

United looked set for a fifth straight League win courtesy of a first-half Alan Smith goal when Bouba Diop sent a fierce strike curving past a diving Roy Carroll and just inside the post in the 87th minute.

United remain in fourth place on 31 points, four behind champions Arsenal and nine behind leaders Chelsea, after the two London clubs drew 2-2 on Sunday. "It was an absolute giveaway," United manager Alex Ferguson told Sky Sports. "In fairness it was a fantastic strike but the result has destroyed a really good performance.

"On another day we could have scored five or maybe six. What makes it so bad is that both our main rivals dropped points." Everton are in second place, five points ahead of United, after winning the 200th Merseyside derby 1-0 on Saturday. Fulham move above Birmingham into 14th.

"The first 45 minutes we were standing off them and they were creating chances," said Fulham coach Chris Coleman.

"We dug in there though and once they didn't get a second goal they got a bit nervous and we grew in confidence and it was a fantastic strike that got us the point." Played on a crisp London night, the game took time to warm up with Fulham sitting back and United looking

to exert some control on the match.

The match came to life when a Roy Keane drive found one Fulham post around the half-hour mark and two minutes later Wayne Rooney went through on goal before hitting the other upright.

The United fans did not have to wait long for the breakthrough and it came when Cristiano Ronaldo escaped down the right and found Alan Smith in the penalty area after 33 minutes.

The England striker's first shot was blocked but he scurried back to retrieve the ball with a determined tackle on Sylvain Legwinski, before turning to shoot under Fulham goalkeeper Edwin van der Sar.

United had the better of the remainder of the half and, with Fulham's usual driving force Steed Malbranque having a poor game, it looked like being a relatively easy night for the visitors.

But Fulham came out firing after the break and former United striker Andy Cole brushed off the attentions of Rio Ferdinand to fire a shot against the woodwork.

Fulham showed no less endeavour and fight for the remainder of the half but failed to create any real openings and when Cole back-headed the ball wide with six minutes to go it looked like their efforts would go unrewarded.

MNA/Reuters

## Klinsman loses another player of squad

FRANKFURT, 14 Dec — Juergen Klinsmann lost another member of his squad for Germany's Asian tour on Monday when Christian Pander was forced to pull out with a thigh muscle strain.

Pander, one of three uncapped players in the squad, was finally ruled out just before the squad flew out for matches against

Japan on December 16, South Korea on December 19 and Thailand on December 21. The Schalke 04

defender was the fourth injury victim before the start of the tour, following the withdrawals of Chelsea defender Robert Huth, Werder Bremen's Frank Baumann and Bayern Munich's Torsten Frings.

Klinsmann called up Hertha Berlin's Arne Friedrich, Kaiserslautern midfielder Marco Engelhardt and Werder Bremen's Christian Schulz last week to cover for the first three absentees.

"This tour should help us get to know each other better," said Klinsmann before the squad set off. "I'm curious to see how the new players will perform."

The series of injuries will give the 2006 World Cup hosts an even more unfamiliar look, particularly on the tour's first leg.

Klinsmann's options had in any case been limited by the lack of availability of three England-based players — goalkeeper Jens Lehmann, midfielder Thomas Hitzlsperger and fullback Moritz Volz, who are all needed by their Premier League clubs.

MNA/Reuters

## Real to host all-star 'Game against Poverty'

MADRID, 14 Dec — Real Madrid will still host an all-star "Game against Poverty" on Tuesday despite their Primera Liga match on Sunday being abandoned because of a bomb scare.

Ronaldo and Zinedine Zidane, two of Real's most famous players who are involved in organizing the match, said the game to fund United Nations development projects would kick off at 2130 local time as planned.

"They were moments of tension and uncertainty for everyone but after consideration we can only repeat our invitation for you to participate in the "Game against Poverty," the duo said in a statement on Real's web site.

Entry to the game, between "Ronaldo and friends versus Zidane and friends", will be free but organizers are asking spectators to make a donation to charity at the turnstiles.

The two Real players are United Nations goodwill ambassadors and captained a similar game last year in Switzerland with the same aim of funding UN projects and promoting the fight against poverty in developing countries. Charismatic Italian referee Pierluigi Collina will take charge of the game. —MNA/Reuters



Chelsea captain John Terry, pictured, said the race for the English Premier League would be a straight fight between his team and reigning champions Arsenal after the London title rivals drew 2-2 at Highbury—INTERNET



## China criticizes US for approving sanctions on furniture imports

BEIJING, 14 Dec — China is criticizing the United States after a US panel upheld a ruling that will allow higher tariffs on Chinese-made furniture to reduce its impact on American producers.

"This ruling by the US side isn't fair to Chinese companies," said Chong Quan, a spokesman for China's Commerce Ministry, in a statement this week on the ministry Web site. He called on Washington to "change this unfair act as early as possible." The ruling upheld Friday by the US International Trade Commission concludes that imports of Chinese bedroom furniture sold at unfairly low prices are hurting American producers.

US companies say a surge of Chinese imports has devastated their sales, forcing them to lay off 35,000 workers.

Chong said any problems suffered by US producers are due to their own problems with production, financing and marketing.

Chinese manufacturers sold 1.2 billion US dollars (euro 900 million) in bedroom furniture to the United States in 2003 — about half of annual US imports of such goods.

About two-thirds of Chinese imports will be subject to tariffs of 8.64

per cent, according to the ruling. Another 35 per cent will be hit by duties up to 2.22 to 16.7 per cent. About 2 per cent will face the highest tariffs of 198 per cent.

The US Government has been collecting the penalty tariffs since June, after a preliminary determination against the Chinese imports.

Chong criticized the US technique of determining the price of Chinese exports by using another country's costs, instead of measuring the costs of Chinese production.

The United States does not recognize China's state-dominated system as a market economy and uses costs in other countries when determining whether Chinese exports are priced unfairly. Beijing argues that it qualifies for market status following two decades of capitalist-style reforms.

"We hope the US Government will face squarely the achievement of China's market economy," Chong said.

He called on Washington to reverse the ruling "in order to promote the healthy development of trade between the two countries on the basis of equality and non discrimination."

MNA/AP

## WB says China becomes major engine of world economy

BEIJING, 14 Dec — A senior World Bank trade official said here Monday that China is the major contributing factor to accelerated global economic growth, which is projected to grow by 4 per cent this year, and the record high growth rate of developing economies as a group.

Uri Dadush, director of the Bank's International Trade Department and Development Prospects Group, predicted that the growth rate of developing economies for this year will be higher than the average annual growth rates for both the 1980s and 1990s.

The rapid hike in the economic growth in the United States and Japan are also important contributing factors, he said.

The strong demand from China's rapid economic development and continuous domestic demand in the United States led to unexpected growth rate of 10.2 per cent in the world trade, said the director. According to an outlook report on global economy and developing countries, China is projected to achieve an economic growth rate of 9.25 per cent this year, while Russia's economic growth

rate will be 8 per cent, and India's 6 per cent.

Growth in those big economies have helped developing countries achieve a projected 6.1 per cent growth rate, a record high in the past three decades, according to the report.

The report owes China's good economic performance to the country's loose credit policies and the benefits China gained from its entry into the World Trade Organization.

China's rapid import growth, which is expected to exceed 30 per cent this year, provides strong support to its neighbouring East Asian economies, it argued.

The Bank said in the report that China's economy will slow down to about 8 per cent in 2005, and 7.1 per cent in 2006 due to slower world economy and higher prices of oil and other primary commodities. The economies of the United States and Japan will also slow down next year, and the world economy will grow by 3.2 per cent annually in the coming two years, according to the report.

MNA/Xinhua

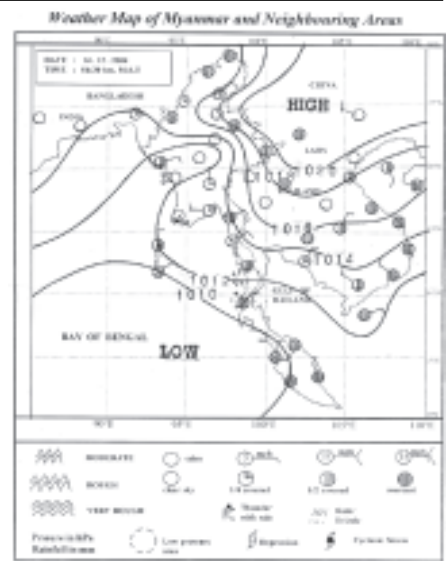
## N-W China's cliff carvings determined to be from Paleolithic Age

YINCHUAN, 14 Dec — The earliest cliff carvings in Damaidi in Zhongwei County of northwest China's Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region can be traced back 20,000 to 30,000 years, the late Paleolithic Age, a Chinese archaeologist said.

Zhou Xinghua, former curator of Ningxia Museum, said the conclusion was reached by analyzing the content, style, technique, colour and preservation status of the cliff carvings, and by comparing them with other excavated relics.

Archaeologists also found that a prehistoric "Venus" carving on the cliff, a stone-carved figure of a nude woman, dates from the late Paleolithic period. Similar carvings have been discovered in Greece and Austria. In the past decade, archaeologists have found numerous cliff carvings in Zhongwei County, with more than 1,000 paintings concentrated in an area of 15 square kilometres. Zhou said the density of figures carved in the area was rarely seen elsewhere.

MNA/Xinhua



## WEATHER

Tuesday, 14 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) to (4°C) below normal in Chin and Mon States, Bago Division, (5°C) below normal in Kayah and Kayin States, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and about normal in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant night temperatures were Namhsam (2°C), Heho (4°C) and Pyin Oo Lwin (5°C).

Maximum temperature on 13-12-2004 was 92°F. Minimum temperature on 14-12-2004 was 55°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 14-12-2004 was 78%. Total sunshine hours on 13-12-2004 was (8.3) hours approx. Rainfall on 14-12-2004 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 North at (13:40) hours MST on 13-12-2004.

**Bay inference:** Weather is cloudy in the Southwest and West Central Bay and partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

**Forecast valid until evening of 15-12-2004:** Weather will be partly cloudy in Ayeyawady, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions.

**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:** Generally fair in the whole country. **Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 15-12-2004:** Partly cloudy.

**Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 15-12-2004:** Fair weather.



Wednesday, December 15  
View on today:

7:00 am

1. Recitation of Parittas by Mingun Sayadaw

7:25 am

2. To be healthy exercise

7:30 am

3. Morning news

7:40 am

4. Nice and sweet song

7:55 am

5. မြန်မာ့ပြည်သူ့အသံ

8:10 am

6. အစော့်မြိုင်

8:20 am

7. ရွှေမောင်စံးရေလှောင်တံ

8:30 am

8. International news

8:45 am

9. Let's Go

4:00 pm

1. Martial song

4:15 pm

2. Songs to uphold National Spirit

4:30 pm

3. Demonstration Exercises For Correct Pronunciation

4:45 pm

4. Musical programme

5:00 pm

5. အစော့်မြိုင်သံတော်အသံ  
ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ  
-ဝတ်မှုန် (စာတေး၊ ရုပ်စာ  
အသံမြှင့်) (ရုပ်စာ)

5:15 pm

6. Song of national races

5:30 pm

7. ဂီတဟော ပျော်စရာ

5:40 pm

8. "စက်မှုတပ်ဆင်လုပ်ငန်းတွင်"  
အကယ်ဒမီပိုင်း၊ အကယ်ဒမီ  
မင်းမော်ကွန်း၊ အကယ်ဒမီ  
နီနီမြင့်အောင်  
ဒါရိုက်တာ-ဝင်းထွန်းကွန်း

5:50 pm

9. ရွှေယံလှိုင် အာပီအီအစဉ်

6:05 pm

10. Discovery

6:15 pm

11. Musical programme

6:30 pm

12. Evening news

7:00 pm

13. Weather report

7:05 pm

14. မြန်မာစာ၊ မြန်မာစာတော်

7:20 pm

15. Musical programme

7:35 pm

16. Strong and healthy Myanmar

8:00 pm

17. News

18. International news

19. Weather report

20. ရိုးရာဓလေ့ထုံးကျမ်းသတင်း

21. မောင်သောအလင်း (အပိုင်း-၂)

"မိုးမြို့သောနေ့"

မိုးသောကြာ၊ မျိုက်၊ မော်ဘို၊

ရတနာစင်၊ စင်မိုး၊ မိုးအေး၊

ရုပ်စာစမ်းစမ်းအေး

ဒါရိုက်တာ-သက်တင်

22. The next day's

programme



Wednesday, December 15

Tune in today:

8:30 am Brief news

8:35 am Music: Best friend

8:40 am Perspectives

8:45 am Music: Ain't no particular way

8:50 am National news/Slogan

9:00 am Music:

-Until the end of time

9:05 am International news

9:10 am Music:

-Lone to infinity

9:15 am News/Slogan

9:20 am Lunch time music

-Forever and a day

-The way that you are

-I just wanna be with you

-Take me home country road

9:00 pm Pleasant and beautiful Rakhine State

9:15 pm Article/Music

9:25 pm Music at your request

-Big big world

-Real love

-Here we are at last

-That's where you take me

9:45 pm News/Slogan

10:00 pm PEL

**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

## Prime Minister receives officials of IMF, WB and ADB

YANGON, 14 Dec—Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win received members of International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank (WB) and Asia Development Bank (ADB) led by Mr Shang Jin Wei of Research Department of IMF at Zeyathiri Beikman Hall on Konemyinthta at 3 pm today.

Also present at the call were Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Deputy Minister U Kyaw Thu, Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar U Kyaw Kyaw Maung, Director-General of the Prime Minister's Office U Soe Tint and Director-General Thura U Aung Htet of Protocol Department of Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

MNA

*Prime Minister**Lt-Gen Soe Win**greets**Mr Shang Jin Wei.*

MNA

*Prime Minister**Lt-Gen Soe Win**receives Mr Shang**Jin Wei and**members of the IMF,*  
*the WB and the ADB.*

MNA

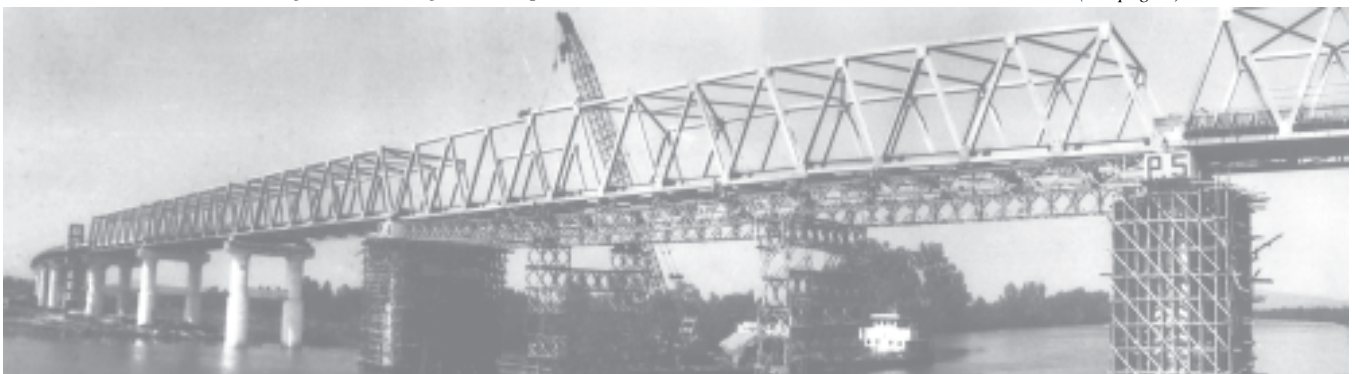


## Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspects construction of bridges on Kyaukphyu-Maei Road section

YANGON, 14 Dec— Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Commander of Western Command Brig-Gen Min Aung

Hlaing and officials, paid respects to Chairman of Township Sangha Nayaka Committee Agga Maha Gandhavacaka Pandita Bhaddanta Nandobhasa and members of the Sangha of Ponnataung in Yanbye Township on 11 December.

They presented offertories to the Sayadaws. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party visited Sane Village station hospital. He inspected renovation of Sane Village Basic Education High Schools. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than  
(See page 9)



*The Minkyaung Creek Bridge Project. — MNA*