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Vice-Senior General Maung Aye greets Deputy Chief of General Logistics Department of PLA Lt-Gen Sun Zhiqiang at Zeyathiri Beikman Hall.— MNA

## Senior General Than Shwe sends felicitations to Bhutan

**YANGON, 17 Dec —** On the occasion of the National Day of Bhutan which falls on 17 December 2004, Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Majesty Jigme Singye Wangchuck, King of Bhutan. — MNA

## Chinese delegation calls on State Peace and Development Council Vice-Chairman

**YANGON, 16 Dec —** Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, and Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye received a Chinese delegation led by Lt-Gen Sun Zhiqiang, Deputy Chief of the General Logistics Department of the People's Liberation Army of the People's Republic of China, at Zeyathiri Beikman Hall on Konmyinthta this morning.

Present at the call were SPDC mem-

bers Lt-Gen Aung Htwe of the Ministry of Defence, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, Lt-Gen Maung Bo, Quartermaster-General Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Yangon Division PDC Chairman and Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, and senior military officers.

The Chinese delegation was accompanied by Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Li Jinjun and Military Attaché Senior Col Ma Shoudong.

MNA



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye receives Deputy Chief of General Logistics Department of PLA Lt-Gen Sun Zhiqiang and party at Zeyathiri Beikman Hall.— MNA

### Paper-reading session of Fifth Myanmar

#### Traditional Medicine Practitioners Conference held

**YANGON, 16 Dec —** The paper-reading session of Fifth Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners Conference was held at Pyidaungsu Hall of Kyaikkasan Grounds here this afternoon.

Director-General Dr Maung Maung Wint of Medical Research Department presided over the session. Head of Shan State Traditional Medicine Department U

Tin Maung Lay, U Hla Kyaing of NyaungU Township, Daw Shwe Thazin Kyi of Ahlon Township and Executive U Myo Myint of Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners Association (Mandalay Division) submitted their papers to the session.

Also present were directors-general of departments under the Ministry of Health, officials and resource persons.

The paper-reading session continues tomorrow.

MNA

### Newly-assembled DMU coaches on trial run

**YANGON, 16 Dec —** The trial run of DMU-305 coaches assembled by Monywa Locomotive

Shed was launched on 14 December morning and Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye inspected it .

The commander also presented cash awards to engineers and workers who assembled the coach.

The present DMU coaches on Monywa-Mandalay road section

are driven by two locomotives. However, the newly-constructed DMU coaches will be pulled by only one engine and it has a seating capacity of about 405. It's fuel consumption decreases by 50%. It was assembled at a cost of K 105 million and took four months to complete.

Now, two DMU diesel trains are running on Monywa-Mandalay road section. — MNA

#### INSIDE

*Water birds play an important role in several spheres of human interest; culturally, socially, scientifically and as a food resource. After fish, birds are probably the most important faunal group that attracts people to wetlands.*

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SEIN SEIN THEIN  
(DAGON UNIVERSITY)

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

# PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 17 December, 2004

## Strive for continued development of traditional medical science

We Myanmar are an intellectually gifted people who have lived by their own rule, own culture and own lineage for aeons. And for a good many years, Myanmar traditional medicine practitioners have provided health care services for the national people with the use of potent medicinal herbs native to Myanmar.

Health, fitness and longevity of Myanmar people stands witness to the effectiveness of Myanmar traditional medical science.

The Fifth Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners' Conference was opened at the Pyidaungsu Hall in the Kyaikkasan Grounds on 15 December and Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe sent a message to the conference.

In his message, the Head of State urged the traditional medicine practitioners to stand in solidarity for the improvement and dissemination of traditional medical science and to make continued efforts to provide health care services for the national brethren while striving for further development of traditional medicine.

Myanmar traditional medicine is a science with a number of deep and profound medical treatises, a large variety of potent and effective medicines and a diversity of therapies.

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. However, Myanmar traditional physicians who inherited traditional medicine from their ancestors have preserved it. Therefore, it still exists.

Now, with the hard work of traditional physicians, the encouragement and assistance of the government and the trust and support of general public, Myanmar traditional medicine is flourishing again.

We would like to call on all the traditional medicine practitioners to try their best to be able to provide health care services to the entire national people and to strive for the continued development of traditional medical science, wishing the Fifth Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners' Conference a complete success.

## Old students to pay respects to retired teachers

YANGON, 16 Dec — The 16th ceremony to pay respects to 114 retired teachers of Pakokku BEHS No 1 will be held at the school at noon on 25 December. Old students may contribute cash and kind to the organizing committee.— H



"မြန်မာ-တရုတ်နယ်စပ်တူန့်သွယ်ရေးကုန်စည်ပြပွဲ-၂၀၀၄"  
 ကျင်းပမည့်နေ့ရက် - (၁၈-၁၂-၂၀၀၄)မှ (၂၂-၁၂-၂၀၀၄)  
 ကျင်းပမည့်နေရာ - ရှမ်းပြည်နယ် (မြောက်ပိုင်း)  
 မူဆယ်မြို့ (မန်ဝိန်းကုန်ချကွင်း)

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

## 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

## Preservation of cultural heritages inspected in Rakhine State

YANGON, 16 Dec— Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung, together with Brig-Gen Than Tun Aung of Sittway Station and officials of the Department of Archaeology, inspected the Cultural Museum in Rakhine State on 12 December.

At the meeting with members of the board of trustees, of Kaunghmudaw Pagoda built by King Minbar, in Ponnagyun Township, the Minister gave instructions on renovation and maintenance of the pagoda and made cash donations to the funds of the pagoda.

The Minister viewed cultural heritages in Kyauktaw Township. He also inspected excavation of Danyawady ancient city near the Maha Muni Buddha Image.

On 13 December, the Minister inspected renovation of Laungkyettaung Mawshwekyetpha Pagoda, Kothaung Stupa, Phayaoak Pagoda and MINGAUNG SHWETU PA-



Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung inspects excavation and maintenance of gutters made of stone in ancient Vesali city in Rakhine State. — CULTURE

goda. Next, he met officials concerned to renovate Cheinkaik Tri-Pitaka Chamber, Andaw Ordination Hall and Laymyethna Pagoda.

Afterwards, the Minister inspected renovation of mould Nos 1, 2 and 5 of Vesali ancient city, and ancient heritage sites in Vesali and Pauktaw villages.

In the afternoon, the Minister met local authorities, senior citizens and members of the pagoda board of trustees of

Vesali Pagoda. In addition, he inspected excavation site of Vesali, and antiques in Letkaukzay Monastery in MraukU.

In the evening, the Minister inspected the Archaeological Museum and held a meeting with the staff of the Cultural Heritage Preservation Division (MraukU Branch).

On 14 December, the Minister inspected the Cultural Museum of the Department of Cultural Institute and the Buddhology Museum of

the Department of Archaeology in Sittway and gave necessary instructions to Vesali the officials.

Deputy Director-General of the Department of Archaeology (Lower Myanmar) U Tun Zaw and party, who accompanied the Minister, viewed excavation and maintenance of ancient sandstone Buddha images of Vesali era near Zawpugya village seven miles from Sittway.

MNA



Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue Col Hla Thein Swe speaking at the second four-monthly meeting of Myanma Insurance. — F&R

## Insurance staff should be loyal to State

YANGON, 16 Dec — The Myanma Insurance held its second four-monthly meeting today, in which officials from state/division and district branches took part.

In his address, Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue Col Hla Thein Swe said that insurance staff should be loyal to the State, and should work in accord with service regulations.

They will have to work well to meet the targets set by the Government for their institution, he noted.

Managing Director of the enterprise Col Thein Lwin and officials took part in the meeting held at the head office since yesterday.

MNA

## Semi-final, final matches of Tatmadaw Soccer Tournay to be telecast live

YANGON, 16 Dec — The first semi-final football match of the 43rd Defence Services Commander-in-Chief's Cup will be telecast live at 3 pm on 18 December and the second semi-final on 19 December and the final match on 23 December by Myanmar Radio and Television.

These matches will be held in the Youth Training Centre (Thuwunna). — 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

# UN official says China remarkable in lifting poverty

**BELJING, 15 Dec** — James Morris, executive director of the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) said here on Tuesday the Chinese Government has achieved remarkable results in moving its people out of poverty, and that China's experience and lessons will be invaluable for WFP's work worldwide.

Morris spoke at a news conference concluding his five-day visit to China. "Having lifted 300 million of its own people out of poverty in less than a generation, China has made an unprecedented achievement in the last 25 years," Morris said.

By encouraging people to produce more and to invest more, he noted, the Chinese Government is benefitting individuals, households and communities across the vast country, which are valuable lessons for WFP to learn from.

During his five-day visit to China, Morris has held talks with Chinese Prime Minister Wen Jiabao and Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing. He said that besides a promise of increasing its funding for

WFP operations, China also pledged to share its expertise to increase the WFP's capacity to respond to sudden food emergencies.

"We are very grateful for these vital and timely undertakings and look forward to developing a long-term mutually rewarding partnership that reflects our shared vision of a world free of hunger," Morris said.

He said the Chinese Government has been an increasingly strong supporter of WFP's work at home and abroad. The Chinese Government has committed 20 million US dollars to support the agency's programme in China and also pledged 1.25 million US dollars for WFP operations elsewhere in 2004.—MNA/Xinhua



A worker walks past a rack of computers in China on 14 Dec, 2004.

INTERNET

## Malaysia, Singapore to jointly produce TV programmes

**KUALA LUMPUR, 15 Dec** — Malaysia and Singapore would jointly produce TV programmes in future to create a better understanding among the peoples of the two close neighbours, a Malaysian Minister said on Tuesday.

Malaysian Information Minister Abdul Kadir Sheikh Fadzir said that both governments had agreed in principle to the exercise with the programmes to be produced in Bahasa Malaysia, Cantonese or Mandarin.

"There's already such collaboration in Malaysia, but this time around the co-production will be more entertaining and of quality towards promoting healthy values to the rakyat (people)," he told reporters after receiving a delegation from Singapore led by its Information, Communications and Arts Minister Lee Boon Yang at his office here.

Lee said he strongly supported Abdul Kadir's proposal as it would gain synergy and increase the diversity of locally produced TV contents by both countries.

"I think it is important for us, basically the Asian society, to also have a significant proportion of our broadcast content reflective of our own society, and in fact, Malaysia and Singapore have shared many historic, cultural and traditional similarities," he said.

The two ministers also discussed various other issues including enhancing news exchange programmes between the Malaysian national news agency (*Bernama*) and Singapore's international broadcasting company (MediaCorp), and reactivating "Rampai Sari," a musical programme jointly hosted by TV stations of the two countries which was stopped in 1997.—MNA/Xinhua

## India, Pakistan exchange draft MoU on drug trafficking

**NEW DELHI, 15 Dec**— Sharing their concern over drug trafficking, India and Pakistan on Tuesday exchanged a draft Memorandum of Understanding on efforts to deal with the problem.

A joint statement, issued after the two-day Director General-level talks between narcotics officials of the two countries, said both sides positively engaged with each other on issues relating to trafficking of drugs, psychotropics and precursor chemicals.

During the talks held in a "cordial and constructive atmosphere", the two sides discussed means of enhancing bilateral cooperation in exchange of information and operational intelligence, it said.

They agreed that the

next round of talks will be held in Pakistan in June on mutually-convenient dates to be decided through diplomatic channels.

The Indian side was led by NCB Director General Swaraj Puri while Anti-Narcotics Force Di-

rector General Major General Nadeem Ahmed headed the Pakistani delegation at the talks.

"Pursuant to a decision taken at the Secretaries-level meeting in August 2004 for institutionalizing agency-to-agency cooperation, both sides exchanged a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on drug-related matters," the Joint Statement said.

MNA/PTI

## 1,303 members of US military killed since beginning of Iraq war

**WASHINGTON, 15 Dec**— As of Wednesday, 15 Dec, 2004, at least 1,303 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 Defense Department's tally, last

updated at 10 am EST Wednesday.

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, 1,165 US military

members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 910 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

—A Marine was killed Tuesday in Anbar Province.

—A soldier died Tuesday from gunshot wounds sustained during a convoy mission south of Baghdad.

Internet

## China's steel exports continue to rise

**SHENYANG, 15 Dec**— China's steel exports continue to rise, with exports outpacing imports for the first time in September, said China Iron and Steel Association (CISA).

According to statistics from CISA, China's steel exports reached a record of one million tons in May and continued to rise in the following months.

The exports outnumbered imports for the first time in September, 1.95 million tons to 1.87 million tons.

Figures released by the General Administration of Customs (GAS) show that China's steel product imports were down 15.2 per cent to 23.93 million tons in the first three quarters of this year compared with the same period of last year. Its steel product exports jumped 67 per cent to 8.63 million tons during the same period.

MNA/Xinhua



Picture released by the US Marines shows Marines taking cover and searching for a sniper attempting to pin them down on the edge of a courtyard in the restive city of Fallujah recently.—INTERNET

## Marine, soldier killed in separate incidents in Iraq

**WASHINGTON, 15 Dec**— A Marine and a soldier died in separate attacks in Iraq on 14 Dec 2004.

The Marine, assigned to the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, was killed while conducting security and stabilization operations in the Anbar Province. Military officials in Baghdad provided no further details.

A 1st Corps Support Command soldier was shot and killed during a convoy mission south of Baghdad near Forward Operation Base Kalsu.

In other news from Iraq, US Marines killed three insurgents and captured 13 other suspects in action south of Baghdad on 14 December. Elements of the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit engaged the men when it became apparent they were preparing to place a roadside bomb near Mahmudiyah. Marines later searched the site, finding two AK-47 assault rifles, four mortar rounds and 12 fuses.—Internet

## China, Saudi Arabia discuss future eco cooperation

**BEIJING, 15 Dec**— About 100 entrepreneurs from China and Saudi Arabia held trade talks here on Tuesday on future economic cooperation and the setting up of a joint investment company.

Wang Tao, President of the China-Saudi Arabia Friendship Association, said China and Saudi Arabia are strongly compatible in economy and trade. The two sides have huge potential for cooperation in the investment field.

Wang acknowledged that setting up a Sino-Saudi Arabian joint investment company was raised by the Council of Saudi Chambers of Commerce and Industry (CSCCI) during his visit to Saudi Arabia last year.

China "attached great importance" to the plan, he said. After careful consideration, it decided to appoint Huanghua Hai Group Corporation as its repre-

sentative, which is responsible for the preparation work of the Chinese side and the coordination work with Saudi Arabian side, Wang said.

Abdul Rahman Al-Jeraisy, President of the Saudi Arabia-China Friendship Association and CSCCI chairman, said trade between the two countries has progressed rapidly. The bilateral trade volume is expected to exceed 10 billion US dollars this year, laying a sound foundation for investment cooperation between the two sides, he said.

China is rich in resources and has great market potential, he noted. CSCCI favours to invest in China and

build plants, and also welcomes Chinese enterprises to joint Saudi Arabian market. According to him, Saudi Arabia will spend 600 billion US dollars in the next 15 years in the fields of irrigation, public health, road and railway construction, communication, education. "It provided a good investment opportunity for Chinese enterprises," he said.

"At present, we are working hard for the preparation work for the joint investment company," Al-Jeraisy said, expressing his hope that it will bring better opportunities for future economic and investment cooperation between the two countries.—MNA/Xinhua

စက်မှုပစ္စည်းအား ခေတ်တော်လွှား

## Sri Lankan tea exports rise in first 10 months

**COLOMBO, 15 Dec** — Sri Lanka's exports of tea from January to October 2004 climbed 0.7 million kilos year-on-year to 247.2 million kilos from 246.4 million kilos, *The Island* reported on Monday.

In value, the island country's tea exports in the first 10 months of 2004 reached 60.1 million rupees (about 573.47 million US dollars), an 11.2-per-cent increase from 54 billion rupees (about 515.27 million US dollars) for the same period of last year.

However, Sri Lankan tea exports in October sagged approximately three million kilos to 24.8 million kilos from 27.9 million kilos in the corresponding period in 2003, which generated a growth of 0.5 billion rupees (47.71 million US dollars) compared with same period last year despite the drop in total quantity exported.

The paper also said November's Colombo tea auction average hit a

new high record, having touched a lifetime high of 211.44 rupees (about 2.03 US dollars) per kilo. Tea prices have galloped every month since July this year.

The export up to October to CIS countries, which is largest market for Sri Lankan teas, ended approximately 0.8 million kilos decline to 59.2 million kilos compared with the same period last year, while Iran, Iraq and Turkey have been the largest growth sector during the period, the paper added.

Sri Lanka is one of the world's leading tea producers which is a major contributing factor to its economic development and foreign exchange revenue.—MNA/Xinhua

## Survey shows more HK people invest, work in Guangdong

**HONG KONG, 15 Dec**— A survey indicated that due to Guangdong's rapid economic growth and the intensified interaction between Hong Kong and Guangdong, more Hong Kong people are investing, working and living in Guangdong.

The Survey of Hong Kong People Living & Working in the Pearl River Delta (PRD) Region was jointly conducted by Hong Kong Planning Department and Guangdong Provincial Department of Construction in nine cities within the PRD region.

The survey forecast the trend to rise in the coming years and its effect on the socio-economic development. In terms of economic activity status, about 79 per cent of people in the foreign-funded enterprises are employees and up to 65

per cent are managers and administrators. Of the Hong Kong people living in the region, about 51 per cent are employees and 16 per cent retirees. With regard to occupation, 32 per cent are professionals and associate professionals while 23 per cent are managers and administrators. Of those engaged in foreign-funded enterprises, about 44 per cent live in premises provided by employers, 35 per cent in self-owned housing and 18 per cent in rented accommodation.—MNA/Xinhua



A model wears the local made handicrafted batik during the Malaysia Batik Week in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on Sunday, 12 Dec, 2004. Malaysia's batik of the traditional dyed textile is now the target of a big push to popularize it in global fashion circles.—INTERNET

## US 'fails to control' Iraq oil

**WASHINGTON, 16 Dec**— A United Nations panel has found that the US-led occupation authority failed to exercise proper controls over Iraq's oil industry and could not say how much oil had gone missing since the fall of Saddam Hussein.

The International Advisory and Monitoring Board report also said there were "important weaknesses" in the management by occupation officials of up to \$20bn in Iraqi funds, mostly from oil sales.

US politicians have often accused the UN of incompetence and, perhaps, corruption in its handling of the oil-for-food programme, a scheme to alleviate Iraqi suffering under sanctions before the war. Now the boot is on the other foot.

The panel, which also includes representatives from the IMF and the World Bank, expressed particular concern about how large contracts paid out of Iraqi funds were given to US firms, such as the oil services group Halliburton, without competitive bidding. Other problems identified included weaknesses in administration, inadequate accounting systems, poor record-keeping and a failure to follow procedures that had been agreed.—Internet

## S Korea to introduce new US-made maritime patrol aircraft

**SEOUL, 15 Dec**— South Korean military will spend 636 million US dollars to import, upgrade and deploy eight US-made maritime patrol aircraft, South Korean *Yonhap* News Agency quoted an official as saying on Tuesday.

The South Korean military will procure P-3B patrol aircraft made by Lockheed Martin Co and renovate them into upgraded P-3C models, Major-General Won Janghwan, a top procurement officer in the South Korean Defence Ministry was

quoted as saying.

The upgraded patrol aircraft will be deployed in stages by 2009, according to Won. South Korea bought eight P-3C patrol aircraft from Lockheed Martin Co in 1995 and 1996, Won said.

"With a total of 18 pa-

trol aircraft, there will be no problem for our maritime surveillance," Won said.

The upgrading works on the US patrol aircraft will be operated by the state-run (South) Korean Aerospace Industries (KAI), he added.

MNA/Xinhua

## 16 including three Polish soldiers killed in Iraq

**BAGHDAD, 15 Dec**— At least 16 people including one US Marine and three Polish soldiers were killed in violence across Iraq on Wednesday.

A bomb exploded near the office of a senior Shiite cleric in Karbala on Wednesday, killing eight people and wounding 32 in a failed attempt on the cleric's life, officials said. Sheikh Abdul Mehdi al-Karbalai, a close follower of Iraq's most influential Shiite Muslim

leader Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, was hit in the legs and was taken to hospital, doctors said.

Three Polish soldiers died in a helicopter crash in Iraq on Wednesday, a day after Poland announced it would cut troop numbers there by one-

third. Lt Col Artur Domanski, spokesman for the Polish-led multinational division in Iraq, said the soldiers died after a Polish-made Sokol helicopter made an emergency landing following what was most probably engine failure.—Internet



Iraqi workers repair a pipeline as smoke from a fire billows in the background on 15 Dec 2004.—INTERNET



The world's largest 102-inch plasma display panel (PDP) flat television screen, developed by South Korea's Samsung SDI. —INTERNET

### 3,372 languages in India

NEW DELHI, 15 Dec— There are 3,372 languages in India and only 216 are spoken by a group of 10,000 persons or more, Rajya Sabha (Upper House of Parliament) was informed on Monday. As per the Census of India, 1991, there are 1,576 classified and 1,796 unclassified languages and out of these 10,000 persons or more speak only 216 languages, federal Culture Minister S Jaipal Reddy said during Question Hour. In reply to a query, he assured the House that the

government would take steps for development of Marwari language. *MNA/PTI*

### London court backs probe into Iraqi civilian death

LONDON, 15 Dec — A London court on Tuesday backed an independent inquiry into an Iraqi civilian allegedly killed by British soldiers but ruled out judicial reviews into five other civilian deaths in southern Iraq.

The High Court ruled in favour of the family of Baha Mousa, an 28-year-old hotel receptionist, who was arrested with eight men at a hotel in Basra, southern Iraq, in September 2003 and was allegedly beaten to death while in custody, saying that it was difficult to say that the investigation by the military behind closed doors "had been timely, open or effective". The court heard witnesses testify that prisoners were hooded, deprived of sleep, had freezing water poured over them and subjected to a version of kickboxing in which troops would compete "as to who could kickbox one of us the furthest".

Lord Justice Rix and Justice Forbes ruled that Mousa's death fell within the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) and noted that Britain jurisdiction could extend to a Britain-run prison, but did not apply "to the total territory of another state".

However, the court rejected applications of five other families for investigating civilian deaths, because the judges said their relatives had not been in the custody of British forces when they died.

Phil Shiner, a lawyer for the families, described the court decision on Mousa's death as a "historic day for human rights and the rule of law" and said they would argue on appeal that other civilian deaths should be investigated independently. — *MNA/Xinhua*

### New treatment for NHL found effective in Singapore

SINGAPORE, 15 Dec— A new treatment for non-Hodgkins Lymphoma (NHL) is found effective on its first patient in Singapore, who is now recovering with no signs of relapse.

According to local media reports on Tuesday, the treatment, named ibritumomab tiuxetan, is the first FDA-approved radioimmunotherapy for NHL patients in the city state.

The doctor who had recently used this therapy said that it can push the cancer back into remission by targeting the cancer cells with laser and at the same time cause limited damage to healthy cells, tissues and organs around. For patients with advanced NHL, who are no longer responding to conventional treatment, clinical trials show that between 70 per cent to 80 per cent of patients will still respond to ibritumomab tiuxetan, which gives them a higher chance of overcoming the illness. — *MNA/Xinhua*

## Germany is China's largest trading partner in Europe

BEIJING, 15 Dec— Most Chinese view Germany as a friendly nation which produces commodities of superior quality and reasonable prices, but say that due to a lack of cultural exchange, they have little other impressions of Germany, a recent national survey has found.

The random survey, conducted by the Shanghai-based Horizon Group, of 444 people aged 18 to 60 in Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou, showed that 66 per cent of the respondents used words like "rich" and "powerful" to describe Germany in their eyes.

The survey says Germany is best known in China for its high quality industrial products as well

as world famous brandnames such as Mercedes Benz and BMW.

Asked to comment on the German products, nearly 60 per cent of the surveyed Chinese used words like "good quality," "refined craftsmanship," "top grade," "practicality" and "precision."

Diplomatic analysts believed the results of the survey have revealed that

Germany, which excels its European counterparts in economic and military interactions with China, has lagged behind in terms of bilateral cultural exchanges and cooperation.

Germany has long been China's largest trading partner in Europe, and German investment in China had amounted to 88.5 billion US dollars by the end of 2003. — *MNA/Xinhua*

### Musharraf meets SAARC information ministers, officials

ISLAMABAD, 15 Dec— Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf on Tuesday met the ministers and officials from the SAARC member-states, ahead of the grouping's Information Ministers' conclave on Wednesday, and said the media can play an im-

portant role in promoting peace and harmony in the region.

Those who met Musharraf included Secretary of Indian Information Ministry Naveen Chawla, who is representing Information and Broadcasting Minister S

Jaipal Reddy.

Reddy will not be attending the SAARC Information Ministers meeting to begin here tomorrow due to his preoccupations in New Delhi.

Chawla, accompanied by senior Indian diplomat Gitesh Sarma, Tuesday

attended the SAARC Information Secretaries meeting to prepare broad agenda. The two-day meeting of SAARC Information Ministers will discuss media-related issues including sharing of television documentaries. *MNA/PTI*

### Anti-US attacks in Iraq 'more effective'

BAGHDAD, 15 Dec—A senior American general has said anti-US violence in Iraq is becoming more effective.

Air Force Lieutenant General Lance Smith, deputy chief of US Central Command, said on Wednesday that a bold, innovative "insurgency" is becoming more effective against US supply lines in Iraq and explosive attacks have slowed military operations there.

"They have had a growing understanding that where they can affect us is in the logistics flow.

They have gotten more effective in using IEDs," said Smith, referring to improvised explosive devices hidden beside roads.

"They may use doorbells today to blow these things up. They may use remote controls from toys tomorrow.

And as we adapt, they adapt," he added. Smith said US forces in Iraq now totaled 148,000 troops - up from 138,000 at the start of this month and near the 150,000 planned to protect national elections in January.

But roadside explosives are hindering military operations and reconstruction nearly two years after the invasion.

"They cause us to re-route vehicles. They cause us to have to employ tactics... in avoiding them. And [they] cause us to have to convoy where maybe otherwise we would prefer to move in smaller numbers," Smith said. "So it is having an impact."

*Internet*



People look over smoking debris after a car bomb exploded in the northern Iraq city of Mosul, on 15 Dec, 2004. The bomb detonated as a US military convoy was driving past. —INTERNET

### China builds "small satellite" engineering centre

BEIJING, 15 Dec — China wrapped up construction of a national engineering and research centre on small satellites and their application in Beijing on Tuesday, paving the way for large-scale development of small satellites.

"The centre has a designed production capacity of six to eight small satellites. It is the largest small satellite development and experiment base in the world at present," said an official with the centre, owned by the Dongfanghong Satellite Company of the China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation.

The 16,135-square-metre complex, located on Beijing's northwestern outskirts, consists of a design centre and an assembly, test and experiment centre. Its business scope ranges from research to the design and assembly of small satellites. China has launched a number of small satellites over recent years for use in scientific experiments, resource surveys, disaster alert and environment and agriculture monitoring. *MNA/Xinhua*



Workers assemble a vehicle at a Toyota plant in central Japan on 15 Dec, 2004.—INTERNET

မြို့ခြံရွာထဲ သိန်းပါးလေးလွင့် ထုတ်တုန်းမြင့်

**Vietnam records bigger rice output in 2004**

**HANOI, 15 Dec—** Vietnam produced 35.7 million tons of paddy rice this year, posting a year-on-year rise of 3.5 per cent, despite smaller cultivated areas and unfavourable conditions.

Although rice acreage decreased 0.4 per cent to nearly 7.4 million hectares, and Vietnam experienced both cold weather and droughts this year, the paddy rice output was bigger due to higher productivity, especially the bumper winter-spring crop, the Agriculture Department under the country's Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development said on Tuesday.

Vietnam turned out over 39 million tons of food, mainly paddy rice and maize, this year, up 1.4 million tons against last year, the department added.

The country, the world's second largest rice exporter after Thailand, has so far this year signed to export around four million tons of rice, of which 100,000 tons will be delivered early next year. Export prices of local rice are climbing up due to thinner supply and continued purchase of exporters.

Vietnam shipped abroad nearly 3.9 million tons of rice worth 727 million US dollars in 2003, up 19.2 per cent in volume and 0.2 per cent in value over 2002.—MNA/Xinhua

**China to accelerate reform of SOEs**

**BEIJING, 15 Dec—** Chinese Vice-Premier Huang Ju said here on Monday that reform of state-owned enterprises (SOEs) should be accelerated to further do away with obstacles to their healthy development.

"Deepening reform of the SOEs remains the central link of economic restructuring. It is a priority of economic work next year, particularly the work of economic restructuring," Huang said at a meeting of heads of 186 SOEs owned solely by the central government.

Huang spelled out major tasks in this field, namely improving the governance structure of SOEs and adjusting the fields they play in, regulating the transfer of their property rights and make SOEs leaner through shedding auxiliary units.

Huang urged promoting the adoption of shareholding systems among SOEs in compliance with the standards of modern business systems, further adjusting the distribution and structure of SOEs in national economy and cultivating big enterprise groups capable of competing on the international market.

In reforming SOEs and transfer of SOEs' property rights, he acknowledged, substantial efforts should be made to guarantee that "state assets should circulate but not be eroded" and "make the process open and fair" to better protect the legal interests and rights of investors and workers.

Huang said the process of splitting auxiliary units from core units of SOEs should be accelerated to increase their competitiveness. He also asked SOEs to appropriately handle the relationship between reform, development and stability, care for the lives of needy workers and improve production safety. —MNA/Xinhua

**China to deepen military cooperation with Russia**

**BEIJING, 14 Dec—** China is willing to work with Russia to deepen bilateral military cooperation, and advance Sino-Russian strategic partnership of cooperation, said a senior Chinese military officer here Monday, according to Foreign Ministry sources.

Guo Boxiong, vice-chairman of the Chinese Central Military Commission, made the remarks when meeting with Russian Defence Minister Sergei Ivanov, who is here on a four-day China visit as guest of Defence Minister Cao Gangchuan.

Guo said as an important part of the strategic partnership of cooperation between the two nations, bilateral military ties have kept strengthening in recent years. The two Armed Forces have had frequent high-level visits and expanded their cooperation fields, Guo said. The security consultation system between the two sides operates well, he added.

Guo expressed appreciation for Russia's one-China principled stance.

Ivanov said Russia-China relations experienced remarkable progress over recent years. The military technological cooperation between the two sides continuously expanded and advanced.

He hoped the two armed forces will keep on their mutual-beneficial and friendly cooperation and exchanges.

Ivanov also said Russia's one-China stance is steadfast and will not change in the future.

MNA/Xinhua

**Earthquake hits north Japan**

**Tokyo, 15 Dec —** An earthquake measuring 6.1 on the Richter scale hit parts of northern and western Hokkaido, Japan's main northern island, on Tuesday afternoon, injuring a 61-year-old woman and causing minor damage, the Japan Meteorological Agency said.

The 2:56 pm (0556 GMT) quake measured an upper 5 on the Japanese seismic intensity scale of 7 in the town of Tomamae and lower 5 in the town of Haboro, the agency said. Government seismologists initially put the preliminary magnitude at M5.8.

The epicentre of the

quake was about 9 kilometres below the earth's surface in the southern part of Rumoi in northwestern Hokkaido, the agency said.

According to fire officials of the town of Obira, which is located in the Rumoi area and just south of Tomamae, the injured woman was rushed to a hospital after being

buried under a closet that fell on her.

No tsunami warning was issued following the quake. Three windowpanes in the lobby of the Haboro Town hall were reported shattered, but no one was injured. There have been no reports of major damage so far.

MNA/Xinhua

**Indonesian FDI decreases in first 11 months**

**JAKARTA, 15 Dec—** Foreign direct investment (FDI) in Indonesia from January to November was down to 9.58 billion US dollars or 29.6 per cent lower from the same period last year.

According to Indonesian Investment Coordinating Board (BKPM) on Tuesday, the figure was driven by the decrease of investment in the sector of extended projects by 22.5 per cent and shifted projects 28.3 per cent, which reached to respectively 2.76 billion US dollars and 1.53 billion US dollars.

But, the FDI in the sector of the new projects rose slightly to 5.29 billion US dollars or 1.6 per cent higher than the same period last year.

Saudi Arabia followed by Japan and Britain was still the most contributive country for the investment in Indonesia during the period.

MNA/Xinhua

**IBM, Chinese computer maker setting up server venture**

**SHANGHAI, 14 Dec —** IBM and a Chinese computer maker have set up a joint venture to produce server computers, the Chinese partner said.

The weekend announcement came days after Lenovo Group, China's biggest computer maker, said it was buying International Business Machines Corp's personal computer business.

In the latest deal, China Great Wall Computer Shenzhen Co said its ven-

ture with IBM will be the Asian base for production of the US computer giant's eServer xSeries.

The companies did not release financial details. Great Wall said it will hold 20 per cent of the venture, while IBM will own 80 per cent.

The venture also will

produce OpenPower, a new server launched by IBM this year, Great Wall said.

Production at the joint venture is expected to begin in the second quarter of 2005, the newspaper *China Securities Journal* said Monday.

MNA/AP



Six-week-old female Asian leopards (pantera pardus) 'Namlea' (front) and her sister 'Kendari' sit in a basket during a presentation at Berlin's Tierpark Friedrichsfelde zoo, on 14 Dec, 2004.—INTERNET

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

# Waterbirds are good indicators for wetland sites

*Sein Sein Thein (Dagon University)*

Myanmar is divided into three vertical zones by using the following terms: (1) plains and foot-hill, which means land below 3,000 ft; (2) higher hills, which mean hills between 3,000 and 6,000 ft; and (3) mountains, which mean hills above 6,000 ft. Myanmar has interesting topography for Ornithological history of each part of our country. In southern part of Myanmar, the area is dominated by the valleys of the Ayeyawady and

probably better known than those of any other area in Myanmar. By virtue of its unique geographical position and diverse terrain and climatic condition Myanmar possesses a wealth of wetland ecosystem. Armstrong wrote a paper on the birds of Yangon River and Coast from its mouth to China Bakier Smith (1942) gave much information on birds of the Myit-makha drainage, the eastern part of Bago Yoma, the Sittaung valley and its

to lower elevations in winter but the causes of others are obscure. Migratory water birds are one of the most remarkable components of global biodiversity. They are important indicators of the ecological condition and productivity of wetland ecosystems. Their presence is widely valued by local human populations, tourists and biologists throughout Myanmar.

Water birds play an important role in several spheres of human

population, and in recent years has achieved the highest economic growth rate in the world. Three main threats to the long-term conservation of migratory waterbirds are linked to this growth; (1) habitat loss, (2) habitat degradation and, (3) harvesting of waterbirds.

The loss of habitat through changes in land utilization practices is the most severe threat to the long-term conservation of waterbirds in this region where human population density is high, the expansion of human activities has caused the decrease of natural wetlands. Deforestation across the region has also resulted in habitat loss for certain forest-dwelling waterbirds and level of disturbance. Waterbird populations can be monitored by regular counting at key sites, an activity often facilitated by the open nature of most wetland habitats and relatively large size of the birds.

Monitoring of waterbirds can provide valuable information on the status of wetlands. It can be a key tool for increasing the awareness of wetlands and conservation value.

Almost everywhere in West Asia, wetlands have come under extreme pressure from human activities. Large areas have been

drained for agricultural and urban development, or converted into rice fields, water storage reservoirs or salt pans. Water fowls are often migratory and cross international boundaries. In Asia-Pacific region, as in the other parts of the world, there is evidence of migration in a general north-south orientation. For the long distance migrant, especially migratory shorebirds, these flyways are recognized, based on biological and geopolitical considerations from west to east. These are:

Central Asian-In-

biometric data needs to be analyzed to understand the various aspects of Avifauna. Protecting wetlands used as wintering sites is not sufficient to conserve a species without protection at breeding sites and throughout the flyway. We also need flyway conservation for waterbirds because of pollution eutrophication, agricultural, industrial and domestic operation create severe problems for inland and coastal wetlands. These contaminations affect waterbirds both directly and indirectly. The more



*Natural resources of riparian ecosystem.*

Sittaung rivers, separated by Bago Yoma, a range of low hills covered with the largest and most valuable single block of teak forest in the world. The southern part of the area consists of one vast paddy plain, terminating in the mangrove forests and mud flatlands of the coastal belt. The waterbirds of the Bago Yoma and plains of southern Myanmar are

estuary and on the birds of Yangon. Symthies spent three years in the forest of Taungnyo and Bawbin drainage in the western part of Bago Yoma, in the north of the Thayawady region and had completed a paper on the birds of Bago Yoma. The course of some of these movements is obvious as when birds of the mountains and higher hills move down

interest; culturally, socially, scientifically and as a food resource. After fish, birds are probably the most important faunal group that attracts people to wetlands. For these and other reasons, waterbirds are held with great respect by many communities in Asia-Pacific region.

The Asia Pacific region supports more than half of the world's

**We also need flyway conservation for waterbirds because of pollution eutrophication, agricultural, industrial and domestic operation create severe problems for inland and coastal wetlands.**

dian flyway, East Asia-Australian flyway and West Pacific flyway. Several populations do not follow these general flyways and this poses the most severe threat to the long-term conservation of waterbirds in Asia. Waterbirds are an important component of most wetland ecosystems, as they occupy several tropic level in the food web of wetland nutrient cycles. And it is very important to raise public awareness in Asia. An enormous amount of

waterbirds we have, the more wetland we get. They are important indicator of the ecological condition. There are more than 100 waterbirds found in the inland water in Myanmar. Thus I assume that our country still possesses a wealth of wetland ecosystem. But we need to conserve sustainable development of waterbirds and their habitat, wetlands such as on a global scale, the international organizations are conserving their wetlands.

## Cambodian PM warns officials to keep away from corruption

PHNOM PENH, 16 Dec — Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen on Tuesday warned the government officials to keep away from corruption and urged the whole society, including public, media, private sector, as well as the opposition party, to join hands in the war against corruption. Hun Sen made the remarks in a two-hour long address on the national conference on good governance and poverty reduction.

About 600 people, including government officials, chiefs of provinces and communes, as well as diplomats, attended the three-day meeting

which was held just days after the meeting of international foreign donors which determined the money to assist Cambodia in the next year. The Premier reaffirmed that reform is a matter of life and death for the country. "We do not do the reform for anybody, but just for the nation's interests and for our people's well being," he stressed. Hun Sen said there were serious corruption in tax and Customs sectors, noting that some tax collectors and Customs officials were in collusion with taxpayers for tax dodging and tax evasion in return for bribes.

*MNA/Xinhua*

## Sri Lanka evacuates over 2,000 people from floods

COLOMBO, 16 Dec — Flood-hit Sri Lanka evacuated more than 2,000 people on Wednesday to drain a centuries-old reservoir as 250,000 others stranded by monsoon rains sheltered in schools and community centres.

Heavy rains across north-central and eastern Sri Lanka this week have killed one person, submerged vast tracts of farmland and flooded roads, hampering efforts to truck in food. Power and telephone lines were cut in some areas. The north-central province of Polonnaruwa, which has some of Sri Lanka's finest ancient ruins, was

worst affected. "We issued a warning on Wednesday to residents living near Kaudulla tank in Polonnaruwa to evacuate immediately as the tank is on the verge of overflowing," said National Disaster Management Centre Director N.D. Hettiarachchi, referring to the reservoir.

The Meteorology Department has forecast more rains over the next few days, but said the worst appeared to be over. However, a new weather system over the Bay of Bengal could bring more rains later in the week, the department said.— *MNA/Reuters*

## Fifth Traditional Medicine...

(from page 16)

Furthermore, herbal plants, medicines and their uses can be seen at booths of ministries in the exhibition. Similarly, activities of State and Division traditional medicine practitioner associations and MTMA (Central), research theses for PhD and MSc degrees with assistance

provided by Medical Research Department (Lower Myanmar) and research works on traditional medicines are shown at 134 booths of ministries and private traditional medicine houses.

The exhibition will be kept open up to 25 December. Admission is free. *MNA*



Traditional medicine physicians U Nyan Lwin, U Htay Myint and U Than Nyunt open Fifth Traditional Medicine and Medical Equipment Exhibition.— *MNA*

## Objectives of 57th Anniversary Independence Day

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

## No 1 livestock breeding farm of Yangon Command inspected

YANGON, 16 Dec— Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council as well as Commander of Yangon Command, made an inspection tour of the livestock breeding farm being undertaken by his command this morning.

In the briefing hall of No 1 livestock breeding

farm, Captain Win Zin Maung, in-charge of the farm, briefed the commander on the breeding of broilers, production and distribution of chicken and sale of chickens.

As Yangon Command establishes livestock breeding farms for meeting meat and fish demands of city dwellers, officials are to boost the

production of eggs, chicken and fish and sell them to consumers through tax-free markets, the commander said in his meeting with officials.

After inspecting the farm, Maj-Gen Myint Swe gave instructions on sanitation and renovation of buildings at the firm. The farm sells 3,500 chicks a week. — *MNA*



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe inspects No 1 Livestock Breeding Farm of Yangon Command.

YANGON COMMAND

## Treasure Island Restaurant opened at Kandawgyi Gardens

YANGON, 16 Dec— Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe attended the opening ceremony of Treasure Island Restaurant on Myaingmalar Island in Central Forest Zone of Kandawgyi Gardens in Bahan Township

yesterday. Owner of the restaurant U Khin Zaw Win explained the purpose of opening the restaurant. Chairman of Yangon East District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Maung Maung Shein, Head of Parks and Playgrounds Department U Nyunt Pe and Owner U Khin Zaw Win cut the ribbon to open the

restaurant. Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu unveiled the signboard. Later, the commander and party viewed around the restaurant. The ceremony was also attended by No 3 Military Region Commander Col Tint Hsan and officials.

*MNA*

## New school building handed over to Ministry of Education

YANGON, 16 Dec— A two-story school building was opened at the basic education post-primary school in Okposu Ward, Thanlyin Township, Yangon South District, this morning.

Japanese Senior Vice-Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Mr Mineichi Iwanaga, Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Nobutake Odano, Chairman of School Board of Trustees U Hla Thein and School Headmistress Daw Khin Thein formally opened the school.

Mr Mineichi Iwanaga explained the purpose of donating the school before he handed over the documents relevant to the school building to U Aye

Myint, Deputy Director-General of the No 3 Basic Education Department.

U Aye Myint presented certificates of honour to Japanese wellwishers. On the occasion, KTT Construction Group donated K 2,403,778, and Han Sein Thant Engineering & Trading Ltd, K 450,000. The school headmistress expressed her thanks for the donation. The wellwishers also presented gifts to students. The newly-constructed school building measures 179 feet by 58 feet.

The school building was donated by Japan Grassroots Grant Assistance and put under the charge of the Ministry of Education. — *MNA*



Japanese Senior Vice Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Mr Mineichi Iwanaga, Japanese Ambassador Mr Nobutake Odano, Headmistress Daw Khin Thein and the chairman of School Board of Trustees formally open the two-storey building of Okposu Ward Post-Primary School.— *IPRD*

## Training centres inspected in Loikaw

YANGON, 16 Dec— Director-General of the Education and Training Department under the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Than Win met the staff of Loikaw vocational training centre for women in Kayah State on 12 December at the centre.

After hearing the reports presented by the headmistress on academic and administrative matters, the director-general discussed the requirements and provided assistance for the centre.

Next, the director-general inspected the buildings and water supply tasks and chose the site for construction of a training hall.

On arrival at the Border Areas and National Races Development Training Centre in Loikaw, the director-general viewed the study of the trainees and their hostels.

He also inspected the mess hall and gave instructions on timely completion the facility with fine workmanship.

Afterwards, the director-general held a meeting with the trainees and provided necessary assistance for them.

*MNA*



# NHC Chairman hosts dinner to delegates of MTMPC

YANGON, 17 Dec — Delegates of the states and divisions to the Fifth Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners' Conference attended the dinner hosted by the Chairman of National Health Committee at Mya Yeik Nyo Royal Hotel in Bahan Township at 6.30 pm today.

Also present at the dinner were Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo, departmental heads, Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners Council members, CEC members of Myanmar Traditional Medicine Association, Traditional Medicine Inspection Central Committee, members of Leading Committee and Work Committee for Organizing the Conference, Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation, Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Myanmar Medical Association, Myanmar Nurses Association, Myanmar Dental Association, Myanmar Health Assistants Association, officials of Myanmar Academy of Medical Science and guests.

Before and during the dinner, artistes entertained the delegates with songs to the accompaniment of A-1 Soe Myint modern music troupe. — MNA



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe cordially greets delegates to Traditional Medicine Practitioners' Conference at the dinner. — MNA

## Information Minister receives Indian guest

YANGON, 16 Dec — Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan received Mr Yogesh Kharbanda, Area General Manager of the Printers House PVT Ltd, Orient Web Offset Presses of the Republic of India at the ministry at 3.30 pm today.

Present at the call were Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein, heads of the departments under the ministry, the head of office of the ministry and officials. — MNA



Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan receives Area General Manager Mr Yogesh Kharbanda of the Printers House PVT Ltd Orient Web Offset Presses of India. — MNA

## Rice Milling Development Committee meets

YANGON, 16 Dec—Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, accompanied by Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Tun, inspected machines at the Engineering Division of Myanmar Agricultural Produce Trading on Upper Pazundaung Street (Setsan) in Mingala Taungnyunt Township on 14 December.

The minister instructed the officials to take innovative measures to produce high quality accessories and import-substitute machines, provide techniques and find new markets.

The minister also inspected CNG automobiles and paddy husk-fired generator assembled by the Engineering Division and dealt with requirements.

The Rice Milling Development

Committee held its seventh meeting for the year 2004 at the MAPT at the corner of Bogyoke Aung San Street and Pansodan Street here. The Minister delivered a speech on the occasion.

Next, Chairman of the Committee Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Tun discussed work progress, and Deputy Minister for Science and Technology Dr Chan Nyein made suggestions in connection with the work. Managing Director of the MAPT U Min Hla Aung presented a supplementary report. Secretaries of the subcommittees reported on innovative measures and progress of work. Patron of the Committee Minister Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein assessed the reports and gave concluding remarks.

MNA

**ပဉ္စမအကြိမ်**  
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U Myo Myint of Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners Association (Mandalay Division) reads his paper at the paper-reading session. (News on page 1)— MNA

## Chinese delegation visits Shwedagon and Gems Museum

YANGON, 16 Dec — The visiting Chinese delegation led by Deputy Chief of General Logistics Department of People's Liberation Army Lieutenant-General Sun Zhiqiang and party, accompanied by Col San Aye Hla of the Ministry of Defence, Military Attaché of the Chinese Embassy to Myanmar Senior Colonel Ma Shoudong and officials visited Shwedagon Pagoda this morning. They were welcomed by officials of Shwedagon Pagoda Board of Trustees and

clarified the religious buildings at the pagoda to the Chinese delegation members.

Next, Lieutenant-General Sun Zhiqiang offered flowers and lights to the Buddha Image in the Southern Tazaung and signed in the visitors' book, followed by cash donation.

In the afternoon, the Chinese delegation visited Myanma Gems Mart on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road and they were conducted around the museum.

MNA



Deputy Chief of General Logistics Department of PLA Lt-Gen Sun Zhiqiang presents cash toward funds of Shwedagon Pagoda to officials. — MNA



Altogether 93 contestants participated in the Camp Commandant's Office Extempore Talks Contest at Komnyintha Hall on Pyay Road this morning. Camp Commandant of Ministry of Defence Maj-Gen Hla Aung Thein observes the Contest. — MNA



The 49th Nurses Sports Meets (Mandalay) was opened at Aungmyethazan Township on 15 December. Altogether 330 contestants are taking part in the sport meets which will last up to 18 December. Commissioner U Kyin Lin of Mandalay Division GAD speaking at opening ceremony of 49th Nurses Sports Meets (Mandalay). — MNA

### Use Natural Gas Vehicles and save fuel oil

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



Director-General of Medical Science Department Dr Maung Maung Wint presides over paper-reading session. (News on page1) — MNA

## Overseas sales of China's telecom equipment to double this year

**BELING, 16 Dec** — China's Huawei Technologies Co's overseas sales will double in 2004 to two billion US dollars, accounting for 40 per cent of its total sales, the company announced here Tuesday.

Huawei's sales volume on international market has doubled yearly from 50 million US dollars in 1999 to 1.05 billion US dollars in 2003.

"The company's annual sales in 2004 are expected to reach over 40 billion yuan (4.8 billion US dollars) and overseas sales two billion US dol-

lars," said Huawei.

The company has finished its distribution map for global market, said Zhou Xuejun with Huawei. The company's

business has developed into 77 countries and 20 of the top 50 world telecom companies.

Huawei has also entered 14 developed countries, including Germany, France, Britain, Portugal, the United States and Canada.

"Huawei's success on global market relies on its core competence," said Zhou. The company invests over 10 per cent of its sales volume into research and development every year. Many of the company's products are at advanced level in the world, said Zhou.

In the third generation (3G) market, Huawei has also made great success. Last year, the company won the programme of 3G for commercial use in the United Arab Emirates, which is Chinese companies' first programme of such kind in the international market.

Huawei's president Ren Zhengfei has been selected China's most influential entrepreneur in 2004 earlier this week. "The success of Huawei's international strategy won the honour for its president," said Liu Donghua, director of *China Entrepreneurs* magazine, organizer of the selection activity.

*MNA/Xinhua*

public and private schools in Japan.

For the eighth-graders, about 225,000 students from 46 countries and regions took part, with about 4,900 students from 146 schools representing Japan. — *MNA/Xinhua*



*Giant Christmas bubbles containing Christmas trees sit in the prestigious Place Vendome in Paris. — INTERNET*

## Japanese students' basic science skills decline

**TOKYO, 16 Dec** — The basic academic abilities of Japanese elementary and junior high school students in science have been declining over the past few years, according to an international student assessment test released on Wednesday.

The result further highlights the decline in Japanese students' academic level. It comes after another international survey released December 7 by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development that indicated a marked drop in reading abilities of Japanese high school students in 2003 from three years earlier. The third Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study, or TIMSS, showed that Japanese junior high school students in their second year, or eighth-graders, maintained their place in mathematics at fifth in 2003 from 1999 but dropped to sixth from fourth in science.

Fourth-graders at elementary schools, too, maintained their arithmetic skills in 2003 from 1995 but dropped from second to third place in science, the Amsterdam-based International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement said.

While their relative positions in mathematics remained unchanged, their scores in the subject edged down in the TIMSS tests.

Based on the TIMSS scale which was devised

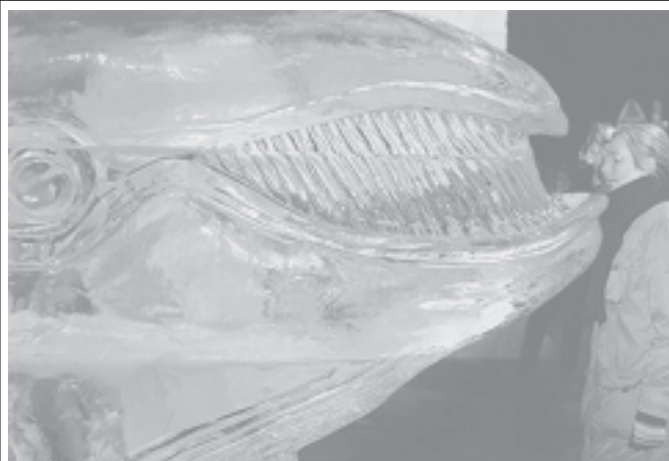
so that the average score comes to 500 points, eighth-graders in Japan scored 570 points in maths, down by nine, and 552 points in science, up by two. Fourth-graders, meanwhile, scored 565 points in maths, down by two, and 543 points in science, down by 10.

The OECD Programme for International Student Assessment seeks to establish how well students can develop and apply their knowledge to real-life situations. The TIMSS, conducted once

every four years, is intended to assess the students' basic knowledge and ability to calculate.

The study also found that the daily average number of hours children watch television programmes and videos was tops for Japan's eighth-graders at 2.7 hours, while for fourth-graders it was 2 hours, just behind the United States at 2.1 hours.

Some 117,000 fourth-grade students from 25 countries and territories took part, and about 4,500 of them came from 150



*Whale of a day: A visitor looks at an ice sculpture of a whale at the 'Ice World' ice sculpture festival in Luebeck, northern Germany, on 14 Dec, 2004.*

*INTERNET*

## News from the Districts

### Kyaunggon-Seikkyi tar-road constructed in Thanlyin

**THANLYIN, 8 Dec** — Director of Yangon Division Development Affairs Committee U Kyan Taing Hsaung inspected laying of tar-road stretching four miles from Kyaunggon to Seikkyi on 3 December.

Officials reported on progress of works and future tasks.

Next, the director gave instructions on timely completion of the tasks with meeting set standard and supervision for minimizing loss and wastage.

*MYANMA ALIN*

### Drainage sanitation carried out in Kyaukpyu

**KYAUKPYU, 30 Nov** — To have town characteristics, under the supervision of the District Peace and Development Council, workers of the Township Development Affairs Committee, departmental personnel and social organization members participated in sanitation tasks at drains in Thanpanchaung Ward in Kyaukpyu on 13 November.

Chairman of the District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Myo Tint and officials inspected sanitation tasks.

*MYANMA ALIN*

### Fire-fighting exercise practised in Mohnyin

**MOHNYIN, 30 Nov** — The practice of fighting fire was held at Myoma Market in Mohnyin on 21 November.

The Township Executive Officer of the Township Development Affairs Committee and the Head of Township Fire Services Department participated in the fire fighting exercise together with employees and members of Auxiliary Fire and Red Cross Brigades and shopkeepers.

Chairman of Mohnyin District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Aung Din and officials supervised the fire-fighting exercise.

*KYEMON*

### Construction of rural laterite road inspected in Kyaikmaraw

**KYAIKMARAW, 2 Dec** — Director of Mon State Development Affairs Committee U Tin Hlaing inspected laying of laterite road linking Kalaingkanaing-Niton villages in Kyaikmaraw Township on 23 November.

Executive Officer U Thant Zin and Engineer in-charge U Myint Aung conducted the director round the construction site.

The road, 2,170 feet long and 12 feet wide, is being constructed spending K 2,080,000.

*KYEMON*

### Staff Efficiency Enhancement Course opened in Kawthoung

**KAWTHOUNG, 1 Dec** — The opening ceremony of Staff Efficiency Enhancement Course of Kawthoung District General Administration Department was held at the combined hall on 18 November morning.

Chairman of District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Tin Soe gave a speech. Trainees from Kawthoung District and Township GADs, Bokpyin Township, Pyigyimandaing, Karathuri and Khamaukkyi Township GADs are attending the course.

*MYANMA ALIN*

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(Reg. No. J/3793/1998) (Reg. No. J/3794/1998)

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Thein Aung B.Sc., R.L., D.B.L. Advocate  
**MYANMAR TRADEMARK AND PATENT LAW FIRM**  
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 Tel: 254037 G.P.O. Box: 666  
 Yangon 17 December 2004

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Myanmar Reg. No. 41904/2004 (20 August 2004)

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U Than Maung, Advocate  
 For Nitto Denko Corporation,  
 C/o Kelvin Chia Yangon Ltd.,  
 Unit 223 Summit Parkview,  
 350 Ahlone Road, Dagon Tap., Yangon,  
 Union of Myanmar.

Dated 17 December 2004 kevin.chia.ypr@mpipmail.net.mm

**Dozens hospitalized after Turkish cinema complex catches fire**

ANKARA, 15 Dec — Dozens of people were rushed to hospital for medical treatment of smoke inhalation on Tuesday night as fire broke out at a cinema in Turkey's largest city of Istanbul, the semi-official *Anatolia* news agency reported.

Around 40 people were hospitalized, most suffering from smoke inhalation, said the report, adding that nearly 1,000 people were evacuated from

the cinema. Meanwhile, the Sky-Turk news channel said altogether 135 people were injured in the fire. But there was no one killed. The fire broke out at 9:30 p.m. (1930 GMT) at a cinema complex in an Istanbul shopping mall, said *Anatolia*.

The blaze was then put out by firefighters and no one was trapped inside the building, it added.

MNA/Xinhua

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Hain Lin Co (L.L.B) Advocate  
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 Yangon 17 December 2004

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U Myint Lwin, Advocate,  
 L.L.B, DBL  
 Clip in Marine Affairs (UK)  
 Email: MYINT.A@advocate.mpinet.net.mm  
 Ph: 371 990 2804

**Zambia exports 22,000 tons of maize**

LUSAKA, 15 Dec — Zambia has exported 22,000 tons of maize worth of 4.2 million US dollars to neighbouring countries as at early December through the Food Reserve Agency (FRA), the official *Zambia Daily Mail* reported on Tuesday.

The newspaper quoted a FRA report as saying that Zambia exported 17,000 tons of maize to Malawi, 400 tons to Angola, 125 tons to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and an unknown amount to Zimbabwe.

Zambia, which just two years ago were suffering from serious famine due to drought, has recorded consecutive bumper harvests since 2002, thanks to favourable weather conditions, government subsidized inputs, among other factors.

MNA/Xinhua

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Commodity	Quantity (about Tons)	Location
(a) Teak Logs, Squares & Conversions	506	- South Dagon Depot
(b) Hardwood Logs,	1225	- South Dagon Depot
<b>Total</b>	<b>1731</b>	

Closing Date : (23.12.2004) Thursday (12:00) Noon.  
 Please Contact F.P.J.V.C Ltd. No. 422-426, Corner of Botataung Pagoda Road and Strand Road for further details. Tel: 202060, 202101 (ext)-127

**Tender Committee**

**ချိုင့်ပိတ်တင်ဒါခေါ်ယူခြင်း**

၁။ အမှတ်(၁)စက်မှုဝန်ကြီးဌာနမှ မြန်မာ့စတုဂံနှင့်တတုဗေဒလုပ်ငန်း ကြီးကြပ်မှုအောက်ရှိ စက်ရုံများအတွက် အောက်ပါပစ္စည်းများအား မြန်မာ့ကုန်ထုတ်လုပ်ရေး ဝယ်ယူရေးကြမ်းကြော်ကြားအပ်ပါသည်။

စဉ်	ပစ္စည်းအမျိုးအမည်	အရေအတွက်	တင်ဒါပေးပို့ရက်/အချိန်
1.	Copolymer Dispersion	20 MT	၂၈-၁၂-၂၀၀၄(နေ့လည် ၁၂:၀၀နာရီ)
2.	Coagulant (PAM)	1 MT	၂၈-၁၂-၂၀၀၄(နေ့လည် ၁၂:၀၀နာရီ)

၂။ သိရှိလိုသည့်အချက်များရှိပါက ရောင်းဝယ်ရေးဌာန၊ ဝန်ရုံးပိတ်-၅၃၃၃၆၅၅၅ ဆက်သွယ်နိုင်ပါသည်။

**မြန်မာ့စတုဂံနှင့်တတုဗေဒလုပ်ငန်း**

**ပြည်ထောင်စုမြန်မာနိုင်ငံတော် ရန်ကုန်မြို့တော်စည်ပင်သာယာရေးကော်မတီ ပစ္စည်းဝယ်ယူရောင်းချရေးအဖွဲ့**

ရက်စွဲ၊ ၂၀၀၄ခုနှစ်၊ ဒီဇင်ဘာလ ၁၄ရက်

**ချိုင့်ပိတ်ဝယ်ယူရောင်းချခြင်း**

ရန်ကုန်မြို့တော်စည်ပင်သာယာရေးကော်မတီ၏ လုပ်ငန်းသုံးအတွက် လိုအပ်သော အောက်ဖော်ပြပါပစ္စည်းများကို ဌာနအရောက်ကိုင်ပေးရောင်းချပေးရန် ချိုင့်ပိတ်ဝယ်ယူရောင်းချခြင်း စိတ်ဝင်ပါသည်။

စဉ်	ပစ္စည်းအမျိုးအမည်	အရေအတွက်
၁။	ကျောက်ခွက်သုံး ၃၆" Cone Crusher	၁ ခုံ
၂။	နှင့် ဆက်စပ်လျှပ်စစ်ပစ္စည်းများ	
၃။	ဆီသေး(ဖြူ/နီ)	၂၀၀၀ ဂါလင်
၄။	ရေမြှုပ်ပေးတာနှင့်ပန်းများ	၁၅ ခုံ

ဝယ်ယူရောင်းချမှုအတွက် ၂၉-၁၂-၂၀၀၄ (၁၆:၀၀)နာရီဖြင့် ဝယ်ယူရောင်းချခြင်းလုပ်ငန်းစဉ်ကို ကျင်းပဝင်(ကျပ်တစ်ထောင်တိတိ) နှုန်းဖြင့် ဘတ်ဂျက်နှင့်ငွေရောင်းဌာနမှ ပစ္စည်းဝယ်ယူရောင်းချရေးဌာနတွင် ဝယ်ယူနိုင်ပါသည်။ အသေးစိတ်အချက်အလက်များကို ဝန်ရုံးအမှတ် ၂၀၂၅၃၄၊ ၂၄၀၁၂ (လိုင်ဆွဲ) ၂၄၅၅၅၅၅ ရုံးချိန်အတွင်း ဆက်သွယ်ရေးဖြင့်နိုင်ပါသည်။

**ဥက္ကဋ္ဌ**  
**ပစ္စည်းဝယ်ယူရောင်းချရေးအဖွဲ့**

**TRADE MARK CAUTION**  
**MERRELL PHARMACEUTICALS INC.**, a Company incorporated in the State of Delaware, of 3711 Kennett Pike, Suite 200, Greenville, Delaware 19807, U.S.A., is the Owner of the following Trade Mark:-

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 Reg. No. 257/1979

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 Reg. No. 258/1979

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Wu Ma Tin, M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L.  
 for MERRELL PHARMACEUTICALS INC.  
 P.O. Box 60, Yangon.  
 Dated: 17 December 2004

**Transport costs push Britain's inflation to five-month high**

LONDON, 15 Dec — Britain's inflation rate rose to its highest level in five months in November, pushed up by rising fuel costs and high airfares, official figures released Tuesday show.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) said the consumer prices index (CPI) in November was 0.5 per cent higher than October, taking the annual inflation rate to 1.5 per cent.

Markedly higher transport costs in November, primarily high airfares — which unusually failed to fall during the month — and petrol prices, were largely responsible for the CPI spike, the ONS said.

Price increases for food, especially some fruits, late-booked foreign holidays and household textiles were also recorded during November, it said.

MNA/Xinhua

**Greece intercepts 36 illegal immigrants**

ATHENS, 15 Dec — A total of 36 alleged illegal immigrants including 27 men, four women and five children were detained by Greek Coast Guards on the small eastern Aegean island of Pserimos early Tuesday morning, the semi-official *Athens News Agency* reported.

MNA/Xinhua

ပညာရေးနှင့် ခေတ်မီပွဲပြားတိုးတက်လာ နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်ဖို့

Cyprus, Greece sign sports memorandum

NICOSIA, 15 Dec—Cyprus and Greece signed a memorandum of sports cooperation here on Tuesday, aiming to further enhance bilateral ties in the field.

The memorandum was signed by President of the Cyprus Tourism Organization Titos Christophides and Greek Deputy Minister for Culture with responsibilities for Sports George Orfanos.

With the memorandum, all previous agreements between the two

countries in sports are broadened.

The memorandum provides for the increase of the number of Cypriot athletes training in Greece and vice versa, the creation of a scientific support plan for Cypriot champions, and general cooperation in all sports related issues.—MNA/Xinhua



A dealer trades while a snowman looks on at a foreign exchange brokerage in Tokyo. Japan's economy may be heading towards a slowdown in 2005 as a stronger yen and a growing disparity between rich and poor threaten to spoil the party the country enjoyed in the early part of 2004.—INTERNET

Saliva can be used to diagnose certain diseases

LOS ANGELES, 15 Dec—Saliva can be used to diagnose whether someone has oral cancer and may also be a reliable indicator of other cancers and diseases, researchers said on Wednesday.

The research, carried out at the University of California at Los Angeles, provided the first proof that RNA biomarkers in saliva can be used to inexpensively detect cancer, said Dr David Wong, study author and chairman of oral biology and medicine at the university.

The exploratory study, published in *Clinical Cancer Research*, showed that oral cancer was identified in nine out of 10 cancer patients.

Saliva is already used to diagnose certain diseases, including HIV, which is detected from protein antibodies.

"This is a new direction, using a non-invasive fluid to look for disease

signatures, particularly in cancer," Wong said, adding that new technology to rapidly analyze genes made this possible.

His team worked backward from saliva samples taken from patients with oral cancer to identify a combination of four RNA biomarkers, out of the 3,000 found in saliva, that provided a detectable signature for head and neck cancer — cancers of the mouth, tongue, larynx and pharynx. RNA is the information carrier for genetic material. While DNA contains the instructions for producing proteins, RNA molecules carry the instructions into the cell's machinery.—MNA/Reuters

US Air Force maps out to put surveillance aircraft in "near space"

WASHINGTON, 15 Dec—Top US Air Force officials are working on a strategy to put surveillance aircraft in "near space," the no man's land above 65,000 feet but below an outer space orbit, Air Force Chief of Staff General John Jumper said on Tuesday.

Jumper said he would meet next Tuesday with the head of the Air Force Space Command, General Lance Lord, to map out plans to get lighter-than-air vehicles into that region above the Earth, where they could play a vital role in surveillance over trouble spots like Iraq.

Jumper said the Air Force was working with the Defence Advanced Research Projects Agency, or DARPA, to develop a stealthy aircraft without

metal that could be equipped with special sensors and remain in the air for months at a time, keeping a watchful eye on specific regions of concern.

That would help answer the increasing need for persistent surveillance, which is difficult with current satellites, which circle the Earth in orbit at altitudes above 188 miles (300 kilometres).

Unlike satellites, the new breed of near-space aircraft could hover for

longer periods in one area, and since they are closer to the Earth, far fewer would be needed to maintain surveillance of the entire globe, Jumper said.

He said this ability could greatly improve the military ability to conduct intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance missions in the future.

The US military already has some aerostats, or blimp-like aircraft, in use to raise antennas and provide surveillance over

US bases in Iraq.

But in near space, such aircraft could carry out radar and imaging missions, carry communications nodes and even potentially relay laser beams from a ground-based source against a wide variety of targets, industry sources said. Jumper gave few details, but said one of the remaining issues was dealing with such aircraft on the ground, where they can be unwieldy.

MNA/Reuters

S'pore students are top performers in both maths, science

WASHINGTON, 15 Dec—Singapore students were the top performers in both mathematics and science in a worldwide survey of more than 360,000 fourth- and eighth-graders, Boston College said in a report published on Tuesday.

The quadrennial Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study, or TIMSS, for 2003 also found students from South Korea, Taiwan and Hong Kong performed very well in maths and science, repeating results found in 1995 and 1998.

In mathematics, in both the eighth and fourth grades, Singapore had a significantly higher average achievement rating than the rest of the partici-

pating countries. Asian countries or regions took six of the top 10 slots for eighth-grade math.

Singapore's eighth-grade students had an average score of 605 out of 800 points, with the international average of 46 countries at 467. In the same category, Japan's score was 570, Russia's was 508 and

the United States scored 504 for 15th place, the report said. Eighth-grade students are usually about age 13.

For fourth grade, for which students of 25 countries or territories were measured, Singapore's students led the ranking with an average score of 594 against a worldwide 495, followed by Hong Kong

with 575. Japan was third with 565, Russia was ninth with 532 and the United States 12th with 518. Fourth-graders are generally about age nine.

In science, Singapore dominated both age groups, followed by Taiwan, South Korea, Japan and Hong Kong, the survey showed. MNA/Reuters

Google pens agreement with universities to scan books

NEW YORK, 15 Dec— Popular Internet search engine Google has reached an agreement with four universities and one public library to scan their books and make them available the digitized contents of the same, aiming to challenge competitors Yahoo and Microsoft.

California-based Google sealed the agreement with Harvard University, Oxford University, The University of Michigan, Stanford University and The New York Public Library.

The project will take around five years to be completed and will deliver a database of volumes that Google users can

search, according to the *Forbes* magazine.

Users will be able to download entire volumes of books which are not under copyright protection. However, books protected under copyright will be excerpted at varying lengths, depending on whether Google has agreements with their publishers.—MNA/PTI

NZ apologizes to Vietnam veterans exposed to chemicals

WELLINGTON, 15 Dec—The New Zealand Government issued on Tuesday a formal apology to Vietnam War veterans exposed to Agent Orange and other chemicals.

The apology is part of the government's response to a report of the Health Select Committee Inquiry into the exposure of New Zealand defence personnel to Agent Orange and other defoliant chemicals during the Vietnam War and any health effects of that exposure.

The committee recommended an official acknowledgment be made that successive governments have failed to recognize veterans were exposed to a toxic environment during their service in Vietnam. MNA/Xinhua



View of a high-speed train introduced into service in April built under an accord between South Korea and Alstom. Based on French technology a new bullet train jointly developed by South Korea's Rotem Co and Hyundai Heavy Industries Co has broken the 350 kilometres-per-hour barrier putting the country at the forefront of high-speed railway technology.—INTERNET

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**Singapore, Indonesia reach Tiger Cup semis**

HANOI, 16 Dec — Singapore reached the semifinals of the Tiger Cup on Wednesday by easily defeating Cambodia 3-0 here.

Vietnam had gone into the final round of Group A games needing a victory over Laos and hoping that Singapore somehow failed to beat the Cambodians.

The hosts registered a lacklustre 3-0 win over Laos but Singapore were always in control against Cambodia to spell doom for Vietnam.

It was the first time Vietnam have failed to reach the second round since the tournament was launched in 1996.

Indonesia finished top of Group A with ten points from three victories and one draw out of four games, yet to concede a goal.

Singapore ranked second with eight points from two victories and two draws with Vietnam coming third, one point behind.

In Group B, Malaysia is already qualified and could be joined Thursday by underdogs Myanmar if the latter beat debutants East Timor. — *MNA/Xinhua*

**Russian tennis star Anna Kournikova reportedly marries Enrique Iglesias**

**BELING, 16 Dec— Russian tennis star Anna Kournikova, whose good looks have long eclipsed her court skills, has secretly married her singer boyfriend Enrique Iglesias, US Weekly magazine reported Tuesday.**

The magazine said Kournikova, 23, was spotted wearing a wedding band on her ring finger at a charity tennis event in Florida on Sunday. When asked about her relationship with Iglesias, she was heard telling onlookers: "Enrique is great. Everything is awesome. We are married," the magazine reported.

Kournikova and the Latin crooner, 29, have been dating since she appeared playing his girlfriend in the 2002 music video for his hit Escape and have jokingly claimed in the past to be married.

Representatives for the pair declined to confirm the reports Tuesday. But US Weekly, quoting unidentified sources, said they were wed on the

beach in the Mexican resort of Puerto Vallarta a few weeks ago. Kournikova's publicist said, "We never comment on her personal life."

"It was a very small and secret wedding — only family and a few very close friends were invited," the source told the magazine. — *Internet*



Former Russian tennis star Anna Kournikova(R) and long-time beau Enrique Iglesias(L), seen here in 2002, have finally tied the knot, marrying at a secret ceremony in Mexico last month. — *INTERNET*

**Foreign player wins MVP of K-League for first time**

SEOUL, 16 Dec — For the first time, a foreign soccer player won the MVP award of the K-League, local media reported on Thursday.

Nadson, the striker of the South Korean Suwon Blue Wings, earned 58 of 63 votes from local football reporters, beating Chunnam Dragons' Mota and Pohang Steelers' Woo Sung-yong who picked up three and two votes respectively, The Korea Time said.

The 1.70-metre tall striker helped the Blue Wings claim the K-League championship this season, scoring 12 goals in 26 games.

"I have waited for a long time to get this award," the Brazilian was quoted as saying by the English-language newspaper.

"I'm more pleased that I'm the first foreign player to win this award. I wish I could win it again and again," added the 22-year-old, whose contract with Suwon expires in 2007.

*MNA/Xinhua*

**Pietro Carmignani reappointed Parma coach**

ROME, 16 Dec — Parma have reappointed former coach Pietro Carmignani to replace Silvio Baldini, who was sacked following a 2-0 defeat by Livorno at the weekend.

The 59-year-old, who briefly took charge as caretaker coach in 2002, has also worked as assistant to Arrigo Sacchi with Parma, AC Milan and the Italian national team.

"I'm very attached to both to the city and the club. I couldn't say no to helping Parma," Carmignani was quoted as saying in La Gazzetta dello Sport on Wednesday.

The club has made its worst-ever start to a Serie A season and lie third from bottom with 12 points from 15 games.

Carmignani's first task will be to give Parma a chance of reaching the knockout phase of the UEFA Cup with a victory against Group B opponents Besiktas on Thursday.

*MNA/Reuters*

**China edge World Stars 3-2 in table tennis challenge**

**CHANGSHA (South China), 16 Dec — Unlike their first team encounters 5-0 in China's favour on Tuesday, China had a narrow victory over the World Stars United 3-2 here on Wednesday.**

China took a 2-0 lead before Timo Boll and Werner Schlager snatched two wins to make it 2-2.

It was a sweet "revenge" for Ma Lin who stormed past all-time great Jan-Ove Swede Waldner 3-0 (11-8, 11-5, 11-9).

The 39-year-old Waldner stunned pre meet favourite Ma in early round at the Athens Olympic Games before he finished fourth.

Ma said: "In fact, this match can't be called a revenge. It's different competition. I was in great pressure when I was in Athens."

Former Olympic champion Kong Linghui met some troubles at the beginning before he came from one game down to beat Vladimir Samsonov of Belarus 3-1 (9-11, 11-3, 11-9, 11-8).

Samsonov said: "I played better than yesterday. I had chance in the first game. Hopefully I can beat Kong next time when we meet."

Timo Boll produced the winning tide for the World Stars United as he knocked off Olympic runner Wang Hao 3-1 (11-6, 6-11, 14-12, 11-9).

Boll revealed the 0-5 team upset on Tuesday boosted his fighting spirit. "We had bad draws yesterday. But today I played better and felt good."

Wang admitted that Boll played beyond his expectation. Wang said: "He saved many balls that seemed impossible to return."

Reigning world champion Werner Schlager continued Boll's flying- ride, edging Chen Qi 3-2 (12-10, 5-11, 8-11, 11-7, 13-11).

Schlager waved his hands to the crowd and said: "I'm glad that it's the first time I beat Chen. I lost to him twice. It was a close game and a tough fight for techniques."

In the fifth decisive game, Olympic champion Ryu Seung Min overcame his shoulder injury but not his rival Wang Liqin, losing 3-2 (9-11, 11-7, 11-3, 5-11, 11-4).

China's men's team head coach Liu Guoliang said: "It is the real fight between us. Both of us played better than yesterday. It is good to promote the sport, not only in China, but also in the world." — *MNA/Xinhua*

**Valencia accept Angulo ban**

MADRID, 16 Dec — Valencia say they will not appeal against the seven-match ban imposed on midfielder Miguel Angel Angulo by UEFA for his behaviour during last week's Champions League match against Werder Bremen.

"We will accept and comply with the punishments given by European football's governing body," club president Juan Bautista Soler said.

The Spain international was sent off 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.

*MNA/Xinhua*

**Ortega wants to play at 2006 World Cup**

BUENOS AIRES, 16 Dec — Argentina forward Ariel Ortega, who helped his club Newell's Old Boys win the Apertura championship last week, said on Wednesday he wants to play at the 2006 World Cup. "I'm going to get it everything I have in the pre-season to fulfil my dream of playing in Germany," he told sports daily Ole. "It would be my fourth World Cup."

The 30-year-old, famous for his trickery and infamous for his play-acting, joined Newell's in September after FIFA brokered an agreement in which Turkey's Fenerbahce agreed to release him for 3 million euros (3.99 million US dollars).

Ortega had previously been ordered to pay 11 million US dollars to Fenerbahce after walking out on them in February 2003, failing to return after playing for Argentina in a friendly in the Netherlands. — *MNA/Xinhua*



Lille smile : Lille's French forward Matt Moussilou (C) is congratulated by one of his teammates French defender Nicolas Plestan (front) after he scored.

*INTERNET*

### Tanzania's cotton yield expected to triple in 2004-2005 season

DAR-ES-SALAAM, 16 Dec — Cotton production in Tanzania is expected to reach 735,640 bales this season (2004-2005), as against last season's 241,908 bales, local Press reported Wednesday.

As many as 635,640 bales of cotton lint or ginned cotton have so far been purchased by traders and firms while there are still over 100,000 bales remaining in the cotton farmers' hands, local newspaper Daily News quoted Donald Max as saying.

Max is the general manager of the COPCOT Cotton Trading (Tanzania) Limited, who attributed the bumper harvest to improve infrastructure and proper procurement system.

One bale of cotton lint weighs 181 kilos.

The Tanzania Cotton Association earlier also predicted a bumper harvest for this season with a yield to the tune of 400,000 tons of unginned cotton, 62,000 tons more than the actual harvest last

season (2003-2004).

The cotton-growing regions of Tanzania, mostly in the country's central and northwestern areas, could have harvested more this year should there be more rainfalls, said vice-chairman of the association Prem Kapoor.

To boost the yield of cotton in the country, the association has undertaken a mechanization programme which so far has acquired 100 tractors for its members to help them with cotton growing and producing.

Tanzania harvested 139,829 tons of unginned cotton in the 2002-2003 season, which was a 26-per-cent decrease compared with the 187,886 tons harvested in the previous season.

MNA/Xinhua

## First test of US anti-missile shield fails

WASHINGTON, 16 Dec — The first test in nearly two years of a multibillion-dollar US anti-missile shield failed on Wednesday when the interceptor missile shut down on its launch pad in the central Pacific, the Pentagon said.

About 16 minutes earlier, a target missile carrying a mock warhead had been successfully launched from Kodiak Island, Alaska, the Pentagon's Missile Defence Agency said in a statement.

The aborted mission appeared likely to set back plans for activation of the rudimentary bulwark against ballistic missiles that could be fired by countries like North Korea.

The system is a scaled-down version of a ballistic missile shield

first outlined in March 1983 by President Ronald Reagan and derided by critics as "Star Wars".

In 2002, President George W Bush pledged to have initial elements of the programme up and running by the end of this year, although critics say that tests like the one Wednesday failed to demonstrate any real-world capabilities.

"This is a serious setback for a programme that had not attempted a flight intercept test for two years," Philip Coyle, the Pentagon's chief

weapons tester under Reagan, said in an e-mail exchange with Reuters.

The Missile Defence Agency said an unspecified "anomaly" had caused the interceptor to shut down automatically in its silo at the Kwajalein Test Range in the Marshall Islands.

The test had not been tied to the question of when to declare the system operational, said Richard Lehner, an agency spokesman. "But that's something that will have to be considered," he said. — MNA/Reuters

## Venezuela, Cuba to strengthen eco, social cooperation

HAVANA, 16 Dec — Venezuelan leader Hugo Chavez and Cuban President Fidel Castro agreed on Tuesday to strengthen economic and social cooperation as an alternative to US efforts to forge a Latin American Free Trade Zone.

Venezuela promised financing for Cuban industrial and infrastructure projects, while Cuba agreed to pay a minimum price of 27 US dollars per barrel of Venezuelan oil, as part of the accord "to apply the Bolivarian Alternative for the Americas".

The programme seeks to counter US efforts to create a free trade zone with Latin America and the Caribbean.

Before the signing of the agreement, Castro and Chavez addressed a rally in Havana where both presidents declared the proposed Latin American Free Trade Zone "dead".

Chavez, a left-wing nationalist, has accused the United States of pursuing "imperialist" intentions in free trade talks with Andean countries. Venezuela is one of the biggest suppliers of crude oil to the United States but their relations have been strained by disputes between Chavez and the administration of US Presi-

dent George W Bush.

The Cuba-Venezuela agreement will eliminate trade barriers and tax obstacles, provide incentives for investments, increase banking relations and increase tourism cooperation.

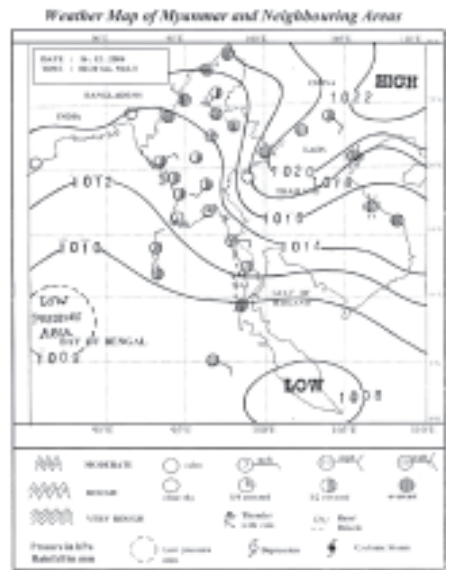
Chavez is on a two-day visit to commemorate his first encounter in Havana with Castro 10 years ago.

The United States has expressed concern over

Chavez' close ties to Castro since Chavez won the presidency of the world's fifth-largest oil-exporting country in 1998.

Venezuela provides Cuba with 53,000 barrels of oil a day at preferential prices, while Cuba has 13,000 doctors in Venezuela, is helping the country stamp out illiteracy and has treated thousands of Venezuelans in its hospitals.

MNA/Reuters



### WEATHER

Thursday, 16 December, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, light rain has been isolated in Chin State and weather has been generally fair in the remaining areas. Night temperatures were (6°C) above normal in Chin State, (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Kachin State and Sagaing Division, (5°C) below normal in Yangon Division, (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Kayin State, Bago and Taninthayi Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Mindat and Pyin Oo Lwin (6°C) each, Kengtung, Namsam and Moegok (8°C) each.

Maximum temperature on 15-12-2004 was 89°F. Minimum temperature on 16-12-2004 was 56°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 16-12-2004 was 82%. Total sunshine hours on 15-12-2004 was (8.3) hours approx. Rainfalls on 16-12-2004 were nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfalls 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 9 mph from Southeast at (13:30) hours MST on 15-12-2004.

Bay inference: According to the observation at (09:30) hours MST today, yesterday's low pressure area over southwest Bay still persists. Weather is partly cloudy in the South and Central Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal is (40%).

Forecast valid until evening of 17-12-2004: Possibility of isolated light rain in Kachin and Rakhine States, weather will be partly cloudy in lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Ayeyawady, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (40%).

State of the sea: Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters. Outlook for subsequent two days: Slight decrease of night temperature in lower Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 17-12-2004: Partly cloudy. Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 17-12-2004: Partly cloudy.



### Friday, 17 December Tune in today:

- 8.30 am Brief news
- 8.35 am Music: -X'mas country style
- 8.40 am Perspectives
- 8.45 am Music: My X'mas love
- 8.50 am National news/Slogan
- 9.00 am Music: -X'mas holiday
- 9.05 am International news
- 9.10 am Music: -X'mas vacation
- 1.30 pm News/Slogan
- 1.40 pm Lunch time music -Santa looked a lot like Daddy -One of everything
- 9.00 pm World of music "X'mas songs around the world"
- 9.15 pm Article/Music
- 9.25 pm Music at your request -Jingle bell rock -Santa Claus is coming to town -We wish you a merry X'mas
- 9.45 pm News/Slogan
- 10.00 pm PEL



Friday, 17 December

### View on today:

- 7:00 am 1. ဂေဟစနစ်ဆိုင်ရာ အချက်အလက်များကို နှိုင်းယှဉ်ဆန်းစစ်ရန် အချက်အလက်များကို အတိုးတက်စေရန်အတွက် အတိုးတက်စေရန်အတွက် အတိုးတက်စေရန်အတွက် အတိုးတက်စေရန်အတွက်
- 7:25 am 2. To be healthy exercise
- 7:30 am 3. Morning news
- 7:40 am 4. Nice and sweet song
- 7:55 am 5. လူပုဂ္ဂိုလ်တို့၏ စိတ်ချမ်းသာမှု
- 8:00 am 6. The mirror images of

- musical olides
- 8:10 am 7. အတိုးတက်စေရန်အတွက်
- 8:20 am 8. အတိုးတက်စေရန်အတွက်
- 8:30 am 9. International news
- 8:45 am 10. English for Everyday Use
- 4:00 pm 1. Martial song
- 4:15 pm 2. Songs to uphold National Spirit
- 4:30 pm 3. Practice in Reading
- 4:45 pm 4. Musical programme
- 5:00 pm 5. အစောဆုံးအချက်အလက်များကို ရရှိနိုင်စေရန်အတွက် အတိုးတက်စေရန်အတွက်
- 5:15 pm 6. Song of national races
- 5:30 pm 7. လက်ဆွဲပန်းပွင့်များကို
- 5:35 pm 8. နည်းစနစ်များကို အားကစားအတွက်
- 5:45 pm 9. ဂီတဟောပြောချက်
- 6:10 pm 10. မြန်မာ့စာ၊ မြန်မာ့စာ
- 6:25 pm 11. Discovery
- 6:30 pm 12. Evening news
- 7:00 pm 13. Weather report
- 7:05 pm 14. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတိုလမ်းဆွဲ လူမှုရေးလုပ်ငန်း (အပိုင်း ၃၀)
- 7:35 pm 15. Songs of yesteryears
- 8:00 pm 16. News
- 17. International news
- 18. Weather report
- 19. Myanmar video feature "တစ်ခြားဖွဲ့လမ်း" (အပိုင်း-၂) နိုင်ငံခြား၊ နန္ဒာလှိုင်၊ စင်သီတာထွန်း၊ ခါရီကီတာ- မောင်မောင်ဦး (စနိုးဦး)
- 20. The next day's programme



Quartermaster-General Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo hosts dinner in honour of Deputy Chief of General Logistics Department of PLA Lt-Gen Sun Zhiqiang and party at Karaweik Palace.— MNA

## Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo hosts dinner to Chinese delegation

YANGON, 16 Dec — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Quartermaster-General Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo hosted a dinner to the visiting Chinese delegation led by Deputy Chief of General Logistics Department of People's Liberation Army Lieutenant-General Sun Zhiqiang and party at Karaweik Palace of

Kandawgyi Lake at 7 pm today. Present at the dinner were Chief of Staff (Navy) Captain Nyan Tun, Vice Quartermaster-General Maj-Gen Khin Maung Tun, and high-ranking officials, Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Li Jinjun, Military Attaché Senior Colonel Ma Shoudong and officials.

### 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

Before and during the dinner, artistes of Karaweik Palace entertained the delegation members with Myanmar traditional songs and dances.

After the entertainment, Lieutenant-General Sun Zhiqiang presented a bouquet to the artistes and had documentary photos taken.

MNA

## Fifth Traditional Medicine and Medical Equipment Exhibition opens

YANGON, 16 Dec — The Fifth Traditional Medicine and Medical Equipment Exhibition was opened at Tatmadaw Convention Centre on U Wisara Road here this morning.

It was attended by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, the ministers, the Chief Justice, the Attorney-General, the Mayor, deputy ministers, diplomats, senior military officers, members of Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners Council and Myanmar Traditional Medicine

Practitioners Association, members of social organizations and guests.

Traditional medicine physicians U Nyan Lwin, U Htay Myint and U Than Nyunt (Kyaukpadaung) formally opened the exhibition. The commander and party viewed round booths at the exhibition.

The portrait of Senior General Than Shwe and excerpts from his address, the portraits of Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win and their addresses are displayed in the centre of the hall.

(See page 8)



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe views booths at the Fifth Traditional Medicine and Medical Equipment Exhibition.

MNA

## 2004 ASEAN Open Optimist Championship continues

YANGON, 16 Dec — After opening 2004 ASEAN Open Optimist

Championship on Chaungtha beach on 14th December morning,

events of Individual Race were held on 15th December, three of which had

ended, in which a total of 64 yachters— five from Indonesia, six from Japan,

seven each from Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Singapore and Thailand and 25 from

host Myanmar—took part.

Eleven events of Individual Race have to be held. The championship will continue on 16, 19 and 20 December and the results of the events will be known on 20 December.

Team Races will be held tomorrow. The prize presentation ceremony for the 2004 ASEAN Open Optimist Championship will be held at Chaungtha beach at 6 pm on 20 December.



The individual race of 2004 ASEAN Open Optimist Championship in progress at Chaungtha Beach on 15 December.— NLM

NLM