

# The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Thursday, 16 December 2004

## Traditional medicine practitioners are to stand in solidarity for improvement, dissemination of traditional medical science Make greater efforts to provide health care for national brethren

*The following is the message sent by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe to the Fifth Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners' Conference.*

Myanmar traditional physicians are taking pragmatic approaches with lofty aspiration in the task for the perpetual survival and development of Myanmar traditional medical science, which is Myanmar traditional cultural heritage, and for the provision of health care for the national brethren.

The State holds that the positive results of the annual traditional medicine practitioners' conferences at which like-minded physicians gather and share their knowledge and experience with one another

other contributes much towards the successful implementation of the State-prioritized objectives: the sustainable development of Myanmar traditional medical science and the provision of health care for the national people with traditional medicines on a greater scale.

Myanmar people have lived by their own rule, own culture and own lineage since many years ago. Intellectually gifted, Myanmar people of yore developed Myanmar traditional medical science in their own way. The longevity of Myanmar people stands witness to the potency of Myanmar traditional medicines.

The effectiveness of Myanmar traditional medical science was on the brink of extinction alongside other traditional branches of science as it was suppressed while the country was in servitude.

It is due to Myanmar traditional physicians

fired with fervent patriotism who inherited the traditional medical science from their ancestors and endeavoured to preserve it that it exists today.

The Myanmar traditional medical science is one with a number of deep and profound medical treatises, a variety of potent and effective medicines, and a diversity of therapies. Prosaic efforts will not suffice to maintain its standard in quality as equally as it had enjoyed in ancient times. The task will demand the hard work of traditional physicians, the encouragement and assistance of the government, and the trust and support of the general public.

(See page 2)

## All are to safeguard nation to prevent destructive elements from hampering nation-building tasks All be united in a bid to protect interests of nation and people

YANGON, 15 Dec—The Mandalay Division Union Solidarity and Development Association held a meeting at the National Theatre in Mandalay, Mandalay Division, this morning to implement the seven objectives and nine future tasks laid down at the USDA Annual General Meeting (2004), and to carry out the plans in Mandalay Division by Mandalay Division USDA.

Present on the occasion were executives of Mandalay Division, district and township USDAs, association members of Aungmyethazan, Chanayethazan, Mahaaungmye, Chanmyathazi, Pyigyidagun, Amarapura and Patheingyi townships, Myanmar War Veterans Organization, Women's Affairs Organizations, Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Red Cross Society, Auxiliary Fire Brigade, Myanmar Music Asiayon, Myanmar Thabin Asiayon, officials

of Malun Rice Offering Association, Chanthagyi Rice Offering Association, Traders' Association and industrial zones, students of the Institute of

Nursing and outstanding youths.

Division USDA

Secretary U Tin Maung Oo chaired the meeting together with Executives U

Myo Thant and U Maung Maung. Aungmyethazan Township USDA Execu-

tive Ma Thin Thin Oo emceed the meeting together (See page 16)

**National unity plays the most indispensable role in taking steps for development of the nation.**



Mandalay Division USDA holds coordination meeting on implementation of seven objectives and nine future tasks adopted by USDA Annual General Meeting (2004) at National Theatre in Mandalay.—MNA

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

## PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 16 December, 2004

### 2004 ASEAN Open Optimist Championship, a chance to strengthen friendship and gain experiences

The Government of the Union of Myanmar is striving for all-round development of the nation through the implementation of twelve political, economic and social objectives.

Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation is one of the four social objectives and, as health and fitness of the people is necessary for the success of our efforts to build a peaceful and developed nation, the Government has placed special emphasis on sports.

For the development of the sports sector, Myanmar not only holds national sports meets but also takes part in regional and international sports meets and hosts them. By hosting sports meets, it is more likely for Myanmar to strengthen her friendship with other nations and to enable them to have first-hand experience of activeness, kind-heartedness and hospitality of Myanmar people.

Recently, Myanmar hosted the 6th Asian Wushu Championships and gained victories as well as international friendship and Wushu experiences. Again, the 2004 ASEAN Open Optimist Championship is currently being held at the Chaungtha Beach in Patheingyi Township, Ayeeyawady Division, Myanmar.

It started on 14 December and will continue up to the twentieth. Myanmar founded the Yangon Yacht Club in 1924 and, when it hosted the Second South-East Asian Peninsula Games in 1961, it included yachting as an event for the first time. Also in 1969, Myanmar hosted the 5th South-East Asian Peninsula Games, yachting events were held at the Ngapali Beach in Rakhine State. And the Ninth ASEAN Open Optimist Championship was held in Myanmar in 1996. An optimist is a kind of yacht and it is designed in such a way that those within the age group between 7 and 15 can ride it.

The Myanmar Yachting Federation regards an optimist as a basic type of yacht and it introduced four optimists in 1991. Since that time, it has turned out hundreds of yachters.

Altogether sixty-five under-15 yachters from Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand, Japan and Sri Lanka are taking part in the 2004 ASEAN Open Optimist Championship. We believe that the competitions will enable Myanmar to further cement her friendship with these nations and gain a lot of experiences in sports.

### Livestock and Fisheries Minister receives Japanese delegation

YANGON, 15 Dec — Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein received the Japanese delegation led by Senior Vice Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Mr Mineichi Iwanaga of Japan, accompanied by Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Nobutake Odano at the ministry at 10.30 am today. — MNA

### All this needs to be known

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

### 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

### Traditional medicine practitioners are...

(from page 1)

The State Peace and Development Council is giving impetus to this process in a bid to improve and disseminate the traditional medical science of high standard, to develop it systematically up to international level, and to manufacture potent and effective traditional medicines scientifically.

The present moment has seen such fruitful results as the resurgence of higher standard in the field of traditional medical science, the growing public trust in traditional medicines, the success of modern traditional medical industry, and the rise of modern traditional medical hospitals and research works.

In particular, the achievements that should be put on record in the annals of Myanmar medical science history are the emergence of the Traditional Medicine University that offers higher degrees and provides medical education with the use of international-level syllabuses and modern teaching aids, the birth of the Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners Association, which as a consolidated national

force is playing a leading role in organizing the traditional physicians, and the success of the Myanmar traditional medicine practitioners' conferences designed for the improvement of the world of Myanmar traditional medicines.

At such an opportune time like this, the onus is on the traditional medicine practitioners to stand in solidarity for the improvement and dissemination of traditional medical science and to make greater efforts to provide health care for the national brethren while promoting the achievements already in place.

May the Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners' Conference be successful in accord with its noble aims; and may the traditional physicians be able to take harmonious measures seriously so that Myanmar traditional medical science which is our national heritage as well as a national prestige advances and spreads the world over.

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### Myanmar, Sino-S'pore group ink oil exploration contracts

YANGON, 15 Dec — Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise of the Ministry of Energy and a China-Singapore consortium yesterday signed the production sharing contracts to explore oil and natural gas in two

offshore blocks.

The consortium includes CNOOC Myanmar Limited of the People's Republic of China, Golden Aaron Pte Ltd, Singapore and China Huanqiu Contracting & Engineering

Corp (HQCEC).

The signing was witnessed by Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, Chairman of Myanmar Investment Commission Minis-

ter for Science and Technology U Thaung and Ambassador of PRC to Myanmar Mr Li Jinjun.

According to the contracts, the signatories will cooperate in the exploration of oil and natural gas at Block A-4 off the Rakhine Coast and Block M-10 in the Gulf of Mottama. Managing Director of MOGE U San Lwin, Executive Director of CNOOC Ltd Mr Zhou Shouwei, Vice-Chairperson of HQCEC Madam Wang Xinge and Director of Golden Aaron Pte Ltd Mr Chua Chay Jin signed the contracts and exchanged the documents.

Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi and Minister U Thaung presented permits of MIC to Mr Zhou Shouwei. — MNA



MIC Chairman Minister for Science and Technology U Thaung presents permits to Executive Director Mr Zhou Shouwei of CNOOC Ltd. — ENERGY

### Minister for SWRR leaves for Thailand

YANGON, 15 Dec — Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa left here yesterday morning by air to attend the 5th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Social Welfare and Development to be held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 14 to 17 December.

The Minister was seen off at Yangon International Airport by Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin, Minister for Cooperatives Col Zaw Min, Deputy Minister for Immigration and Population U Maung Aung, Deputy Minister

for SWRR Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint, Officer on Special Duty Brig-Gen Thura Sein Thaung and directors-general and officials of the departments

under the ministry. Director-General of Social Welfare Department U Sit Myaing and Deputy Director U Myint Thin also left here by air in advance

on 13 December to attend the 5th Senior Officials Meeting on ASEAN Social Welfare and Development.

MNA



Minister for SWRR Maj-Gen Sein Htwa being seen off at the airport before departure for Bangkok, Thailand. — SWD



## Indian Finance Minister upbeat about economy

**NEW DELHI, 14 Dec**—Painting a rosy picture of the the economy, India's Finance Minister P Chidambaram said on Monday the growth was buoyant and "I am optimistic and positive" about the prospects for this fiscal.

"I think if all players play their part, the year will end on a very substantial and positive note," Chidambaram told reporters after presenting to Parliament the mid-year review which has projected a 6-per-cent plus growth for this fiscal.

He, however, asked farmers, industrialists and service providers not to be complacent and work hard to achieve results and move forward as the year 2005 was expected to be even more optimistic.

Enthusied by the strong fundamentals of the economy, Chidambaram said, "It is fair to say that prospects for economic growth are very bright".

In fact the mid year review has projected impressive growth for the first

half of the current fiscal and looking at the October-November figure the prospects were even better, he said.

As elaborated in the mid year review, most of the deficits in the kharif crop would be made up in the rabi crop and therefore the feared setback in agriculture might not happen, he said.

As far as industry was concerned, the figures for industrial output for April-October showed 8.4-per-cent growth as against 6.2 per cent in the current fiscal, he said. Reeling out statistics, Chidambaram said manufacturing recorded 8.8-per-cent growth in the first half of this fiscal as against 6.8 per cent in the corresponding period of the previous year.—MNA/PTI

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An aircraft is refueled at Beijing Interneational Airport on 15 Dec, 2004.

INTERNET

## India and Pakistan begin talks on avoiding N-war

**ISLAMABAD, 15 Dec**—Pakistani and Indian officials on Tuesday began two-day talks to discuss the draft of an agreement on pre-notification of missile tests and on how to avoid an accidental nuclear war between them, the Foreign Ministry said.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Masood Khan told reporters the two sides were discussing "new safeguards to avoid any accidental nuclear war" — including giving advance notification of missile tests. Alongside the nuclear talks, the two countries also held talks on the demarcation of their boundaries in the Sir Creek area and reached a near agreement on the matter, sources said. Khan said two rounds of expert-level talks in Islamabad had been held in "a very cordial and constructive manner". "The two sides zeroed in on pre-notification of missile tests," he said.

Sources said both countries discussed the draft of an agreement on the pre-notification of missile tests and were likely to formalise it today. The talks will conclude around noon today. If the agreement is finalised, it will be presented to the foreign secretaries of the two countries who are scheduled to meet on December 27 and 28," sources said. In order to avoid accidental nuclear confrontation, the two sides agreed to make communication between them more effective. Talks on conventional CBMs will start today.—Internet



Dul Faqar Ali lies in Baghdad's Yarmouk hospital on 14 Dec, 2004 after being wounded in car bomb explosion.—INTERNET

## Developing economies set to beat world average growth in 2005

**BANGKOK, 14 Dec**—Developing economies in the Asia-Pacific Region will grow faster than the global average next year, but face challenges from volatile oil prices, an end to WTO textile quotas and slowing growth in major export markets, the United Nations says.

China is expected to have the region's highest gross domestic product growth rate at 8.8 per cent, followed by India with 6.8 per cent, Kim Hak-su, director of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, told a news conference Monday.

The average growth rate for developing Asian economies is projected to slow from 6.9 per cent to 6.2 per cent, but the region "will continue to have the highest growth rates in the world", Kim said as he presented a report on the region's economies.

Worldwide, economic growth is expected to average 3.4 per cent in 2005, he said.

The UN agency expects volatile oil prices to continue to have a negative impact on regional economies, Kim said, adding that the agency forecasts average benchmark crude futures at 38 US dollars a barrel in 2005.

Crude futures rose to 55 US dollars a barrel in October — more than twice what they cost 18 months

ago — and are currently around 40 US dollars a barrel.

Oil prices will fluctuate in 2005 because of the war in Iraq, erratic supplies, and rising demand for energy in growing economies such as India and China, said Raj Kumar, poverty and development chief at the agency.

Kim added that domestic oil subsidies are unsustainable in some countries, citing Indonesia where subsidies in 2004 will likely amount to "nearly a quarter of total government revenues".

An expected economic slowdown in Japan, China and the United States — the main export markets for developing nations in the region — would likely have repercussions across the Asia Pacific Region, Kim said.

China's overheated economic growth should ease in 2005, while the weaker dollar and Tokyo's huge public debt are set to put the brakes on Japan's growth, he said. — MNA/AP

## Chinese version of int'l best-seller published

**SHENYANG, 14 Dec**—The Chinese version of a book entitled *Good Luck: Create the Conditions for Success in Life & Business*, an international best-seller, was published Saturday in Shenyang, capital of north-east China's Liaoning Province. Book dealers across China have purchased all the 100,000 cop-

ies in first print. *Good Luck* has been translated into 34 languages and sold in 67 countries including the United States, Germany and Britain, since it was first published in Spain last March. More than five million copies have been sold worldwide within half a year. The book, written by Alex Rovira and Fernando

Trias De Bes, is a fable telling the touching story of two old men, Max and Jim, who meet by chance in Central Park fifty years after they last saw each other as children. Max achieved great success in life, Jim sadly did not. The secret to Max's success lies in a story his grandfather told him long ago.—MNA/Xinhua

## China to open eastern port city to foreign planes

**JINAN, 14 Dec**—Weihai, a port city in east China's Shandong Province, will soon be opened to foreign planes under the approval of the State Council, China's top governing body. The move creates a new outlet at the Bohai Bay Rim and plays an important role in promoting economic and trade cooperation specifically between China and South Korea and Japan, an official with the Shandong provincial port office said. With a flight distance of 450 kilometres between Weihai and Seoul, the Chinese port city is a hot spot of investment for South Korea businessmen. Weihai has air connections with about a dozen Chinese cities.—MNA/Xinhua

## New blast hits Iraq's Green Zone

**BAGHDAD, 14 Dec**—A suicide car bomb attack on a checkpoint near Baghdad's government and diplomatic compound has injured at least 12 people, Iraqi medics say.

Reports suggest a member of Iraq's National Guard died along with the bomber, who struck a day after a similar blast killed seven nearby. Militants also killed at least two Iraqi policemen when they ambushed a convoy just south of Baghdad. The police

were travelling to the capital from Basra for training.

Other details were unclear with conflicting reports of the location of the attack and what vehicles the police were travelling in. In other incidents, the bodies of 14 men were found shot dead in the northern city of Mosul.

The US military also reported the deaths of two Marines on Monday while Iraqi police announced that they had killed Hassan Ibrahim Farhan, described as a senior aide to militant leader Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, on the same day.—Internet

## Worldwide PC sales to grow 10% in 2005

**NEW DELHI, 14 Dec**— Worldwide sales of personal computers are expected to grow by 10.1 per cent to 195.1 million units in 2005, according to a recent report by IDC.

In revenue terms, the growth in sales will be 3.9 per cent to 201 billion dollars, the study said.

"Commercial PC growth is expected to slow down in 2005 as the recent recovery matures, but should remain at a relatively robust 11.3 per cent while consumer PC sales growth is expected to be eight per cent," IDC said.

"However, despite the relatively weak consumer market, commercial and portable demand continue to drive growth," said Loren Loverdae, director of IDC's Worldwide Quarterly PC Tracker.

"The continuing market growth provides an excellent environment for Lenovo's acquisition of IBM's PC division. Lenovo gains the global reach and scale to compete internationally while strengthening its position in relatively high growth commercial and portable markets," Alan Promisel, Mobile Computing analyst at IDC, said.

While maintaining double-digit

growth and still growing faster than mature regions, growth of PC sales in Asia Pacific, excluding Japan, will be limited by rising interest rates and lower growth trends in China and weak demand in Korea.

In US, commercial growth of 11.4 per cent will be the key driver of PC market. In Western Europe, growth will slow down to 10 per cent in 2005 from 17 per cent in 2004.

In Japan, struggling consumer segment should finally return to positive growth in 2005 but slowing commercial growth and already high portable penetration will limit overall market growth.

Another research firm Gartner, however, said with PC replacement in full swing, 2005 should be a reasonably strong year for PC vendors. It expects the replacement cycle in commercial segment to slow down in 2006 which would strain the viability of even the largest PC vendors in 2006 and beyond.

MNA/PTI

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## Singapore, Malaysia to forge closer cooperation

**SINGAPORE, 14 Dec** — Singapore and Malaysia will promote their cooperation in tourism, financial services and education, local news media reported on Monday.

At a Malaysia-Singapore Forum held here on Monday, Singapore Trade and Industry Minister Lim Hng Kiang urged the two countries to work together so as to ride on the growth opportunities in China and India.

He suggested Singapore and Malaysia launch joint tourism campaigns to attract more Chinese tourists, who are now flocking to Europe.

Lim revealed that, apart from expanding air links between the two countries, the Singapore Government is also reviewing regulations on Malaysian cars entering the city state and will lower the cost in the near future, hoping to have more Malaysian visitors.

On behalf of Malaysia, Minister

in the Prime Minister's Office Dato Mustapa Mohamed expressed Malaysia's interest in the island state's financial expertise and said that Malaysia has much to offer Singapore investors in the area of Islamic banking.

In the field of education, the education ministers of the two countries outlined the bilateral cooperation scheme in their first meeting on Monday, which was part of the forum.

With the aim of building closer ties among the younger generation in the two countries, the initiative includes sharing experiences in curriculum design and reform, in teacher training and in school management practices.

MNA/Xinhua

## Sri Lanka targets 5 per cent increase in "MICE" tourism

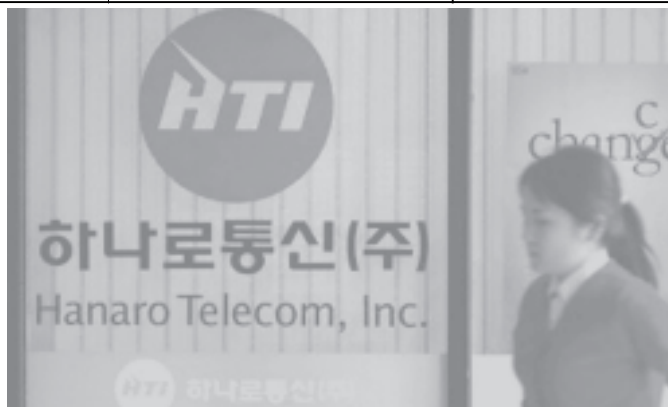
**COLOMBO, 14 Dec**— Sri Lanka is targeting over 5 per cent increase in the tourism sector of meetings, incentive travels, conference and exhibition (MICE), *Sunday Observer* reported recently.

Vipula Wanigaratne, Director-General of the Sri Lanka Convention Bureau, said the MICE tourism sector is expected to record 127,000 tourist accounting for 20 per cent of total tourist arrivals during 2005, a increase of 5 per cent from 82,500 tourist in possession of 15 per cent last year.

He also forecasted the revenue of over 50 million dollars is projected to generate from the MICE tourism sector in 2005 based on the increase.

Wanigaratne said the MICE tourism industry in Asia is growing and 58 per cent of corporate meeting planners are now located in Asia. Therefore, it is important to put more emphasis on the MICE tourism sector.

MNA/Xinhua



A woman walks in front of a sign advertising Hanaro Telecom Inc in Seoul on 15 Dec, 2004.—INTERNET

## Poland to cut Iraq troop numbers by nearly a third in 2005

**WARSAW, 14 Dec**— Poland will cut its troop strength in Iraq by nearly a third in February as part of long-standing plans to reduce its presence there, the government said Tuesday.

Poland's 2,400-member contingent will be cut to 1,700 from mid-February, with 700 soldiers remaining on standby in Poland, Defence Minister Jerzy Szmajdzinski told a news conference.

Poland, a staunch US ally on Iraq, commands an international stabilization force of about 6,000 troops in central Iraq. The cuts will come as part of a regular troop rotation due to begin in early January, but Szmajdzinski stressed that troop levels will remain stable for Iraq's Jan. 30 elections.

"During the electoral campaign and during the elections, there will be 2,400 troops," he said.

Szmajdzinski cited the military operation's high cost and waning violence in the Polish area of responsibility as reasons for the planned reduction.

The area, which includes the cities of Hillah and Diwaniyah, has "one of the highest security levels in Iraq, and there aren't such high military needs," he said.

Szmajdzinski said the cuts will chiefly affect logistics and services. — Internet

## Bangladesh adopts \$237m flood rehabilitation programme

**DHAKA, 14 Dec**— Bangladesh has adopted a 237 million US dollars flood rehabilitation programme, to be implemented over the next two years, officials said recently.

"Of the amount 180 million US dollars will come from Asian Development Bank and the rest from government funds," an official of Planning Ministry said.

Floods that raged from July to September this year killed nearly 1,000 people, rendered some 10 million homeless and destroyed crops, roads and properties.

MNA/Reuters

## 1,301 US troops killed since beginning of Iraq war

**BAGHDAD, 14 Dec**—As of Tuesday, 14 Dec, 2004, at least 1,301 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 1,019 died as a result of hostile action, the Defence Department said.

The figures include three military civilians.

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

The British military has reported 74 deaths; Italy, 19; Poland, 13; Spain, 11; Ukraine, nine; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and

the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary and Latvia one death each.

Since 1 May, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,163 US military members have died, according to *AP*'s count.

Internet



A Kurdish member of the Iraqi National Guard patrols through a part of Mosul under Kurdish control, on 10 Dec, 2004.—INTERNET



## Britain, Japan join hands to help Bangladesh achieve MDGs

**DHAKA, 14 Dec**— Britain and Japan Monday said they would jointly support Bangladesh Government's agenda to help it achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

"We are only jointly supporting what is a government agenda," Suma Chakrabarti, permanent secretary of Britain's Department for International Development told reporters.

He said the two countries will frame an action plan for Bangladesh after going through the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP), an important plan in development agenda, to

be finalized by January next year.

Anwar Chowdhury, the British envoy in Dhaka, said that both his country and Japan would continue to assist in six sectors: private sector development, road and bridges, health, primary education, arsenic mitigation, climate change and disaster management, without cutting annual bilateral aid.

"We will continue to support bilateral programmes and Britain's annual assistance of 100 million pounds is likely to increase, subject to discussion in London on the basis of PRSP to help Bangladesh progress towards the Millennium Development Goals," he said.

Kazuo Kodama, deputy director-general of

the Japanese Foreign Ministry, said "Japan, which is Bangladesh's single largest donor, will continue its current programmes individually along with the joint development assistance".

Kodama said he hoped that Dhaka would finalize the PRSP through consultation with all stakeholders.

MNA/PTI



*Chinese passengers check in at a China Eastern counter at Hongqiao Airport in Shanghai, on 15 Dec, 2004. China Eastern Airlines Co Ltd. posted a 9.47 percent rise in November passenger traffic, thanks to an improving global economy and booming travel, the country's second-largest carrier said on Wednesday. — INTERNET*

## Sino-Russian strategic coordination reaches unprecedented level

**BEIJING, 14 Dec**— Sino-Russian strategic coordination has attained an unprecedentedly high level, said President Hu Jintao here Monday during his meeting with Russian Defence Minister Sergei Ivanov, according to Foreign Ministry sources.

Hu, also chairman of the Central Military Commission of the Communist Party of China, said bilateral relations between China and Russia had entered a new phase of overall growth, since the two nations forged strategic partnership of coordination.

Cooperation in various sectors has been practical, in-depth and fruitful, he said, adding that growth of relations between the two armies have maintained good momentum.

China and Russia now face the same task of maintaining peace and stability and promoting common development, and it is in the fundamental interests of the people of every nation in the region to further deepen Sino-Russian bilateral strategic coordination, to tighten coordination and cooperation between the

two countries and their armies within the framework of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and to join hands in combating terrorism and other evil forces, Hu said.

Hu expressed the hope for both sides to work to implement a series of bilateral cooperation documents, including the implementation programme for the Sino-Russian Good-Neighbourly Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation, to keep pushing forward bilateral strategic partnership of coordination, so as to contribute to peace, stability and development in the region and the world as a whole.

Satisfied with the growth of Russia-China ties, Ivanov said Russia is "fully confident" of its future development. — MNA/Xinhua

## China's state companies encouraged to merge

**BEIJING, 15 Dec** — China's top state assets watchdog said here on Tuesday that big state-owned companies are further encouraged to merge with each other, in order to sharpen their competitive edge on the world market.

At the ongoing meeting of big state company leaders, Li Rongrong, Minister in Charge of the State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission (SASAC) under the State Council, said his commission will help cultivate 30 to 50 such mammoth companies on the basis of well-

performing state companies, which are directly controlled by the SASAC.

With the target in mind, Li said, the state companies need to standardize boards of chairs in line with international practice and establish modern management mechanisms inside themselves.

MNA/Xinhua

## Spanish PM defends withdrawal of troops from Iraq

**MADRID, 14 Dec**— Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero on Monday strongly defended Spain's withdrawal of troops from Iraq after the March 11 Madrid train bombings that killed 191 people.

Zapatero, the first Spanish Prime Minister to be questioned by a parliamentary commission, responded to criticism from commentators — particularly in the United States — that the pullout of Spain's 1,300 troops was appeasement of terrorists.

His testimony came amid continued jitters over security in Madrid. About 70,000 soccer fans were evacuated on Sunday night from the city's Bernabeu Stadium after a telephone bomb threat in the name of Basque separatist group ETA. No device was found.

Zapatero, who ordered the troops home immediately after coming to power as a result of an election held three days after the Madrid blasts, said Spaniards displayed a "gallery of heroism" in their response to the bombing.

MNA/Reuters



*US Marines patrol the restive Iraqi city of Fallujah on 14 Dec, 2004.*

INTERNET

## Tibetan volunteers to pick up garbage on Mt Everest

**BEIJING, 14 Dec** — Tibetan volunteers are planning a trip to the top of the world's tallest mountain to pick up garbage.

The Tibetans will work with environmental protection experts over the next three years to clear up the rubbish on Mount Everest at an altitude of between 6,500 metres (21,300 ft) and 8,000 metres, China's Xinhua news agency said on Monday.

Everest has been strewn with garbage ever

since the pioneering attempts at its peak in the 1920s. Since then, the climbing traffic has multiplied.

"The local government has organized volunteers many times to clear away the rubbish, yet all of them failed because no volunteers can reach that high," Xinhua said.

"The Tibetan expedi-

tion has set a target of scaling all 14 peaks in the world higher than 8,000 metres. It has made it to 13 of them so far."

More than 1,500 climbers have reached the summit of the 8,850-metre (29,035-foot) Everest, which straddles the border between Nepal and China, since 1953.

MNA/Reuters

## WTO agrees to begin accession talks with Iraq, Afghanistan

**GENEVA, 14 Dec** — The World Trade Organization (WTO) agreed on Monday to begin accession talks with Iraq and Afghanistan, but the United States again blocked any such negotiations with Iran, diplomats said.

The go-ahead for Iraq and Afghanistan came with no dissenting voice amongst the trade body's 148 member states, but Washington said it was still studying Iran's request — the same answer it has given for the past three years.

"They have approved Iraq and Afghanistan, but

as it has always been, there was no consensus on Iran," said one diplomat about the deliberations of the WTO's executive General Council, where all decisions must be unanimous. But while the door to the WTO is open for Kabul and Baghdad, entering the Geneva-based organization can be a

lengthy process, with Russia and Saudi Arabia still in talks after a decade.

The decision puts the US-installed administration in Baghdad on a level with more than two dozen other nations who want to join or are in the process of doing so.

MNA/Reuters

## The seven objectives

- (1) Upholding of the national policy "Our Three Main National Causes"
- (2) Successful implementation of the State's political, economic and social objectives
- (3) Successful implementation of the State's seven-point Road Map
- (4) Speedy implementation of tasks for boosting the State's social and economic development
- (5) Guarding against the danger of internal and external destructive elements through the might of the unity of the people
- (6) Promotion of the efficiency of the members,
- (7) Extension of organizational measures across the nation and cementing the constitution of the Association

advice and suggestions of respective USDA delegates on implementation of the seven objectives and nine future tasks. He said that these objectives and future tasks are indeed initiatives for the Association as well as the national policy of national patriotic forces. The Association will implement the objectives and tasks with added momentum, enlisting the

the efficiency of the members, and (7) extension of organizational measures across the nation and cementing the constitution of the Association.

Next, Executive of Mandalay Division USDA Daw Myint Myint Oo spoke at length on nine future tasks of USDA at different levels at the annual general meeting of USDA (2004). They

*USDA members, representatives of various organizations and outstanding youths saluting the National Flag. — MNA*



peace, strong economy of the State and the people and uplift of national education in building a discipline-flourishing democratic nation, (7) to participate in third-five year plan and five rural development tasks in the respective roles, (8) to extend organizational tasks for consolidation of the association promoting qualifications and efficiency of the USDA members, and (9) to accept the guidance given by the Patron of the USDA as work guidelines.

In connection with the

work programmes to be carried out by Mandalay Division USDA, U Thein Tun, executive of Mandalay Division USDA, said the association has been carrying out the tasks for 11 years each time after the annual general meeting of USDA. The association organized donation ceremonies in the division with the participation of local people. Mass walking activities would be held in December. Armed Forces Day commemorative extempore talks are also

(See page 7)

## All are to safeguard nation...

(from page 16)

members are to join hands with congenial social organizations, local townselders and residents in seeing to the objectives and future tasks.

Now the nation is on its path towards a peaceful, modern and developed democratic one. The State's seven-point Road Map is being put into operation, which is essential for shaping the future of the nation.

The meeting chairman cited the addresses occasionally delivered by Patron of the USDA Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe, as saying that now community peace and stability has been restored and development measures can be taken on a wider scale thanks to the achievements on national solidarity, which plays a central role in carrying out tasks for national development. The USDA Patron also expressed the belief of the government that national unity plays the most indispensable role in taking steps for development of the

nation. The Patron said that the government is to take steps for preserving and enhancing national solidarity in the interests of the nation and the people, exhorting the members to be equipped with Union Spirit and to make collaborative endeavours for safeguarding tranquillity and peace, boosting the national economy and accomplishment of the seven-point Road Map.

The government is doing its utmost for strengthening the national solidarity that is based on Union Spirit necessary for emergence of an enduring democratic nation, while taking measures steadfastly for such requirements as peace and tranquillity, strong economy of the nation and the people and promotion of the national education level.

All are thus to protect and safeguard the nation so that internal and external destructive elements cannot hamper the nation-building tasks. He noted that the entire people are to be united in a bid to protect the interests of the nation and the people. He called for

strength of the new generation youths and the people.

Next, Mandalay Division USDA Executive U Tin Win elaborated on the seven objectives—(1) upholding of the national policy "Our Three Main National Causes", (2) successful implementation of the State's political, economic and social objectives, (3) successful implementation of the State's seven-point Road Map, (4) speedy implementation of tasks for boosting the State's social and economic development, (5) guarding against the danger of internal and external destructive elements through the might of the unity of the people, (6) promotion of

are (1) for members of the USDA to safeguard national development and to restore peace and tranquillity in the country upholding Our Three Main National Causes—non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty, (2) to practise twelve political, economic and social objectives as the association's policy for emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed new nation, the goal of the State, (3) to organize the people to actively participate in implementation of the tasks for success of seven-point Road Map with Union Spirit whatever role they may be, (4) to participate in the tasks for success of the National Convention in session hand in hand with the people, (5) to guard against the danger of internal and external destructive elements who undermine the stability and development in the country with the unity of the people, (6) for the association to participate in the tasks for realization of basic requirements which are stability and



*Mandalay Division USDA Executive U Tin Win. — MNA*

## The nine future tasks

- (1) For members of the USDA to safeguard national development and to restore peace and tranquillity in the country upholding Our Three Main National Causes—non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty
- (2) To practise twelve political, economic and social objectives as the association's policy for emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed new nation, the goal of the State
- (3) To organize the people to actively participate in implementation of the tasks for success of seven-point Road Map with Union Spirit whatever role they may be
- (4) To participate in the tasks for success of the National Convention in session hand in hand with the people
- (5) To guard against the danger of internal and external destructive elements who undermine the stability and development in the country, with the unity of the people
- (6) For the association to participate in the tasks for realization of basic requirements which are stability and peace, strong economy of the State and the people and uplift of national education in building a discipline-flourishing democratic nation
- (7) To participate in third five year plan and five rural development tasks in the respective roles
- (8) To extend organizational tasks for consolidation of the association promoting qualifications and efficiency of the USDA members
- (9) To accept the guidance given by the Patron of the USDA as work guidelines



## All are to safeguard nation...

(from page 6)

held every year. Moreover, blood donation and sanitation works are also conducted to mark the Armed Forces Day. In every water festival, the association organizes animal-freeing ceremonies. Moreover, 154 primary schools are being repaired for 2004-2005 academic year at a cost of K 77.4 million including K 20

Technology, a total of 21 villages have now had access to electricity while bio-gas generators are being built in 50 villages.

Next, U Ko Ko Lay, secretary of Mandalay District USDA, explained matters related to the measures to be taken by the association in connection with the implementation of the seven objectives and nine future tasks.

secure transport network. Mandalay is the hub with a network of highways. Moreover, Ayeyawady River Crossing Yadanabon bridge is nearing completion.

Secretary of PyinOoLwin District USDA U Maung Maung Lwin said that Myanmar is rich in natural resources including precious metals and stones that help develop the nation. Research is under way to ascertain that

of institutions of higher learning where youths can pursue their higher education. Moreover, industries in the district have helped boost production and generate job opportunities in upper Myanmar. The grand airport in Kyaukse District is a pride for all the local people and an accomplishment of the Government to facilitate transport.

The Yangon-Mandalay six-lane highway and Yoma ring road both pass-



Delegates and meeting chairmen chanting slogans at concluding ceremony of the meeting.— MNA

### The members of the association lended themselves to the construction and repair of irrigational facilities.

million contributed by the people. The work will be over this summer.

As part of education campaigns, the association was able to keep 97.46 percent enrolment of school-age children last year. Efforts are being made to ensure this year to see full percentage of school enrolment rate.

A total of 54 ponds were repaired to enable local people to have sufficient supply of clean water. A total of over K 57 million is being utilized for sinking 245 tubewells.

The members of the association lended themselves to the construction and repair of irrigational

When it comes to education, Mandalay is teeming with universities and colleges in a variety of science and art branches. There also exist a number of medical and technological universities.

In the past, people in Mandalay had to travel to Yangon for medical treatment. Now that Mandalay has possessed general hospitals installed with modern medical equipment, local people can now receive medical treatments in convenience.

Mandalay Information and Communication Technology Park was also opened in the division so that the

Myanmar originated in Tagaung. Thanks to Tagaung-Bhamo-Myitkyina highway, the regions on the east bank of Ayeyawady River are developing. The largest Pharmaceutical Industry will emerge in the region soon.

Secretary of Kyaukse District USDA Dr Ye Win Naing said that according to the presentations of the executives of the division association, the USDA members will have to take part in their respective sectors together with other social organizations for emergence of a new peaceful, modern and developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation.



ing through Kyaukse District, and the hydroelectric power projects will bring more progress to the region. The rural bio-gas power project is gaining ground in the district.

Joint-Secretary of Meiktila District USDA U

the motion, saying that the whole Union is achieving unprecedented development during the time of the Government. Myingyan now has a degree college and a Technological College. The Myingyan Industrial Zone is providing

its regional development endeavours.

Executive of Yamethin District USDA U Hla Than said that Paunglaung Hydel Power Plant in Pyinmana Township of Yamethin District has been built with



The chairman and co-chairmen seen at coordination meeting to implement objectives and future tasks adopted by USDA Annual General Meeting 2004, in Mandalay.— MNA

facilities.

Thanks to technologies provided by the Ministry of Science and

youngsters can now pursue information media in this Age of Knowledge.

For a better and

At present, the nation sees peace and progress in all aspects, and Kyaukse District alone has a number



Joint-Secretary of Mandalay Division USDA U Sein Myint presents K 12 million for repair of basic education schools to a delegate.— MNA



The coordination meeting to implement objectives and future tasks adopted by USDA Annual General Meeting 2004 in progress in Mandalay.— MNA

Hla Myint said that Meiktila District is included in the 24-zone development project.

The Government has been giving special priority to progress of the district. It has built Meiktila University, Education College, Institute of Economics, University of Computer Studies, Technological College and Aerospace Engineering University. Higher education studies have reached within the reach of all youths in the region.

All the local people welcome the Meiktila Plain Greening Project.

Executive of Myingyan District USDA U Aung Win Kyi seconded

greater benefits for the region and its people. The zone is now manufacturing machinery.

In addition, the Government has built Taungtha, Welaung, Thamekku, Kyauktalone, Taungye, Kyauktaga dams in the dry Myingyan region.

All the local people thank the Government for

the use of modern technologies and it benefits all over the country by supplying hydro-electricity. Thanks to construction of Soap Factory and Textile and Dyeing Plants of the Ministry of Industry-1 in Yamethin District, locals have got job opportunities.

(See page 10)

**It can be seen that the present government has implemented river water pumping projects for agricultural purpose in the district and tube-wells for supply of potable water. For the public health care services, local people are delighted by installation of modern hospital equipment of international standard in NyaungU District Hospital.**



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein delivers an address at fifth Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners' Conference.—MNA

## Government has built traditional medicine hospitals in all states and divisions to extend public health care services

YANGON, 15 Dec — The Fifth Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners' Conference commenced in Pyidaungsu Hall at Kyaikkasan Grounds here this morning with an address delivered by Chairman of the National Health Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein.

Chairman of the State Peace and

Development Council Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein delivered an address in which he said: Thanks to the success of the Conference, where practitioners of traditional medicine from all parts of the nation meet every year and hold discussions in an atmosphere of unity and oneness, the profession has seen sound results and sustainable developments throughout its history, including the emergence of the Myanmar Traditional Medicine

developed nation, using internal strength as the core force. In this regard, the Government has been implementing projects to extend public health care services till reaching the whole nation, raising the quality and potency of Myanmar traditional medicine, on which the majority of people are relying, developing its standard to reach the international level, and extending its public health care coverage, as a

annually, and since 2000, it has been convening the Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners' Conference to rediscover and to promote and disseminate the near-extinct traditional medical practices, potent medicines, skilled practitioners, and effective therapies systematically.

The Myanmar Traditional Medicine University has emerged in 2001, and the institution has been training its students in accord with the advanced curricula covering all the traditional medicine subjects of the four Nayas, and science and western medicine, in addition to conducting diploma and degree courses for systematic development and propagation of the profession.

The Government

Myanmar and also for dreadful and uncommon diseases the western medicine has no cure, and treating patients with traditional medicine in combination with the use of hospital equipment for the traditional medicine to develop as internationally-accepted science.

The research programmes and new methods the Government has been materializing in a wide array of sectors are now producing fruitful results.

Thanks to the Government's encouragement, the private traditional medicine industry is developing, and is conducting mass production of potent medicines, with the use of international level production processes and advanced equipment, in accord with the globally-

sustainable results and more progress, I would like to urge the practitioners of the profession to make continuous efforts for the traditional medicine to become an internationally-accepted branch of science, without adversely affecting the existing potency and power of the sector, with fine traditions and reputation, while maintaining its current success and progress.

In addition, the practitioners are required to make endeavours to organize all the different bodies of the profession to stand united under the leadership of the Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners Association, while systematically integrating all the cream and essential parts of the different branches of



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein cordially greets Myanmar traditional medicine practitioners.—MNA

Development Council Senior General Than Shwe sent a message to the conference.

Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint read out the Head of State's message. (reported separately).

Practitioners Association, leading and organizing the physicians of the field to form as a united national force.

The present age sees the State Peace and Development Council building a modern and

national policy.

Head of State Senior General Than Shwe has given guidance, and made arrangements to preserve and promote Myanmar traditional medicine, an invaluable national heritage, as a national responsibility for its promotion and propagation and development in accord with the advancing era.

In line with the farsighted guidance of the Head of State, beginning 1999, the Government held meetings of Myanmar traditional medicine practitioners in states and divisions in turn

has built traditional medicine hospitals in all states and divisions to extend public health care services of the field. There are now two 50-bed traditional medicine hospitals, 12 sixteen-bed hospitals and 237 district and township dispensaries in the entire nation.

In accord with the guidance of the Head of State, the Government has been discovering and recording the potency of traditional medicines and therapies after conducting systematic research with the use of advanced equipment, doing research and keeping records on the finds to invent traditional drugs and therapies for common diseases in

acknowledged practices and standards.

At a time when the Myanmar traditional medicine has entered a new age, and is achieving

traditional medicine, therapies and methods for emergence of a single comprehensive traditional medical science (See page 9)

**Head of State Senior General Than Shwe has given guidance, and made arrangements to preserve and promote Myanmar traditional medicine, an invaluable national heritage, as a national responsibility for its promotion and propagation and development in accord with the advancing era.**



Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint reads the message sent by Senior General Than Shwe to fifth Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners' Conference.—MNA



# Chinese goodwill delegation arrives

YANGON, 15 Dec—A Chinese delegation led by Lieutenant-General Sun Zhiqiang, Deputy Chief of General Logistics Department of the People's Republic of China, arrived here by air this evening to pay a goodwill visit to Myanmar.

The guests were welcomed at Yangon International Airport by Member of the State Peace and Development Council Quartermaster-General Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Chief of Staff (Navy) Captain Nyan Tun, Vice-Quartermaster-General Maj-Gen Khin Maung Tun, Maj-Gen Than Htay, Maj-Gen Aye Myint, and senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Li Jinjun, Military Attache Senior Colonel Ma Shoudong and officials.

MNA

*Quartermaster-General Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo welcomes Chinese delegation at the airport. — MNA*



*Quartermaster-General Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo greets Lt-Gen Sun Zhiqiang. — MNA*

## Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspects regional development tasks in Manaung Township

YANGON, 15 Dec — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence, together with Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Commander of Western Command Brig-Gen Min Aung Hlaing and Captain Aung Thaw (Navy) of Kyaukpyu Station, on 13 December met departmental officials at the office of Manaung Township PDC.

At the meeting, township PDC Chairman U Naing Tun and officials reported on facts about the township including location, rainfall, cultivation of monsoon paddy and other crops, transportation, water supply tasks, education and health sectors and needs of the township.

Speaking on the occasion, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than said the government designated 24 development zones and has implemented five rural development tasks. So, officials concerned are also need to make efforts at grass-roots level. Although fisheries is the main business of the region, agriculture and livestock breeding need to be extended. Agriculture is not only main economy of the State but also of Rakhine State. Now, Rakhine State is making efforts so that it can meet the target of 1.1 million



*Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspects Thitpon Village Station Hospital in Manaung Township, Rakhine State. — MNA*

acres of paddy in coming monsoon season. So, officials concerned need to make efforts for more monsoon paddy cultivation in the coming season to meet the target, he urged. Afterwards, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party met with teachers, students and townsmen and local people in Kama village and gave instruction on regional development tasks. Commander

Brig-Gen Min Aung Hlaing provided K 400,000 for the drinking water supply project in the village. During his tour, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party also inspected Thitpon Village station hospital. When they arrived at Maygawady Beach 11 miles from Manaung, officials reported on tasks being carried out for the beautifying of the beach. — MNA

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## Myanmar vs East Timor 4.20 pm

YANGON, 15 Dec — Myanmar TV and Radio will telecast live the Tiger Cup soccer match between Myanmar and East Timor at 4.20 pm on 16 December. MRTV has been telecasting live the matches of the Myanmar team at the cup beginning 7 December. — MNA

*Myanmar traditional medicine practitioners at the opening of the fifth Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners' Conference. — MNA*



## Government has built...

(from page 8)

of the nation. I would also like to request you all to strive with the strength of traditional medicine to help materialize the task of improving the health standard of rural people covered by the Five Rural Development Tasks the Government is implementing at present, with the aim of extending the scope of health care services for the rural people, who have constantly re-

lied on the traditional medicine.

Also present were ministers, the Chief Justice, the Attorney-General, deputy ministers, members of the NHC, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of department, diplomats of foreign missions in Myanmar, resident representatives of UN agencies, practitioners, members of Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practi-

tioners Council, MTMPA, Traditional Medicine Inspection Central Committee, Women's Affairs Organization, Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Myanmar Red Cross Society, Myanmar Medical Association, Myanmar Dental Association and Myanmar Health Assistants Association, officials and guests. The Secretary-1 and party cordially greeted those presented at the ceremony.

MNA



*NyaungU District USDA Executive U Nyunt Win. — MNA*



*Yamethin District USDA Executive U Hla Than. — MNA*



*Myingyan District USDA Secretary U Aung Win Kyi. — MNA*



*Meiktila District USDA Joint-Secretary U Hla Myint. — MNA*



*Kyaukse District USDA Secretary Dr Ye Win Naing. — MNA*



*PyinOoLwin District USDA Secretary U Maung Maung Lwin. — MNA*

## All are to safeguard nation ...

(From page 7)

And, sugar mills in the district are also contributing to economic development of the State.

At present, the rural and urban gap in the district is narrower than the past with the facilities of transport, education and health sectors.

Next, NyaungU District USDA Executive U Nyunt Win seconded the motion. He said that NyaungU District is the place where First Myanmar Empire was established with united strength of the people.

Nowadays, the association members of NyaungU District cooperate with local people in tasks of the State without fail for emergence of a modern and developed nation. The Bagan Mass Meeting of ushering in the 21st Century was held and they firmly pledged to perform State and public welfare tasks. In addition, the chairman and executives presented their papers that it is the region where the mass rally was held to lay down the seven-point Road Map of the State attended by delegates of the entire nation. He said that NyaungU District has been designated as the cultural zone of Myanmar and Bagan archaeological region and ancient cultural heritage are being preserved.

It can be seen that the present government has implemented river water

pumping projects for agricultural purpose in the district and tube-wells for supply of potable water. For the public health care service, local people are delighted by installation of modern hospital equipment of international standard at NyaungU District Hospital.

The government created a good condition for the district in the education sector. Now, local youth can easily join universities and colleges in Pakokku, Meiktila, Myingyan and Magway. Apart from these higher learning facilities, Nagan Lacquerware College has emerged in a magnificent shape.

He concluded his speech that these are the tragible results of development of present government in the district.

Afterwards, Joint Secretary of Mandalay Division USDA U Sein Myint presented prizes to the students who stood

from first to 10th in the entire nation in the 2004 matriculation examination.

Chairperson of Mandalay Division Organization for Women's Affairs Dr Daw Khin Swe Win presented outstanding athletes in Mandalay Division. Joint-Secretary of Mandalay Division MCWA Supervisory Committee Dr Daw Khin May Thit awarded cash prizes to gold medalists in Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions.

Joint-Secretary U Sein Myint presented K 12 million for repair of basic education schools in all districts of Mandalay Division to a delegate. Next, the rally approved Mandalay Division USDA to implement seven objectives and nine future tasks of the 2004 USDA Annual General Meeting and tasks to be carried out in Mandalay Division.

Later the mass rally concluded with chanting slogans.

MNA

## Self-reliant tar road put into service in Manaung

YANGON, 15 Dec — A self-reliant tar road in Myoma Ward in Manaung, Rakhine State, was inaugurated yesterday in the presence of Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence. Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Chairman Commander of Western Command Brig-Gen Min Aung Hlaing formally opened the road. Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and Commander Brig-Gen Min Aung Hlaing and party strolled along the road.

The tar road was constructed on self-reliant basic. It is 1,000 ft long and 11 ft wide.

Executive Officer of Manaung Township Development Affairs Department U Aung Kyaw Win explained efforts made for the road. — MNA

## Minister inspects functions of Cooperative Limited in Dawbon, Dagon Seikkan Tsp

YANGON, 15 Dec — Minister for Cooperatives Col Zaw Min together with officials concerned arrived at the workshop and showroom of Sun Myanmar Wood, Bamboo, Rattan and Handicraft Cooperative Ltd in Dawbon Township yesterday afternoon. President of the company Daw Khin Hla Hla Aung reported to the minister on production of different

kinds of rattan. The minister gave instructions to officials. Next, the minister and party arrived at Geological Cooperative Ltd in No 1 South Dagon Industrial Zone. President of the company U San Win reported to the minister on measures being taken for making progress. The minister gave instructions to officials. Afterwards, the minister and party inspected a furniture

factory in Dagon Seikkan Industrial Zone-1. Member of Board of Directors U Aye Lwin reported to the minister on exporting of furniture to foreign countries. The minister inspected production of furniture round the factory and instructed officials to export quality furniture to foreign countries, to earn foreign exchange more and to create new design of furniture. — MNA



*Mandalay District USDA Secretary U Ko Lay. — MNA*



*Mandalay Division USDA Executive U Thein Tun. — MNA*



*Mandalay Division USDA Executive Daw Myint Myint Oo. — MNA*

## Fifth Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners' Conference held

YANGON, 15 Dec — The Fifth Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners' Conference was held at Pyidaungsu Hall in Kyaikkasan Grounds, here, this morning.

Present were Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo, Director-General Dr Thein Swe of the Traditional Medicine Department, Deputy Directors-General, directors and members of the Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners' Council, Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners' Association, members of the Leading Committee for Organizing the Conference and delegates from States and Divisions.

The morning-session of the conference started at 9 am. Deputy Minister Dr Mya Oo presided over the conference together with President of the Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners' Council Director-General Dr Thein Swe, members U Nyan Lwin, U Nyan Tun and U Maung Nyan. Deputy Director-General Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin acted as master of ceremonies.

The conference was attended by 421 delegates, cent per cent attendance.

Deputy Minister Dr Mya Oo's address was followed by the Delegate of Mohnyin Township U Khin Maung Win who tabled a motion calling on traditional medicine Practitioners' to strive to find out potent therapies

and traditional medicine for sustainable development of Myanmar traditional medicine. Delegate of Pyapon Township Daw Aye Aye Moe seconded the motion.

Delegate U Soe Moe Hlaing of Aungmyethazan Township then tabled a motion calling for educative works to be performed for conservation of Myanmar herbal plant species and the motion was seconded by Assistant Director Daw Khin Win Myint of Forest Research (Yezin) of Forest department.

Afterwards, Delegate of Bago Division U Kyi Lin tabled a motion urging prevention against acts harming quality and potency of Myanmar traditional medicine and Delegate of Kayin State U Moe Thet Khaing seconded the motion.

Similarly, Delegate of Mingaladon Township Maj Cho Cho Aung tabled a motion calling for prevention against dishonourable acts in traditional medicine sector which Delegate of Chin State Daw Thin Thin Khaing seconded.

The fifth motion was the call for upgrading of cooperation between Western medicine and traditional medicine in providing health care services tabled by Delegate of Kyauktaw Township U Ba Hla Sein, and U Zaw Thet Aung delegate of Monywa Township, seconded the motion.

The afternoon session was presided over by

Deputy Minister Dr Mya Oo together with Director-General Dr Thein Swe, members of the MTMC U Htay Myint, U Soe Hlaing and delegate U Than Nyunt.

Delegate of Mon State U Kyaw Tint tabled a motion urging acceleration of research works for emergence of potent traditional medicines. Delegate of Magway Division U Thaik Tun seconded the motion. Next, Delegate of Taninthayi Division U Kyaw Naing Oo tabled a motion on efforts to be made for providing health care services to cure common diseases with Myanmar traditional medicines. Delegate of Kengtung Township U Saw Myat Phone Kywe seconded the motion.

Next, the chairman of the conference announced that the conference has put on record the message sent by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe, and that the conference decided to accept the guidance in the message as work guide lines. The conference also put on record the opening address of Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein delivered at the MTMPC and it decided to adhere to the address of the Secretary-1 as work guidelines and approved the seven motions submitted at the conference. The conference ended in the afternoon with concluding remarks by the Deputy Minister. The conference continues up to 17 December. — MNA



# A new milestone in the history of Buddhism

Dr Myo Myint

Director-General of Department of Religious Affairs



The World Buddhist Summit held in the Great Mahapasana Cave has come to a successful conclusion. The resounding success was due to the support of the Government, the *Sangha* and the people of the Union of

Myanmar and all the participants who took part in this glorious event. Myanmar as a land of Dhamma has already established milestones in the history of Buddhism, such as:

- \* the holding of the Fifth Buddhist Council and recording of the *Tipitaka* texts on 729 marble slabs in 1871;
- \* the holding of the Sixth Buddhist Council in 1954;
- \* the establishment of two State Pariyatti Sasana Universities in 1986;
- \* the establishment of the International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University in 1998;
- \* the crafting of the world's largest marble image—the Abhayaalabha Muni—in 2001-2002;
- \* the emergence of eleven *Tipitakakovida* Sayadaws who can commit 8,026 pages of *Tipitaka* texts to their memories;
- \* the renovation of ancient Buddhist monuments;
- \* the establishment of independent Ministry of Religious Affairs to take care of the interests of 500,000 monks and nuns; and
- \* the restoration of temples in Bagan, which is the richest archaeological site in Southeast Asia.

Now, Myanmar has set up a new milestone in the history of Buddhism by holding the World Buddhist Summit from 9 to 11 December 2004 in the Great Mahapasana Cave, Yangon.

As Myanmar, where nearly five hundred thousand monks and nuns reside and the people of which are devout Buddhists, occupies central position in the Theravada world, the Myanmar delegation announced at the Third World Buddhist Propagation Conference held in Phnom Penh in 2002 that Myanmar would host the World Buddhist Summit in 2004.

This World Buddhist Summit was held with the following objectives:

- (1) To promote friendship, mutual understanding and cooperation among the Buddhist countries
- (2) To maintain Buddhist teachings and practice among the Buddhist countries
- (3) To promote Buddhist education based on the studies of Buddhist scriptures in nations of the world
- (4) To help and to create the peaceful world by the Buddhists, and
- (5) To propagate the original teaching of the Buddha in the world

Preparations for the World Buddhist Summit began in early 2003. A working plan was drawn up with the formation of the Advisory Board of *Mahatheras*, Steering Committee, Working Committee and eleven sub-committees.

The Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar acted as the Chairman of the Steering Committee and the Minister for Religious Affairs as the Chairman of the Working Committee. Many coordination meetings were held under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister. A secretariat was formed to take prompt action relating to the World Buddhist Summit.

Preparations included the major renovation of the venue of the World Buddhist Summit, the Great Mahapasana Cave, which took almost two years and cost a lot of money. So was the landscaping and the greening in the precincts of the Kaba Aye Pagoda. The cave was constructed in 1954, and major renovation



was required for holding the World Buddhist Summit. Repairing the roof, ceiling and walls were undertaken together with the installation of new air-conditioning, lighting and audio-visual systems. The walls had to be covered

with acoustic tiles. The wall facing the audience was decorated with gold and lacquer. The six pillars inside the cave were gilded and decorated with jade tiles. A jade Buddha image with wooden pedestal was also placed on the main platform inside the cave for public veneration. Two main entrances to the great cave were decorated with jade tiles. The Ministry of Forestry and private firms took responsibility for the landscaping and gardening around the cave.

Buddhist leaders from world Buddhist associations and many observers from different parts of the world were invited. Myanmar organizing committee provided the cost of transportation, meals and accommodations and sight-seeing for the VIPs and special guests. Many observers came to attend the World Buddhist Summit at their own expense. The Government of the Union of Myanmar gave every possible help to the honoured guests including local accommodation and transportation.

In addition to foreign guests, many *Mahatheras* and religious leaders inside the country were invited to attend the World Buddhist Summit. *Mahatheras* included State *Ovadacariya* Sayadaws, members of the State *Sangha* Mahanayaka Committee, members of

**This World Buddhist Summit would be a landmark in the history of Buddhist like the Sixth Buddhist Council. It took place in our land of Dhamma where peace and stability prevail and where nearly 500,000 monks reside and nine outstanding Mahatheras who can commit the whole Tipitaka texts to their memories are still alive.**

the Central Working Committee of the *Sangha*, *Tipitakakovida* and *Tipitakadhara* Sayadaws, Rectors of the State Pariyatti Sasana Universities and of the International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University, abbots of monasteries, monks from State *Sangha* organizations and monks from *Sangha* universities. Members of pagoda trustees and of religious and public organizations and persons who had received religious titles also were invited. Among the special guests were *Sayagyi* SN Goenka, a world meditation master, and his disciples. Despite a few temporary and minor problems, the Ministry of Religious Affairs of Myanmar succeeded in holding the World Buddhist Summit as the sole sponsor. The result, as you have witnessed, was a very successful Buddhist Summit held on a grand scale with the attendance of many Buddhist friends from all over the world.

This World Buddhist Summit would be a landmark in the history of Buddhism like the Sixth Buddhist Council. It took place in our land of Dhamma where peace and stability prevail and where nearly 500,000 monks reside and nine outstanding *Mahatheras* who can commit the whole *Tipitaka* texts to their memories are still alive. *Sangha* organizations at different levels are well established under the direction of the State *Sangha* Mahanayaka Committee. The Ministry of Religious Affairs with more than 2,000 staff is taking

care of the interests of the members of the *Sangha* throughout the country.

Prime Ministers and *Sangharajas* from the Theravada countries graced the event with their presence, and honoured guests and observers from 38 countries participated in this Summit. True to its name, the World Buddhist Summit was attended by broadly represented *Sangha* from all the continents. It reaffirms Myanmar's central position in the Theravada world and Myanmar's commitment to Buddhist unity under the banner of the original teachings of the Lord Buddha. This summit will bring the timeless teachings of the Buddha to bear upon the worldwide problems of violence, terrorism and instability, and contribute to relaxation of tensions.

The present World Buddhist Summit surpasses the previous Buddhist summits in many ways:

- \* In the previous Buddhist summits, almost all the delegates were from Asia countries. In this Summit we invited Buddhist delegates from all over the world including Mexico, Jamaica, Czech Republic, Romania, etc. Foreign delegates and observers who attended the Summit almost numbered eight hundred, which is the highest attendance in the history of Buddhist summit. With the Myanmar monks and laypersons, the participants numbered well over two thousand.
  - \* The previous summits were held in newly constructed buildings, whereas this Summit was held in the holy Mahapasana Cave which has both historical and religious significance. The Great Mahapasana Cave was the venue of the Sixth Buddhist Council, in which 2,500 monks assembled to edit the *Tipitaka* texts in the 1950s. It was also where the Buddhist leaders and Heads of State assembled to celebrate the 2500th Anniversary of the Buddha Sasana.
  - \* The previous Buddhist summits were sponsored by NGOs. The present World Buddhist Summit, on the other hand, was solely sponsored by the Government of the Union of Myanmar. A huge amount of Government budget was allocated for the major renovation of the Great Mahapasana Cave, landscaping and gardening around the cave, transportation and accommodation, *Dhamma* gifts, medical cares, sightseeing and entertainments for the delegates. Many NGOs and public organizations gave voluntary labour and invested their time and money.
  - \* In the previous summits, only thirty to a hundred participants attended a group discussion. Here in this Summit, the attendance varies between 100 and 400. Panel Discussion Groups were divided into four, namely: panels for "Buddhism and Its Relevance to the Present World," "Buddhist Education," "Promotion and Propagation of Buddhism" and for "Buddhist Meditation and World Peace." The subjects were discussed in depth and there were lively exchanges of ideas and intellectual debates. The discussions were chaired by learned *Mahatheras* well-versed in the scriptures and fluent in English.
- On behalf of the Ministry of Religious Affairs, the State *Sangha* Mahanayaka Committee, 500,000 monks and Myanmar citizens, the Working Committee would like to thank all those who helped us in our endeavours to promote Buddhist unity by contributing their time, money and labour for the successful holding of the World Buddhist Summit. We would also like to record our gratitude to the *Sangharajas* and Heads of States as well as all the delegates and observers for taking part in this great event and thus helped us fill a glorious page in the history of Buddhism. We would also like to share our merits with all the sentient beings.

May the sublime Dhamma prevail in its pristine purity!

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE****MV DUCKY SHINY VOY NO (04.001)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV DUCKY SHINY VOY NO (04.001) are hereby notified that the vessel arrived on 15.12.04 and cargo 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 byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY  
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**100,000 families homeless in England**

**LONDON, 14 Dec** — The number of homeless families in England has topped 100,000 for the first time, up 6,680 on the previous year, according to official figures released on Monday.

But more than three quarters of the homeless families are living in good quality, self-contained temporary homes, not on the streets, ministers noted.

The new figures show the number of households in accommodation arranged by local councils under homelessness laws was 100,810 in England at the end of September, with 82 per cent of the families in self-contained accommodation and 18 per cent using shared facilities.

Adam Sampson of the charity Shelter described the figures as a "damning indictment" of the fourth-richest country in the world and said there were not enough affordable social houses available to

rent. "It's a half a billion pound problem the government is going to have to dig very deep to resolve," he said.

However, Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott insisted the government was tackling the problem, noting that the investment in housing has been doubled and 90 million pounds (171 million US dollars) earmarked to improve hostels.

The Deputy Prime Minister said the number staying in bed and breakfast were down 94 per cent since 1997, with rough sleeping down 70 per cent, adding the situation was not good enough but it was very different from the problem left by the last Conservative government. — *MNA/Xinhua*

**US State Dept will come under scrutiny in Congress**

**UNITED NATIONS, 14 Dec** — The US State Department will come under scrutiny in Congress next year for its role in the Iraqi oil-for-food scandal, Democratic Representative Tom Lantos said on Monday.

Lantos, of California, who came to the United Nations to give UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan his support, said he was determined US failures, mistakes and decisions should be exposed.

But he said that would not exonerate UN officials who administered the defunct 64-billion-US-dollar programme.

"The US State Department bears some of the responsibility for its

failure to prevent and call attention to abuses," Lantos told reporters.

"But I don't think it is realistic at all to assume that the UN is innocent in respect to this whole series of shady, questionable and illicit activities."

Lantos said Annan was a man of integrity, more than capable of any cleanup needed after a report next year by Paul Volcker, the former Federal Reserve chairman, chosen by the United Nations to investigate the programme.

"I am here to express my support for the secretary-general," he said.

At least six committees in the Republican-led Congress are looking into the programme, in-

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Dated: 16 December 2004.

**Taj Hotel Group "interested"****to invest in Bangladesh**

**DHAKA, 14 Dec** — India's Taj Hotel Group has shown "interest" in investing in Bangladesh's tourism sector, a media report said Monday.

Bangladesh was planning to disinvest some of the hotels of the state-run Parjatan Corporation (BPC) and would be talking to interested groups, Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Mir Moham-mad Nasiruddin said. "We will first talk (to Taj) and then decide after ensuring our interest," he told private NTV network.

BPC has hotel and motels in major cities as well as in popular tourist destinations. — *MNA/PTI*

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- (a) Aircraft/Engines/parts sent for repairs and overhauling.
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Botataung Township, Yangon.  
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95-1-296818  
Fax: 95-1-299415  
E-mail: [minotran@mptmail.net.mm](mailto:minotran@mptmail.net.mm)

**Greece launches universal public transport ticket in Athens**

**ATHENS, 14 Dec** — Greek Government began to launch a one-euro unified ticket for public transport in the capital city of Athens Monday, which is seen as the first tangible benefit of the successfully holding of 2004 Olympic Games for the citizens.

The one-euro "universal" public transport ticket will allow passengers to

take unlimited times of journeys on all means of transport in the greater Athens area, within 1.5 hours from its validation.

Greek Transport Minister Mihalīs Liapis said in a statement on the day that Athens used to have a unified public transport system, now it also has a unified ticket system.

*MNA/Xinhua*

**Eight prisoners die in US custody in Afghanistan since mid-2002**

**WASHINGTON, 14 Dec** — Military officials said eight prisoner deaths in Afghanistan have been investigated since mid-2002, a higher number than previously reported. Human Rights Watch said slow-paced investigations had "spawned a culture of impunity" that may have fueled prisoner abuse in Iraq.

"It's time for the United States to come clean about crimes committed by US forces in Afghanistan," Brad Adams, the group's Asia division director, said Monday.

Failure to prosecute incidents in Afghanistan has allowed abusive interrogation techniques to spread to Iraq, Adams

said. "The US Government is dragging its feet on these investigations," he said.

A Pentagon spokesman, Lieutenant-Colonel John Skinner, said commanders go to "enormous lengths to investigate any credible allegations of detainee abuse." Many death investigations have determined that detainees died due to natural causes or because of injuries suffered before their capture, he said.

He added that the military has examined its entire system of keeping enemy prisoners. "We've looked at detention operations from A to Z," he said.

*MNA/AP*

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**Zimbabwean companies urged to employ social workers**

**HARARE, 14 Dec** — The Zimbabwe Government is to make it mandatory for each company to employ a social worker, said the official news agency the New Ziana Sunday.

Zimbabwean Minister of Public Works, Labour and Social Welfare Paul Mangwana was quoted as saying that companies would in the near future be required to first have a social worker before they were licensed.

The Minister said this move would go along in reducing poverty caused by the harsh economic crisis affecting the country.

He urged companies to revisit their social responsibility to the country and set up a welfare fund to be used to assist communities in needy.

Mangwana criticized that a number of companies in Zimbabwe were not helping community activities.

*MNA/Xinhua*



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A view of the Millau motorway viaduct, tallest bridge in the world, which was designed by British architect Norman Foster and opened to the public on 14 Dec, 2004.—INTERNET

## French President inaugurates world's tallest bridge

MILLAU, (France), 15 Dec— French President Jacques Chirac inaugurated Tuesday the world's tallest bridge, the viaduct of Millau of 270 metres above ground.

The bridge, stretching 2,460 metres, is to open to traffic Thursday, and will then ease traffic from Rhone Valley to the east, used mainly by lorry drivers and tourists bound for the Mediterranean and Spain.

Before some 800 workers and technicians, including the viaduct's British architect Norman Foster, Chirac unveiled a plaque on the largest of its seven pillars. "The Millau viaduct takes its place among our most shining works of civil engineering. It brilliantly embodies the verve of our research and technology," he said.

"The French people are rightly proud of the feats accomplished here — feats which speak for France. A modern

France; an enterprising, successful France; a France which invests in its future." The group Eiffage, the French construction giant, financed all its cost of 390 million euro (\$520 million US dollar) and got the right to collect tolls for 75 years in return.

The highway A75 motorway between Clermont-Ferrand and Beziers is connected with the bridge, which will ease much of the traffic with only a fee of 4.9 euros (6.5 US dollars) for cars and four times as much for trucks.

The bridge received 2,000 invited guests in the day, and Eiffage predicted an average of 10,000 vehicles per day, with a peak of 25,000 during the summer holidays. — MNA/Xinhua

## One million Thais suffer from brain disorders

BANGKOK, 15 Dec — Nearly one million Thais are suffering from Alzheimer's disease and other forms of brain disorders, especially among the elderly, the Thai News Agency reported on Monday.

The agency quoted Deputy Public Health Minister Suchai Charoenrattanakul as saying that the latest survey shows nearly one million Thais are suffering from brain disorders including Alzheimer's.

There are some 12,000 new patients a year suffering from brain disorders, according to the report, largely because Thais' life expectancy is now longer.

It costs the government up to 800,000 baht (20,253 US dollars) per patient, he said.

The country's Neurology Institute has launched awareness campaigns to educate Thais on how to prevent these symptoms.

Brain disorders in people under the age of 65 is usually caused by variety of factors, including heavy drinking and viral infections, all of which can be prevented, he said. — MNA/Xinhua

## China graduates from WFP food aid by end of next year

BEIJING, 15 Dec— The UN World Food Programme will halt donations to China by the end of next year as the world's seventh-largest economy boosts its own assistance abroad, WFP chief James Morris said on Tuesday.

China's graduation from WFP food aid after 25 years is a milestone in its development and reforms, including a decade or so of soaring economic growth which has lifted 300 million Chinese out of poverty.

"At the end of 2005, we will no longer be an active, operating programme in China. China will no longer need us," Morris said.

"When I look at the serious humanitarian needs around the world, there are places that need us much

more than China does."

China, which was supporting WFP operations this year to the tune of 25 million US dollars, told Morris it would increase support of the WFP next year. "The commitment was to do more," Morris told reporters. "I did not ask for specifics."

China has had more experience moving people out of hunger and poverty than any country in history, he said.

"I'm hopeful that China will partner with the World Food Pro-

gramme to help us do more to take advantage of the strength they have, the experience to address these tough issues elsewhere."

Although the WFP's plan to scale back its aid to China was not new, Morris's five-day visit to China coincided with comments from Japanese Foreign Minister Nobutaka Machimura that Tokyo would soon review its programme of economic aid to its giant neighbour.

Machimura said last month that Japan should stop giving official development assistance to Beijing in the near future due to China's robust eco-

nomie growth.

Morris said he expected that many of the programmes the WFP is engaged in in China would continue under Chinese leadership once the WFP pulled out.

"I am here to say thank you for growing support from China," he said. "We've had good conversations about how we expand our work together going forward."

Morris met Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao and Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing during his trip.

He also visited the western province of Gansu.

MNA/Reuters

## Car-boot sales distribute more counterfeit movies in Britain

LONDON, 14 Dec— Car-boot sales are the biggest distributors of counterfeit movies in Britain, the UK Film Council said on Monday, urging tough new measures to clamp down on pirating.

Car-boot sales, which attract thousands of bargain-seekers every week-end, cost the film industry 400 million pounds in 2002, the council said.

The government should take action against sellers in such sales by making them register their personal and vehicle licence details with trading standards officers three weeks beforehand, it added in a statement.

The organization also suggests making the camcording of films in a cinema a criminal offence and setting exemplary damages for those found guilty of film pirating.

"It is important that the film industry learns from the music industry," said John Woodward, chief executive of the film council.

Music companies have started taking legal action in Europe and the United States against computer users who share files and have made more music available to legally download on the Internet.

MNA/Reuters

## 10% of bird species set to disappear by end of century

WASHINGTON, 14 Dec— Ten per cent of all bird species are set to disappear by the end of this century — and with them the services they provide such as cleaning up carcasses and spreading seeds, US researchers said on Monday.

A careful study of extinction rates so far, conservation measures underway and climate and environmental change shows that at least 1,200 species of birds will be gone by 2100. And that is a conservative estimate, the team at Stanford University in California said. Even though only 1.3 per cent of bird species have gone extinct since 1500, the global number of individual birds is estimated to have experienced a 20 per cent to 25 per cent reduction during the same period,"

they wrote in their report, published in the *Proceedings of National Academy of Sciences*.

This can have severe consequence for people.

"In 1997, 30,000 of the world's 35,000 to 50,000 rabies deaths took place in India, where feral dog and rat populations have exploded after the decline of vultures," they wrote.

Cagan Sekercioglu of the Stanford Centre for Conservation Biology and colleagues analysed all 9,787 living and 129 extinct bird species.—MNA/Reuters



Frosty morning: A tree standing in front of the pilgrimage church of Vilgertshofen in southern Germany is covered with a thick layer of glazed frost.—INTERNET

## SPORTS

## Pama sack coach

MILAN, 14 Dec— Serie A strugglers Parma have sacked their coach Silvio Baldini after Sunday's 2-0 defeat to Livorno left them stranded near the foot of the table.

"Silvio Baldini has been removed from his coaching post at the club," Parma said in a statement on Monday.

"The team will be temporarily put in the hands of assistant coach Daniele Zoratto, who will be in charge of his first training session this afternoon, ahead of any further decisions," they added.

Baldini arrived in the close season after making his name with Empoli who he led to promotion from Serie B in 2002 but Parma, one of the top sides in Italy during the 1990s, have managed just two wins this season.

Parma have had financial problems since their former parent company Parmalat ran into difficulties last year, selling several top players, including Brazilian striker Adriano to Inter.

Zoratto is not likely to be given the job on a long-term basis and one option Parma have is to turn to their technical director Arrigo Sacchi, the former AC Milan and Italy coach. —MNA/Reuters

## Lomana Lua Lua hold 1-1 draw at Liverpool

LONDON, 15 Dec— Portsmouth's Lomana Lua Lua headed an equalizer in stoppage time to earn a 1-1 draw at Liverpool in the Premier League on Tuesday.



Liverpool keeper Jerzy Dudek, seen here August 2004. Portsmouth's Lomana Lua Lua scored an injury time equaliser to earn a point against Liverpool in a 1-1 draw at Anfield which will hamper the home side's attempts to get in touch with the leading clubs during the Christmas programme.—INTERNET

Steven Gerrard's powerful strike with 20 minutes left seemed to have given Liverpool a morale-boosting victory after their 1-0 derby defeat at Everton on Saturday.

However, goalkeeper Jerzy Dudek's failure to deal with an inswinging cross from Matthew Taylor allowed Lua Lua the simplest of headed equalizers.

The result moves Liverpool (25 points from 17 games) above Aston Villa into

sixth place on goal difference, but they are a distant 15 points behind league leaders Chelsea.

Portsmouth, who stay 10th on 23 points, are still unbeaten in the league since manager Harry Redknapp resigned in November.

Former Southampton manager Gordon Strachan is being linked with the vacant managerial position, although coach Joe Jordan is handling the first team on a temporary basis.

Gerrard, who scored a crucial late goal against Olympiakos last week to put Liverpool into the knockout phase of the Champions League, was again his side's most influential player.

After Liverpool were frustrated by a well-organized Pompey side for 70 minutes, Gerrard crashed a rising shot in off the post from 25 metres after Dietmar Hamman rolled a free kick into his path.

Liverpool dominated possession and were guilty of wasting several good chances. Harry Kewell blazed over the bar, Antonio Nunez shot straight at goalkeeper Jamie Ashdown and Hamman failed to beat Ashdown with a point-blank header. —MNA/Reuters

## Auxerre's manager slams new look UEFA Cup group format

GLASGOW, 15 Dec— Auxerre's long-serving manager Guy Roux has slammed the new look UEFA Cup group format for denying his side vital home matches.

The French coach, with more than 40 years service, has been preparing his side for a vital clash with Rangers on Wednesday as they bid to reach the last 32 in the competition.

But Roux said: "I think it (the new format) is very bad. It is the same format as the (old) Five Nations in rugby and in rugby they could not do anything else.

"But in football you can do so many other things. We would have liked to have played Rangers at home where we would have filled the stadium.

"But instead we had only a few thousand when we played Amica Wronki. I prefer the home and away matches or groups of four like the Champions League."

Rangers require only a draw to book a slot in the knockout stages while Auxerre need to win but manager Alex McLeish dispelled any notion of playing for a point.

"I don't know if we are capable of playing for a draw. How do you play for

a draw? Do you sit back on the edge of your box? Do you not go forward at all?"

"I think we have players who prefer to try and score goals and we will try and win the game. Auxerre have to win the game so it is going to be very interesting.—MNA/Reuters

## Asia Champions League to kick off in March

TOKYO, 15 Dec— Japan Football Association general secretary Takeo Hirata said on Monday that six games will be held as the season kicks off in the 2005 AFC Champions League. Hirata said it was decided at a recent meeting of the Asia Football Confederation (AFC) that the six games will take place between March 9 and May 25.

Eight teams will advance to the knockout stage, which gets under way on September 14. The final will be played in a home-and-away format October 26 and November 2 with the winner automatically booking a spot in the World Club Championship in December next year.

MNA/Xinhua

## Eriksson says Downing set to make England debut

LONDON, 15 Dec— Middlesbrough midfielder Stewart Downing is set to make his England debut in a friendly against the Netherlands in February, manager Sven-Goran Eriksson said on Monday.



England coach Sven-Goran Eriksson (pictured) indicated he was ready to give highly-rated Middlesbrough winger Stewart Downing an international debut. INTERNET

Downing, still only 20 and yet to even make the senior squad, has been tipped as the long-term answer to England's problems on the left flank.

"If he goes on like this, I think we should give him a chance," Eriksson told Sky Sports News. "We have a friendly game against Holland in February, I think he

deserves that. "He's a very interesting player. He can make things happen, he can beat people and his left foot is very, very good."

A regular at Under-21 level for England, Downing has scored five goals this season for Boro under manager Steve McClaren, who is also a member of Eriksson's coaching staff.

England play the Dutch on February 9 at Villa Park.

Eriksson was more cautious about the Premier League title, saying Manchester United could not be ruled out of contention even though current form favoured holders Arsenal and leaders Chelsea, who drew 2-2 on Sunday.

Asked if he had watched the future champions at Highbury, Eriksson said: "I think so, but it's very

dangerous to rule out Manchester United, because you never know. It's not Christmas yet.

"It was a very good game yesterday, I enjoyed all 90 minutes."

A goal by John Terry was a reminder of the Chelsea captain's bid to force his way into Eriksson's starting line-up for their 2006 World Cup qualifying campaign.

Currently third in the pecking order behind Arsenal's Sol Campbell and United's Rio Ferdinand, Eriksson is glad to have the selection headache. "The competition to play in central defence for England is extremely hard, if we have all of them fit," Eriksson said. "I hope Jonathan Woodgate will start to play for Real Madrid as well.

MNA/Reuters

## Valencia midfielder banned for 7 matches

MADRID, 15 Dec— Valencia midfielder Miguel Angel Angulo has been banned for seven matches by UEFA for behaviour that led to him being sent off during a bad-tempered Champions League defeat by Werder Bremen earlier this month.

The Spain international was dismissed for an ugly tackle on Paraguayan striker Nelson Valdez, whose two late goals ended the Spanish champions' hopes of qualification as they lost the Group G match 2-0 and had to settle for a place in the UEFA Cup.

Angulo also spat at Werder midfielder Tim Borowski as he was leaving the pitch in the closing minutes of the highly-charged match on December 7.

The Valencia midfielder, who won his first cap for Spain in November's friendly against England, has apologized and said he would accept whatever sanction he was given by UEFA in the hope that it might help repair his club's damaged image. The suspension means he would only be able to play again in

European competition this season if Valencia reached the semi-finals of the UEFA Cup, which they won last year, and even then he would only be available for the second leg.

Valencia have also been fined 26,000 euros (34,640 US dollars) by UEFA's control and disciplinary body for their players' improper conduct against Bremen. They had another five players booked and a scuffle broke out following Angulo's dismissal.

European soccer's governing body also took into account the throwing of missiles by supporters at the Mestalla.

Bremen were also fined 3,250 euros for improper conduct as punishment for their part in the fracas after the sending off.—MNA/Reuters



Valencia midfielder Miguel Angel Angulo (R) is sent off the pitch by referee Anders Frisk (L) during the UEFA clash with Werder Bremen. Angulo has been banned for seven matches by UEFA in the wake of that game's incidents.—INTERNET



## A & I Minister receives Japanese delegation

YANGON, 15 Dec — Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo received the Japanese delegation led by Japanese Senior Vice-Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Mr Mineichi Iwanaga at the minister's office at 9.30 am today.

At the meeting, matters related to bilateral cooperation in technologies, human resource development, producing quality pedigree and strains and securing market were cordially discussed. — MNA



Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo receives Japanese delegation led by Senior Vice Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Mr Mineichi Iwanaga. — A&I

## NPED Minister leaves for LPDR

YANGON, 15 Dec — Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha left here yesterday evening by air to attend the 13th Ministerial Meeting under Mekong region economic cooperation

programme to be held in Vientiane, Lao People's Democratic Republic, from December 14 to 16.

The minister was seen off at Yangon International Airport by Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun, Minis-

ter for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, Laotian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Chanthavy Bodhisane and departmental officials. Director-General of Directorate of Trade U Nyunt Aye, Director-General of Depart-

ment of Electric Power Dr Thein Tun, Director-General of Directorate of Hotels and Tourism U Htay Aung, Director-General of Foreign Economic Relations Department Daw Myo Nwe, Acting Managing Director of Myanma Cotton and Sericulture Enterprise Dr Pyay Tin, Director of Road Transport U Aung Myint and Director of Foreign Economic Relations Department U Mung Mung Khin left here in advance on 13 December by air for Vientiane to attend the 2nd Meeting of the Organizing Work Committee for holding the Second Mekong Summit which started on 13 December and the Senior Officials Meeting which started on 14 December. — MNA



Minister for NPED U Soe Tha being seen off at the airport on his departure for Lao PDR. — MNA

## Minister inspects development tasks in Ayeyawady Div

YANGON, 15 Dec — Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt together with officials concerned arrived at the hall of Nyaungdon Township Development Affairs Committee U Aung Myint Htay. Executive officer of Maubin

Township Development Affairs Committee U Soe Naing Oo and executive officer of Nyaungdon Township Development Affairs Committee U Khin Maung Myint reported on development tasks.

Next, the minister inspected tarring of Shwemyintin Pagoda road which is 8,000 feet long and 10 feet wide in Pantanaw. Executive officer of Pantanaw Township Development Affairs Committee U Aung Than Lwin reported to the minister on development tasks.

The minister instructed officials to build rural roads systematically. Afterwards, the minister inspected paving Shwelinyon gravel road which connects with Nyaungdon-Yangon road. Executive officer of Nyaungdon Township Development Affairs Committee U Khin Maung Myint reported to the minister on development tasks. After that the minister met with locals and encouraged them.



Minister for PBNRDA Col Thein Nyunt inspects construction of 1,500 feet long and 12 feet wide Shwelinyon Road in Nyaungdon Township on 14-12-2004. — DAD

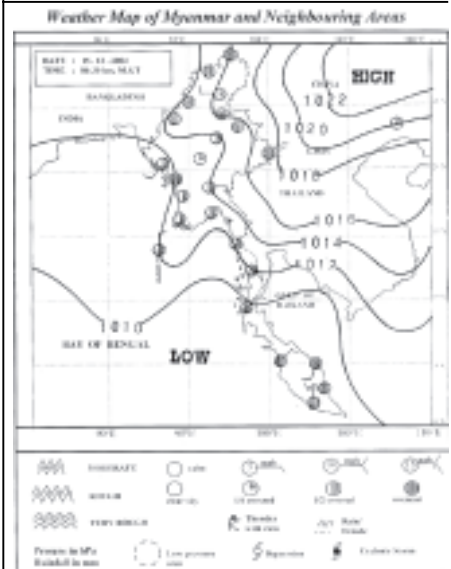
## Thailand Exhibition' 2004 opened

YANGON, 15 Dec — Thailand Exhibition' 2004 organized by Department of Export Promotion, Ministry of Commerce, Thailand, and supported by Ministry of Commerce, Myanmar, was opened this morning at Yangon Trade Centre.

Deputy Director-General of the Department of Export Promotion, Thailand, Mr Kunyaphan Raeng Khum delivered an opening address and Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein formally opened the exhibition.

The exhibition attracting 124 companies staged 162 booths. Businessmen and traders can visit on 15-16 December it will be open to the public on 17-18 December.

Agricultural machinery, spare parts for vehicles, toys, electronic appliances, foodstuff, furniture, textile and garments, kitchenware, construction materials, domestic goods and stationery are on display. The exhibition was opened here for the 10th time. — MNA



## WEATHER

Wednesday, 15 December, 2004

**Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:** During the past 24 hours, light rain has been isolated in upper Sagaing Division and generally fair elsewhere in the whole country. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded was Kalay (0.08 inch). Night temperatures were (5°C) above normal in Upper Sagaing Division, (3°C) above normal in Kachin State and Mandalay Division, (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Chin, Rakhine, Kayah, Kayin and Mon States, (5°C) below normal in Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and about normal in the remaining states and divisions. The significant night temperatures were Pinlaung (4°C), Pyin Oo Lwin (5°C) and Haka (6°C).

Maximum temperature on 14-12-2004 was 89°F. Minimum temperature on 15-12-2004 was 55°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 15-12-2004 was 82%. Total sunshine hours on 14-12-2004 was (8.5) hours approx. Rainfalls on 15-12-2004 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 (13:30) hours MST on 14-12-2004.

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

**Forecast valid until evening of 16-12-2004:** Weather will be partly cloudy to cloudy in Kachin, Chin and Rakhine States, Upper Sagaing, Ayeyawady, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. **State of the sea:** Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters. **Outlook for subsequent two days:** Likelihood of light rain in the extreme Northern Myanmar areas.

**Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 16-12-2004:** Partly cloudy. **Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 16-12-2004:** Generally fair.

**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 Japanese guests

YANGON, 15 Dec — Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar Lt-Gen Soe Win received Senior Vice Minister of the Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, of Japan, Mr Mineichi Iwanaga and party at Zeyathiri Beikman Hall at 5 pm today.

Also present at the call were Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo, Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu, Myanmar Ambassador to Japan U Saw Hla Min, Director-General of the Prime Minister's Office U Soe Tint, Director-General of the Protocol Department Thura U Aung Htet and Director-General of the Political Department U Thaug Tun. Senior Vice Minister Mr Mineichi Iwanaga was accompanied by Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Nobutake Odano.—MNA

*Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win greets Japanese Senior Vice Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Mr Mineichi Iwanaga at Zeyathiri Beikman Hall. — MNA*

*Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win receives Japanese Senior Vice Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Mr Mineichi Iwanaga at Zeyathiri Beikman Hall.*

MNA



## Community peace and stability restored and development measures taken on wider scale thanks to achievements in national solidarity

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with Amarapura Township USDA Executive Ma Hnin Shwe Sin.

The Chairman said that the USDA Annual General Meeting (2004) had discussed the drive of USDAs at different levels to implement tasks in one-year period in accord with the seven objectives laid down at the USDA Annual General Meeting (2004). USDA delegates from various regions held plenary meetings and seminars and laid down the nine future tasks. USDA

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**INSIDE**

Now, Myanmar has set up a new milestone in the history of Buddhism by holding the World Buddhist Summit from 9 to 11 December 2004 in the Great Mahapasana Cave, Yangon.

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DR MYO MYINT



Mandalay Division USDA Secretary U Tin Maung Oo delivers an opening address at the coordination meeting.—MNA