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Monday, 20 December 2004

## Yeywa Hydel Power Project will be inclusive of great concrete dams in the world Will generate 790 megawatts Senior General Than Shwe inspects Yeywa Hydel Power Project

YANGON, 19 Dec—Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe, accompanied by member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shew Mann, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, members of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint and Lt-Gen Kyaw Win, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Rear-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint, the ministers, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, officials of the State Peace

and Development Council Office and heads of departments, arrived at Yeywa Hydel Power Project being implemented by Hydroelectric Power Department under the Ministry of Electric Power, 31 miles South-East of Mandalay.

They were welcomed there by Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut, Deputy Minister U Myo Myint, Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay and officials.

At the briefing hall, Senior General Than Shwe and party heard a report presented by Deputy Minister U Myo Myint on the salient points of Yeywa Hydel Power Project, which is one of 12 projects being implemented in the nation for supply of more electricity.

Next, the deputy



Senior General Than Shwe inspects construction site of Yeywa Hydel Power Project.—MNA

minister also reported on progress in construc-

tion of ring bund and separation wall, arrangements

for construction of the main embankment step

by step and pozolan plant, construction of intake structure.

Afterwards, Minister Maj-Gen Tin Htut presented other salient points, saying that there are now altogether 287 concrete dams in the world; that the main dam of Yeywa Hydel Power Project being constructed is of roller compacted concrete dam type and upon completion, it will be inclusive of the great concrete dams in the world; and that work is well under way for successful completion of the project.

The minister added that in accordance with the guidance of the Head of State road to Kyaukse-Yeywa-Hsin-min cement factory is being constructed; that construction of Dot-tawady River-crossing bridge (Yeywa),

(See page 8)



Progress in construction site of Yeywa Hydel Power Project being implemented on Myitnge River, southeast of Mandalay.—MNA

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

## PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 20 December, 2004

### For higher productivity through innovations in technology

Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council and Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe made the inspection tour of No 1 Iron and Steel Plant and the 100-bed PyinOoLwin District Hospital, Mandalay Division, on 16 December.

In his meeting with officials of the plant, Head of State Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance on the "efforts to be made to produce steel essential for nation-building tasks while taking innovative measures on a self-reliant basis for the long-term operation of the plant".

Just as the government prioritizes the consolidation of national economic life, it also enlists the national forces and makes the most of mineral resources to ensure all-round development in the country.

The government is doing everything in its capacity to improve the industrial sector by constructing factories and setting up industrial zones in areas showing great promise. As a result, a total of 19 industrial zones have been established. Of them, Yangon, Mandalay, Taunggyi and Monywa industrial zones are gaining momentum.

The government is constructing modern foundries in Mandalay, Monywa and Taunggyi industrial zones to enhance their productivity. With the emergence of such foundries the standard and quality of the products of the zones will improve.

Every factory and workshop must attach importance to increased productivity since it is the only way of boosting the country's economy. Now, No 1 Iron and Steel Plant in PyinOoLwin has moved into top gear to meet the target of producing up to 25,000 tons of steel per annum.

Further, the plant is also making plans to sell pig iron to Mandalay, Monywa and Taunggyi industrial zones to enhance their productive capacity.

To ensure an increase in productivity, the plant is also taking measures for repair of machinery, purchase of raw materials at home and abroad, and fulfilment of other requirements.

This being the case, the onus is on the plant to stick to the guidance given by the Head of State in its efforts to produce and supply the steel, much-needed for the nation-building tasks, while striving for increased productivity by making innovative measures on a self-reliant basis for its long-term operation.

### Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs leaves for China

YANGON, 19 Dec — Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint left here by air this afternoon to attend the Fifth Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar Regional Economic Cooperation Forum to be held in Kunming, the People's Republic of China, from 20 to 22 December.

The Deputy Minister was seen off at Yangon International Airport by departmental heads of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, responsible officials and officials of the Chinese Embassy. — MNA

### People's Desire

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

### Myeik Open Golf Championship goes on

YANGON, 19 Dec — With the main sponsorship of Rothmans of Pall Mall Myanmar Pte Ltd, the first Coastal Region Command Myeik Open Golf Championship continued at Myeik Golf Club this morning.

After the third round, Zaw Zaw Latt (Srixon) was leading with 213 strokes in the professional golfer event, followed by Aung Win (YCDC) second with 215 and Soe Kyaw Naing (Srixon) and Min Naing (Srixon) with 218 each. In the handicap 0-12 amateur event Bo Bo was taking the lead with 219 strokes, followed by Zaw



Commander Maj-Gen Ohn Myint tees off the ball in opening ceremony of Myeik Open Golf Championship in Myeik. (News reported) — MGF

Zin Win second with 222 and Nay Lin Tun with 223. In the handicap 13-24 amateur event Kyaw

Hein was leading with 71 strokes, followed by Kyaw Kyaw Win and Myo Nyunt second with

72 each. The championship continues tomorrow at the same venue.

MNA

### Winners of 6th AWC honoured

YANGON, 19 Dec — A ceremony to honour selected Myanmar Wushu athletes who won five gold, eight silver and nine bronze in the 6th Asian Wushu Championships hosted by Myanmar was held at Shwe Shankan Restaurant on Inya Road at yesterday evening, attended

by Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint.

Also present on the occasion were General Secretary of Myanmar Olympic Committee Director-General of Sports and Physical Education Department U Thaung Htaik and officials, members of the Panel of Lead-

ing Patrons of Myanmar Women's Sports Federation, patrons of Myanmar Wushu Federation, President of MWF U Khin Maung Lay, vice-presidents and CEC members, guests and winners.

At the ceremony, the Sports Minister made a speech and the presi-

dent of MWF explained matters related to the 6th AWC.

The Minister presented prizes of honour awarded by MOC to the winners — Swe Swe Thant, Khaing Khaing Maw, Pyae Wai Phyto, Aung Sithu, Zaw Zaw Moe, Sa Tha Htay, Min Min Tun, Aung San Yu, Swe Wint, Moe Wah and Nan Soe Yu Naing.

Next, the President of MWF accepted cash awards for the winners presented by the patrons of MWF. Khaing Khaing Maw accepted cash awards for the winners presented by the president of MWF.

On behalf of the winners, Swe Swe Thant expressed gratitude. Next, the dinner was hosted to the winners and guests.

MNA



Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint presents cash prize to Pyae Wai Phyto who bagged one gold, one silver and one bronze in 6th Asian Wushu C'ships. — NLM

### MIA HOLDS MEETING:

Myanmar Industrialists Association held 11th annual meeting at Sedona Hotel on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road on 17 December. Secretary of the association U Zaw Min Win reads CEC report and financial statement.

(H)





## India-China trade crosses \$10b mark for first time

**BEIJING, 19 Dec—** India-China bilateral trade has set a new record by crossing the 10-billion-US-dollar mark for the first time during which India also emerged among the top 10 Asian trading partners of the Communist giant.

India-China bilateral trade touched 10.84 billion US dollars during the January-October period, registering an impressive growth of 82.53 per cent over the corresponding period last year, according to Chinese Customs statistics.

Bilateral trade during the first 10 months of 2004 has already achieved the 10-billion-US-dollar target set by the political leadership of the two Asian giants, official sources said here.

Two-way trade between the two sides is expected to hit 12 billion US dollars during the January-December period, they said. During the January-October period, India was China's eighth largest trading partner after Japan, Hong Kong, South Korea, Taiwan, Malaysia, Singa-

pore and Thailand. Japan topped the list with a bilateral trade of 135.82 billion US dollars during the first ten months.

Indian exports to China during January-October period was worth 6.27 billion US dollars, up 90.86 per cent while India's imports from China for the same period touched 4.56 billion US dollars, up 72.19 per cent over the same period last year.

During the first ten months, India enjoyed a trade surplus of 1.71 billion US dollars with China. Total monthly volume of bilateral trade in October stood at 1.05 billion US dollars.

The monthly trade value has hovered around the one billion US dollars mark for the past seven months. —MNA/PTI

## Coins issued for anniversary of Macao's return to Motherland

**BEIJING, 18 Dec—** The Macao Special Administrative Region Financial Authority plans to issue 25,500 silver coins to commemorate the fifth anniversary of Macao's return to the Motherland.

China Banknote Printing and Minting Corporation (CBPMC), authorized by the Macao Financial Authority to mint the coins, displayed the five kinds of coins Thursday.

Each has a different value of 2,000, 1,000, 500, 200 and 100 patacas. CBPMC has the exclusive franchise to

sell 2,000 coins valued at 1,000 patacas and 5,000 coins of 200 patacas and 100 patacas each.

The first batch of such coins will go on sale on December 20 in Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Tianjin, Shenzhen, Xi'an and Taiyuan.

MNA/Xinhua

## Most Chinese abroad wish to return home to work

**BEIJING, 18 Dec—** Some 87.7 per cent of the Chinese scholars who study overseas are willing to return to China to work, according to a recent survey.

The one-month on-line survey, conducted by *China Youth Daily* from October 15, polled 3,100 Chinese students studying or working abroad. The respondents, aged 29 on average, are living in 49 countries and regions worldwide, mostly developed countries.

About 34.5 per cent of them say they wish to return as soon as they complete their study, and 54.1 per cent say they plan to return after gaining some work experience. Shanghai was listed as the city they most wanted to live in, followed by Beijing.

Most of the students who wish to

return — about 70 per cent — say they are encouraged by "China's booming economic development". Most of those who want to stay abroad, less than 10 per cent of the total, say "sophisticated social relations" and "less sophisticated legal system" in the country kept them away.

This and the results of other similar surveys are dispelling government's worries of a brain drain, which was common years ago when a number of poor but talented young vied for comfortable life in developed countries.

MNA/Xinhua



Black smoke billows from an oil pipeline near the northern Iraqi city of Samarra on 18 Dec, 2004.—INTERNET

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A sales assistant handles gold figurines with a Year of the Rooster motif at a gold shop in Shanghai on 17 Dec, 2004.—INTERNET

## Singapore takes measures to enhance women's status

**SINGAPORE, 19 Dec —** Singapore has taken several measures to improve the position and rights of women in the city state, according to a statement released by the Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports (MCYS) on Saturday.

The statement said that the key advance is the Constitutional Amendment in May of this year to accord the same citizenship rights to the children of Singaporean women as for Singaporean men.

The amended citizenship law allows a child born overseas to a Singaporean mother to acquire Singapore citizenship by descent, rather than in the previous manner where the mother has to register her child.

Other measures include the establishment of the Women's Desk under MCYS, the equalization of the medical benefits for male and female civil servants, and the removal of the intake quota for female medical students.

The statement noted that Singapore submitted its third and latest report to the United Nations' Committee for the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) on November 1, 2004, which covers the achievements made and measures taken by the government since 2000. The United Nations (UN) on Saturday marks the 25th anniversary of its adoption of the CEDAW, a commonly accepted international bill of rights for women. Singapore acceded to the Convention in 1995.

MNA/Xinhua

## Four Americans hurt in Iraq blast

**BAGHDAD, 19 Dec —** Four American civilians have been injured by a car bomb in northern Iraq.

The military says all four people injured in the attack north of Baghdad work for Florida-based Cochise Security. Two of the Americans suffered minor wounds. The other two were taken to a military medical facility.

Three Cochise employees were killed by car bombs in the same part of Iraq in April. Meanwhile, the U-S Embassy has confirmed the name of an American contractor taken hostage six weeks ago in Baghdad — a man who has not been seen or heard from since.

Internet

## Five Turkish security guards killed in Iraq

**ANKARA, 18 Dec —** Five Turkish security guards were killed in an ambush as they were travelling by car through Iraq to Baghdad, the Turkish Foreign Ministry said.

Earlier an official in the Iraqi town of Mosul was quoted as saying the attackers machine-gunned the guards and decapitated one of them after telling them to get out of the cars.

A foreign ministry statement quoted by the *Anatolia* news agency, said eight guards had crossed Turkey's border with Iraq at Habur in four cars, and were on their way to the embassy in Baghdad, when they were attacked around the flashpoint Iraqi city of

Mosul.

Five of the security guards along with two Iraqi drivers were killed. Two survivors reached Baghdad, while a third returned to the border at Habur, the statement said.

"Armed men made the passengers get out of the cars, lie on the ground, machine-gunned them and cut off the head of one of them," Muhammet Tahir, an official of the Turkmen Front in Mosul, was quoted as telling the Turkish press agency *DHA*.

It said US forces who controlled the region had killed two of the attackers.

The CNN-Turk website said one of the victims was a police inspector while three were police officers.

About 70 Turkish nationals, mainly truck drivers, have so far been killed in Iraq since the US-led invasion last year, most of them in road violence and several at the hands of hostage-takers.

Internet

## Beijing to seek investors for new metro lines

**BEIJING, 19 Dec** — Beijing will select investors for two new metro lines, Loop 5 and Loop 10, through public bidding among domestic private or overseas companies, a government official said.

The move is viewed as an essential step in the reform of Beijing's investment system in infrastructure construction, said Wang Qi, general manager of the Beijing Municipal Infrastructure Investment Co, Ltd. Earlier this month, the Beijing Municipal Construction Committee announced it would offer a 30-year franchise for the operation of the metro Loop 4 to non-governmental investors, a historic step for the city to open its metro market.

According to Wang, public bidding for the proprietors of Loop 5 and Loop 10 will start on 1st January, 2005, and the government will transfer the right to management of the two lines to the winners for 20-year operation beginning as soon as they are finished in 2007 and 2008, respectively.

Wang said the total investment for loops 4, 5 and 10, all under construction now, will exceed 40 billion yuan (about 4.8 billion US dollars).

Currently, two joint-ventures are bidding for the

franchised operation of Loop 4. One is the combination of the Hong Kong MTR Corporation, the Beijing Infrastructure Investment Co., Ltd and the Beijing Capital Group; the other is composed of German-based Siemens, China Railway Construction Corporation and Beijing Metro Corporation.

In addition to the operation of the line, the selected company will also need to put up some five billion yuan, about 30 per cent, of the loop's total 15.3-billion-yuan investment. The remaining cost will be covered by the Beijing Municipal Government, added Wang.

Moreover, Wang acknowledged that the Beijing Municipal Government is considering selling franchised operation of several other new metro lines in the future, and Loop 9, to cost some eight billion yuan, will open for bidding next year.

From 2009 to 2015, a 349.7-kilometre track network will be formed in the capital Beijing in the hopes of alleviating heavy traffic. —MNA/Xinhua

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## Pakistani PM ends China tour

**SHANGHAI, 19 Dec** — Pakistani Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz left Shanghai, China's economic hub, Saturday noon, after his five-day official visit to China as guest of Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao.

During his China trip, Aziz met with Wen Jiabao and other senior Chinese leaders, like Chinese President Hu Jintao and Chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference Jia Qinglin, in Beijing. It is the first visit of Aziz to China after his assumption of Prime Minister in August this year. —MNA/Xinhua



A model displays a batik design by Malaysian Michael Shu Pei Loong with a theme of 'United Malaysia' or 'Malaysia Bersatu' during the final showing of the Seri Endon Trophy Batik Design Competition 2004, in Kuala Lumpur, on 18 Dec, 2004. —INTERNET

## Nepali Govt to declare education sector development programme

**KATHMANDU, 18 Dec** — The Nepali Government will announce a programme to develop the education sector as a violence-free zone, a government official said Friday.

"The programme has been discussed at different levels and will get final shape soon, but we are yet to discuss the programme with the civil society for its effective implementation," Bidhyadhar Mallik, secretary at the Education Ministry told reporters.

MNA/Xinhua

## UN Summit urges actions to meet world anti-poverty goals

**UNITED NATIONS, 18 Dec** — The UN General Assembly on Friday approved a multistage work plan for 2005 that culminates in a high-level review of worldwide progress towards attaining the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Unanimously adopting a resolution on the format and organization of its work from late June through mid-September, the Assembly agreed that a High-Level Millennium review will be held from September next year.

The Assembly agreed that the summit should include the same format of debates and round-table discussions of the 2000 Millennium Summit. At that meeting four years ago, world leaders adopted the Millennium Declaration that provided a blueprint to build a better and safer world for the next century through collective security and a global partnership for development.

The world anti-poverty goals aim at

a series of ambitious targets, ranging from halving extreme poverty, to halting the spread of HIV/AIDS, to providing universal primary education, all by 2015.

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, in his latest report on the matter, unveiled his ideas for the five-year review summit that the decisions to be taken at the meeting "may determine the whole future of the United Nations".

"Even more important, they will offer us our best perhaps our only chance to ensure a safer, more just and more prosperous world in the new century, not only for our own sakes but for those of our children and grandchildren," the UN Chief said in his report. —MNA/Xinhua

**BAGHDAD, 19 Dec** — Iraqi authorities today set free two Egyptian employees of the mobile telephone company Iraqna, detained on Wednesday on suspicion of helping guerrillas.

"They were released and taken to the Egyptian embassy in Baghdad. No charges were made against them," said Dina Abou Zenada, a spokeswoman for Cairo-based Orascom Telecom.

"They were detained on erroneous information designed to impede Iraqna's operations in Iraq," she said.

She said they were Iraqna security chief Mohsen el-Sokarry and his deputy, named only as Walid.

Iraqna had already dismissed suggestions the two men had assisted Iraqi guerrillas by providing them with weapons.

It had complained about the manner of their arrest, in a raid by US and Iraqi forces at 3am (local time) on Wednesday. —Internet

## Seminar on Chinese charity culture starts in Jinjiang City

**XIAMEN, 19 Dec** — A seminar on Chinese charity culture, first of its kind in the country, started Saturday in Jinjiang City of east China's Fujian Province, attracting some 60 experts from across the country including Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macao Special Administrative Region (SAR).

The seminar was jointly organized by China Charity Federation, China Sociology Association, the Sociology Institute under the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Social Sciences Publishing House and Jinjiang City Government. — MNA/Xinhua

## Iraq releases Egyptian hostages



An Iraqi cleans his shopfront from broken glass after it was bombed during the night at Baghdad's western neighbourhood of al-Sayidieh recently. — INTERNET

## Putin urges atomic chiefs to do more to protect N-facilities

**Moscow, 18 Dec** — President Vladimir Putin on Thursday urged Russia's atomic industry chiefs to do more to protect nuclear facilities in an apparent nod to Western concerns they could be vulnerable to attack or theft.

Russia has always maintained that its civilian and military nuclear sites are safe and properly guarded, and it plans to expand nuclear power production and build new nuclear missiles.

"Nuclear sites should be properly protected from all acts of crime," ITAR-TASS news agency quoted Putin as saying on a visit to the Kalininskaya nuclear power station in western

Russia.

Russia has the second biggest nuclear weapon arsenal after the United States and is also home to dozens of Soviet-era atomic power stations and research facilities.

The United States and the European Union have long called on Russia to act to prevent nuclear materials being stolen and sold onto the black market — where it is feared they could

be bought by militant groups or rogue states.

Putin also said more should be done to reduce the impact on the environment from Russia's nuclear programmes, whose reputation for safety has still to recover after the 1986 Chernobyl disaster — the world's worst nuclear accident — and from scandals about dumping radioactive waste.

MNA/Reuters



## S Korean President heads for Japan

SEOUL, 18 Dec — South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun left for a two-day working visit in Japan on Friday.

Accompanied by his wife Kwon Yang-sook, Roh will fly to Kagoshima, a famous Japanese southern island, Friday afternoon. Roh is to meet Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi in the resort island.

Seeking joint measures to tackle the nuclear issue on the Korean Peninsula and ways to adopt a bilateral free trade agreement (FTA) will top the summit's agenda, according to local media.

In particular, the upcoming summit

is to touch on mounting anger in Japan over Pyongyang's recent submission of false ashes of a missing Japanese abductees.

South Korean Foreign Minister said on Tuesday that he anticipates the abductees dispute between North Korea and Japan will not negatively affect ongoing efforts to promptly resume the stalled six-party nuclear talks.

Roh was scheduled to return home on Saturday afternoon. — MNA/Xinhua

## Pakistan seizes 1.83 tons of morphine

QUETTA (Pakistan), 18 Dec — Pakistan authorities seized 1.83 tons of morphine worth millions of dollars and a large quantity of arms from a remote southwestern village near the Afghan border, police said on Friday.

The drugs and arms, including rocket launchers, mortars, anti-aircraft shells and grenades were found in a house near the town of Chaghi in Baluchistan Province near the Afghan border, Colonel Rizwan Malik told reporters.

Officials say a ton of morphine is worth about 10 million US dollars in the international market.

Malik said the raid was carried out on a tip-off and no arrests were made as the house had been abandoned. Most illegal drugs seized in Pakistan come from Afghanistan, the world's leading source of opium and heroin. Chaghi is about 300 kilometres (185 miles) west of Quetta, capital of Pakistan's Baluchistan Province. — MNA/Reuters

## China's unemployment rate lower than expected

BEIJING, 18 Dec — China's registered urban unemployment rate is 4.3 per cent this year, 0.4 percentage point lower than the estimation made at the beginning of the year, said the Ministry of Labour and Social Security here Friday.

Addressing a working conference, Zheng Silin, Minister of Labour and Social Security, attributed the success in lowering the unemployment rate to the employment services and control on unemployment the Chinese Government enhanced this year.

According to statistics released by the ministry, China had a total of 8.21

million jobless people, at an registered unemployment rate of 4.2 per cent, in its urban areas by the end of September 0.1 percentage point lower than that of last year.

Meanwhile, a total of 9.1 million jobs were newly increased while 4.6 million laid-off workers had been re-employed from January to Novem-

ber this year. "We will try to create more jobs," said the minister.

He also said the Chinese Government will make great efforts next year to lock the urban unemployment rate at 4.6 per cent by adding nine million jobs and offering jobs for five million laid-off workers.

MNA/Xinhua

## "2004 Yearbook of PRC" published

BEIJING, 19 Dec — Chinese and English versions of the 2004 Yearbook of the People's Republic of China (PRC) have been published by the Xinhua news agency. The yearbook will be distributed at home and abroad, according to official sources.

The yearbook, the 24th since 1981, covers all social and economic issues in 41 categories to offer a handy reference for both

Chinese and foreign readers. All its figures have been checked by authoritative persons and experts from central and local

government departments.

The Chinese version contains approximately three million characters.

MNA/Xinhua



A boy waves an Iraqi flag as US and Iraqi soldiers walk past on patrol in the northern Iraq city of Mosul, on 17 Dec, 2004.—INTERNET

## Singapore, Hong Kong sign aviation maintenance MoU

SINGAPORE, 18 Dec — The Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore and Hong Kong's Civil Aviation Department signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on aircraft components maintenance on Thursday.

Entitled "Technical Arrangement on Aviation Maintenance," the MoU will make it easier for maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) companies based in Singapore to maintain aircraft components on Hong Kong-registered aircraft, and

vice versa.

The MoU inked today, which allows the civil aviation authorities of the two sides to mutually recognize each other's approvals, will boost business opportunities for MRO industries in Singapore and Hong Kong

through easier access into each other's markets.

There are now 60 MRO organizations registered in Singapore, which employ more than 11,000 workers and generated a total output of about 2.3 billion US dollars in 2003.

MNA/Xinhua



India's textile and garment makers are cranking up capacity ahead of the lifting of global import quotas at the end of 2004 as they seek to cash in on a market in which the sky will be the limit.—INTERNET

## Army blames Iraq for drop in recruits

BAGHDAD, 19 Dec — Senior Army commanders have expressed fears that the increasingly vocal anti-Iraq war movement is discouraging thousands of young men from considering a career in the armed forces.

They blame high-profile campaigns against the war, often led by bereaved parents and supported by celebrities and political figures, for worsening recruitment problems, particularly into the infantry.

According to military sources the high media visibility of bereaved parents, such as Rose Gentle, whose 19-year-old son was killed, and the unpopularity of the war have made recruitment and retention a problem, exacerbating an already acute recruitment crisis in areas

such as Scotland. The problem is now also spreading to the north of England and Wales, forces officials say. As well as a shortfall in young men volunteering, army officers have reported a wider reluctance to support a career in the army with parents refusing to sign consent forms for junior soldiers to sign up and, in some cases, local authorities with a strong anti-war sentiment refusing permission for recruitment officers to put up stands at local venues.—Internet

## Japan to invest \$1b in Indonesia

JAKARTA, 19 Dec — The Japanese Government said it was ready to finance some one billion US dollars of mega projects in Indonesia, according to Kusumo A Martorejo, co-chairman of the Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The fund would be invested in the sectors of electricity, petrochemical, gas, and textile, the chairman said on the sidelines of the High-Level Government/Private Sector Joint forum, attended by economic ministers and businessmen of Japan and

Indonesia.

"The number of Japan's new investment will be increased to 1,800 million US dollar to one billion US dollar," he was quoted by the daily *Bisnis Indonesia* as saying on Friday.

MNA/Xinhua

## Bhutan bans smoking in public, tobacco sales

GUWAHATI (India), 18 Dec — The Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan banned smoking in public and tobacco sales on Friday, the first country in the world to do so. The ban by the reclusive, predominantly Buddhist state follows a decision by its national legislature in July to curb smoking to promote national well-being.

"A total ban on the sale and smoking of tobacco has been imposed in the country from December 17," said Lily Wangchuk, a spokeswoman at Bhutan's embassy in New Delhi. "It is for the well-being of the people, to protect the environment and preserve our culture," she told *Reuters*. People who cannot kick the habit can import tobacco for personal use, but at a 100-per cent tax. They can only smoke indoors in the privacy of their homes. Shops and businesses defying the ban face fines starting at 225 US dollars, a steep amount by Bhutan's standards, and repeat violators would risk losing commercial licenses.— MNA/Reuters

## Cambodian leaders meet with Chinese delegation

**PHNOM PENH, 19 Dec**—Cambodia reaffirmed on Saturday that Cambodia always pays great attention to strengthen the friendly relations with China, stressing that it will continue to push forward the all-round development of bilateral relationship.

Cambodia's Senate President Chea Sim and Prime Minister Hun Sen met separately on Saturday with visiting Chinese delegation led by Chen Haosu, president of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC).

Both sides highly spoke the Sino-Cambodian traditional friendly relations initiated by Cambodia's former King Norodom Sihanouk and

Chinese leaders of older generations.

Hun Sen said that the royal government of Cambodia always takes the development of Cambodian-Sino friendly relations as the important part of its foreign policy.

When talking about the issue of Taiwan, Chea Sim and Hun Sen all reaffirmed that Cambodia will continue to stick to the "one China" policy and support China's cause of reunification.

Former King Norodom Sihanouk offered the royal audience with Chen at the Royal Palace. He thanked the Chinese Government and its people for their great and sincere support and assistance extended to Cambodia.

He expressed the belief that the friendships between Cambodia and China will be further strengthened and developed.

Calling China as his

second hometown, Sihanouk said he was greatly impressed with the achievements made by China in various fields and the greatly improvement of China's international status, what he said will be not only benefit the interests of the Chinese people, but also benefit the peace, stability and the development of the region and the world.

Chen arrived here on Friday to start his four-day visit at the invitation of Cambodia-China Friendship Association.

MNA/Xinhua



A man cycles past the large cooling towers of a steel mill in Beijing on 17 Dec, 2004—INTERNET

## Indo-Pakistani cine stars to perform together for peace

**MUMBAI, 19 Dec**—Indian and Pakistani cine stars would perform together for the first time at the 'Indo-Pakistani Mega Film Achievement Award' in Dubai on 17 February next year.

"The Pakistani stars would dance to Indian music numbers while the Indian stars would perform to Pakistani music," show director and actor Sohail Khan told reporters here Friday.

The function at Al-Vasal Stadium would see five stars each from India and Pakistan being felicitated and awarded for their achievement.

"It will also be the first opportunity for Indo-Pakistani film audiences to jointly vote for best film stars in 12 different categories," according to

Riyaz Bhati, MD, Show Blitz LLC, a leading Dubai-based event management company.

An eight member Indo-Pakistan jury would monitor the online polls. The Indian jury would comprise Waheeda Rehman, Pahalaj Nihlani, David Dhawan and Pooja Bhatt while the Pakistan jury would include Samina Peerzada, Nazeer Baig, Mareena Khan and Mubassir Lokman.

The concert aims at providing a platform for artistes from both countries to come together

and seek to break the line of divide. It aims at using cinema as an effective tool to create an ambience for Indo-Pakistani peace and harmony, Khan said.

Bollywood stars, Salman Khan, Hrithik Roshan, Fardeen Khan, Zayed Khan, Shilpa Shetty, Urmila Matondkar, Priyanka Chopra, Mallaika Arora Khan and Esha Deol will perform with Pakistani actors, Meera, Zara Sheikh, Soniya Khan, Resham and Saira Nasrin among others.

MNA/PTI

## China's productive resources sales hit \$1.2t

**BEIJING, 19 Dec**—Chinese sales of productive resources in the first 11 months of this year has exceeded 10 trillion yuan (1.2 trillion US dollars), reaching 10.3 trillion yuan a historical high, according to official figures.

The Ministry of Commerce said Friday on its web site (www.mofcom.gov.cn) that the year-on-year growth was 19.8 per cent without accounting for inflation.

The ministry predicted that the annual growth will be 19 per cent and the total volume will amount to 11.4 trillion yuan.

Thanks to China's macro-economic policies, the productive resources market witnessed the high growth, according to the ministry. This has contributed to the increase in consumption structure, soaring foreign trade, urbanization and the country's strive to develop the western and northeastern region. — MNA/Xinhua



## Indian Army Chief to visit China

**BEIJING, 19 Dec**—India's Chief of Army Staff, General N C Vij, will visit China next week to hold talks on ways to enhance trust and confidence between the militaries of the two countries.

General Vij would be paying an official visit to China from December 22 to 29 and would have high-level talks on ways to enhance trust and confidence between the militaries of the two countries so as to develop bilateral relations as a whole.

"Details of the high-level visit are being worked out," a senior Indian Embassy official told PTI, pointing out that it would be the first visit by an Indian Army Chief in over a decade to China, India's biggest neighbour. The last Indian Army Chief to visit China was General B C Joshi, who was here in July, 1994. General Fu Quanyou was the last Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) Chief of Staff to visit India in April-May of 1998.

During the historic visit to China by former Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee in June last year, the two sides signed the first-ever Joint Declaration in which they agreed on the need to broaden and deepen defence exchanges to enhance the mutual understanding and trust between the two Armed Forces.

MNA/PTI

## China maps out plan for expressway network

**BEIJING, 19 Dec**—Friday's executive meeting of China's State Council, chaired by Premier Wen Jiabao, passed in principle a plan for the construction of China's national expressway network.

Details of the plan were not disclosed, but participants said the meeting reached a decision that construction of the network must conform with China's economic and social development and take into account regional development, urban and rural development and population distribution.

"Advanced technology and materials should be used to improve construction quality and cut cost," says the decision. It also calls on reforming the expressway management mechanism.

China's expressway construction embarked on a fast track since the 1990s. At the end of 2003, China has opened to traffic 29,700 kilometres of expressway, ranking the second in the world. — MNA/Xinhua



An Ariane 5G, sits atop its mobile launch platform in French Guinea in February 2004.—INTERNET

**Cold snap kills 26 in Mexico**

**MEXICO CITY, 18 Dec**—A powerful cold snap hit the central and northern parts of Mexico, killing 26 people directly and indirectly, the authorities said Friday.

Of the victims, 11 died of hypothermia, 10 of carbon monoxide intoxication, and five of burns.

Thousands more suffer from respiratory diseases like flu or pneumonia.

December this year in Mexico has been harsher than usual due to the El Nino climate phenomenon in the Pacific Ocean, off the Ecuador coasts, said Raul Rivera Palacios, director of civil protection and disaster management.

Mexico's central and northern areas were hardest hit, he said.

However, the Mexico City authorities said nobody has died of cold in the capital, as homeless people are taken to shelters for protection. —MNA/Xinhua



# Khabaung Multipurpose Dam Project

Article by Kyaw Sein &  
Photos by Thein Win Lay  
(Myanma Alin)

The Union of Myanmar has catchment areas whose annual water flow is 876 million acre feet. In the nation, Ayeyawady, Chindwin, Thanlwin, Sittoung and Bilin rivers have more

There are 11 major tributaries that flow into

Creek. The earthen embankment of the dam is 920 feet long and 200 feet high. With 14,657-acre water surface, the facility can store 878,570 acre feet of water.

The catchment area of the Khabaung Creek is 418 square miles. The region has an average rainfall of 90 inches a year. The annual water flow of the Creek is 730,000 acre feet.

The Khabaung Multipurpose Dam Project comprises five parts — construction of (1) diversion tunnel, (2) earthen embankment, (3) spillway, (4) diversion weir two miles downstream the dam, and (5) irrigation system.

The construction of the diversion tunnel, main part of the Project, began in December 2001. The Irrigation Department has worked hard to overcome a lot of difficulties in constructing the diversion tunnel with 1,200 feet in length and 13.12 feet in diameter.

The Department was able to construct the breakthrough point on 15 February 2004, and fill concrete to the diversion tunnel in March.

A temporary dam

the Sittoung River, namely Hsinthay, Ngalaik, Paunglaung, Hswa, Khabaung, Pyu, Kun, Ye Nwe, Thaukyaykhat and Shwe Kyin creeks. The Khabaung Multipurpose Dam Project, being implemented at the place 1.25 miles downstream the confluence of Khabaung and Paraing creeks in Ottwin Township, Bago Division, is part of the Sittoung Basin Development Project.

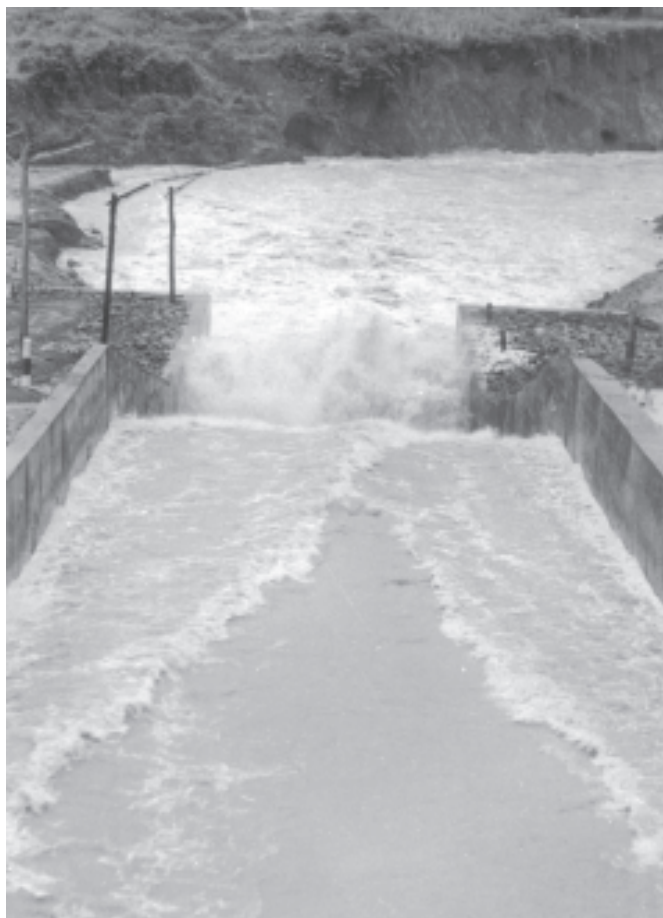
On completion, the Khabaung Multipurpose Dam Project will be able to irrigate 100,000 acres of farmlands, generate 30 megawatts, and prevent flooding of the Khabaung

**The Khabaung Multipurpose Dam Project will be able to irrigate 100,000 acres of farmlands, generate 30 megawatts, and prevent flooding of the Khabaung Creek. The earthen embankment of the dam is 920 feet long and 200 feet high. With 14,657-acre water surface, the facility can store 878,570 acre feet of water.**



Deputy Director U Aung Win of Construction Group-5 of the Irrigation Department briefs Myanma Alin Daily on the Khabaung Multipurpose Dam Project.

catchment areas than any other rivers. So, the Irrigation Department under the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation



The 1,200-foot-long and 13.12-foot-diameter diversion tunnel, part of the Khabaung Multipurpose Dam Project, being implemented by Construction Group-5 of the Irrigation Department.

had to be constructed to divert the flow of the Khabaung Creek via the diversion tunnel, and it was completed on 20 January. Since 20 May

2004, the flow of the Creek has been diverted through the tunnel. All necessary arrangements are being made to resume the construction of the

main embankment in the open season.

With water from the Khabaung Dam, 100,000 acres will be put under paddy, sugarcane and other crops. The region, in which the Khabaung Dam is located, has an average annual rainfall of 90 inches, so the facility has to irrigate farmlands of summer paddy and summer crops only.

Moreover, the project will be able to generate 120 million kilowatt hours a year.

Therefore, the Project will help promote the income and living standard of local farmers and contribute to the economy of the State to a certain degree.

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(Translation: MS)

Myanma Alin:

11-11-2004

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The Khabaung Multipurpose Dam Project being implemented at the place, 1.25 miles downstream the confluence of the Khabaung Creek and the Paraing Creek in Ottwin Township, Bago Division.

## Yeywa Hydel Power Project...

(from page 1)

the prerequisite for the project had been completed and the facility was opened on 31 July 2004; and that on completion of the project, it will be able to supply power to Shwesayan, Bailin and Meiktila through sub-power stations.

Later, Senior General Than Shwe and party watched documentary video on the project.

Next, Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance, saying that it is necessary to complete the project as soon as possible to be able to meet the electricity demand of the State; that measures are

to be taken in accord with the set standard; that serious attention is to be paid to the project as it is a huge one; and that supervisory measures are to be taken for minimizing loss and wastage.

Next, Senior General Than Shwe presented a fruit basket to Project Director of Colenco Power Engineering Co Ltd Mr Fischer.

After that, Senior General Than Shwe and party viewed the project from the briefing hall.

Next, Senior General Than Shwe and party inspected construction of Dothtawady River-crossing bridge (Yeywa), work



Senior General Than Shwe hears reports on scale model for carrying concrete to the main dam of Yeywa Hydel Power Plant Project by conveyor belt presented by Deputy Minister for Electric Power U Myo Myint.— MNA

**Yeywa Hydel Power Project is of 2264 feet long and 433 feet high RCC concrete dam type. On completion, its storage capacity will be 2.114 million acre feet. Four generators each with 197.5 magawatt will be installed and the project will be able to generate 790 magawatt. At present, 31 per cent of the project has been completed.**



Construction site of Yeywa Hydel Power Plant Project.— MNA

being carried out with the use of heavy machinery and progress of the project.

Afterwards, Senior General Than Shwe and party proceeded to the site for construction of RCC Batching Plant, CVC Batching Plant and Ica Plant where Deputy

Minister U Myo Myint and Minister Maj-Gen Tin Htut reported on arrangements for construction of RCC concrete plants and related buildings and measures being taken for conveying of concrete to the main dam by conveyor belt.

Next, Senior General Than Shwe and party inspected items used in mixing concrete, samples of natural pozzolan, and construction of RCC Batching Plant and CVC

Batching Plant.

Yeywa Hydel Power Project is of 2264 feet long and 433 feet high RCC concrete dam type. On completion, its storage capacity will be 2.114 million acre feet. Four generators each with a capacity of 197.5 magawatt will be installed and the project will be able to generate 790 magawatt.

At present, 31 per cent of the project has been completed.—MNA

## ASEAN Open Optimist C'ship continues

YANGON, 19 Dec — 2004 ASEAN Open Optimist Championship continued at Chaungtha Beach Resort, Patheingyi Township, Ayeyawady Division, on 17 December. Organized by the Ministry of Sports and the Myanmar Yachting Federation, the yachting competition attracted eight teams — two from Myanmar, and one each from Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Japan and Sri Lanka.

Yesterday night, balloons were flown to mark strengthening of friendship among the participating countries. — MNA

## Deputy Foreign Minister returns home

YANGON, 19 Dec — The Myanmar delegation led by U Maung Myint, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, arrived back here by air yesterday evening after attending the 5th Meeting of Myanmar-Viet Nam Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation held in Hanoi, Socialist Republic of Viet Nam from 15 to 17 December.

The delegation was welcomed by Directors-General and responsible personnel of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other Ministries concerned and Mr Pham Quang Khon, Ambassador of Viet Nam to the Union of Myanmar at the Yangon International Airport.

Deputy Foreign Minister U Maung Myint and Dr Bui Ba Bong, Vice Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, discussed bilateral relations, particularly to further promote the existing cooperation in the areas of agriculture, forestry, industry, investment, tourism, sports and prevention of crime. The two leaders signed the Agreed Minutes of the 5th Meeting of Myanmar-Viet Nam Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation on 17 December 2004.

The Joint Commission Meeting was preceded by the Senior Officials Meetings held on 15 and 16

December.

On 16 December, Deputy Foreign Minister U Maung Myint paid a courtesy call on Mr Le Cong Phung, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, at the latter's office. Deputy Foreign Minister U Maung Myint explained current affairs of Myanmar and the two Deputy Foreign Ministers exchanged views on promotion of existing friendly relations between the two countries. Also present at the call was U Tin Latt, Myanmar Ambassador to Viet Nam.

Deputy Foreign Minister U Maung Myint attended the dinner hosted in his honour by Mr Cao Duc Phat, Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development of Viet Nam, on 17 December.

Deputy Foreign Minister U Maung Myint, accompanied by U Tin Latt, Myanmar Ambassador to Viet Nam, went on a study tour of Ha Long Bay, a tourist resort, which is about 100 kilometers from Hanoi, on 16 December. In the afternoon of 17 December, Deputy Foreign Minister U Maung Myint visited two factories which produced telecommunication equipment.

MNA



Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint arrives back from Viet Nam.— MNA



## PLA Deputy Chief of General Logistics Department and party conclude goodwill visit

YANGON, 19 Dec — The visiting Chinese goodwill delegation led by Deputy Chief of General Logistics Department of PLA Lt-Gen Sun Zhiqiang left here by air this afternoon.

Before their departure for China, Member of the State Peace and Development Council Quartermaster-General Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo presented a photo album on goodwill visit and video tapes to Lt-Gen Sun Zhiqiang at the special lounge of the airport. Next, Quartermaster-General Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Chief of Staff (Navy) Captain Nyan Tun, Vice Quartermaster-General Maj-Gen Khin Maung Tun, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, Chinese Ambassador Mr Li Jinjun, Military Attaché Senior Colonel Ma Shoudong and officials saw off the Chinese delegation led by Lt-Gen Sun Zhiqiang at Yangon International Airport.—MNA

*Visiting Deputy Chief Lieutenant-General Sun Zhiqiang of General Logistics Department and delegation visit Defence Services Museum. —MNA*



*Quartermaster-General Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Myint Oo sees off Deputy Chief of General Logistics Department Lieutenant General Sun Zhiqiang. —MNA*



## Chinese delegation visits Defence Services Museum, Drug Elimination Museum

YANGON, 19 Dec — Visiting Deputy Chief of General Logistics Department of PLA Lt-Gen Sun Zhiqiang and party, accompanied by Col San Aye Hla of the Ministry of Defence and Chinese Military

Attaché Senior Colonel Ma Shoudong, this morning visited Defence Services Museum on Shwedagon Pagoda Road.

Officials of the museum conducted them round the booths of the

museum. Next, the guests visited Drug Elimination Museum at the corner of Hantawady and Kyundaw Roads in Kamayut Township. They viewed round booths at the museum. —MNA

## Cultivation of export crops and promotion of new export items coordinated in Ayeyawady Division

YANGON, 19 Dec — A coordination meeting on cultivation of export crops and promotion of new export items was held at Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Office in Patheingyi yesterday.

Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South West Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing delivered an opening address. Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Gaing Thein discussed extended cultivation of marketable export crops such as rubber, cashew and pepper, cultivation of local fruit, promotion of new export items and assist-

ance of the ministry to growers and exporters.

The commander also said Ayeyawady Division is rich in land and marine resources such as agricultural, marine and forest products. If production and cultivation of crops increase greater economic progress will be made in the region. Especially, he said, rubber, an industrial raw material, is in great demand. He spoke of the need to grow it more.

Present at the meeting were members of Division PDC, chairmen of District PDCs, departmental officials, chairmen and executives of Ayeyawady Division Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Rice Merchants Associa-

tion, Rice Millers' Association and businessmen.

The minister and guests inspected rice mill No 162 of Myanmar Agricultural Produce Trading in Patheingyi. —MNA

## Yangon Command Commander attends opening ceremony of Danu national race Dhammayon

YANGON, 19 Dec — A ceremony to open Danu national race Dhammayon on Kyartawya Street in Bahan Township took place today. Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung formally opened it. Present on the occasion were Daw Khin

Thet Htay, wife of the Commander of Yangon Command, Director-General of Religious Affairs Department Dr Myo Myint, Maj-Gen Aung Thein of the Ministry of Defence and wife, military region commanders, Lt-Col Myint Kyi, Secretary of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council and members, Lt-Col Kyaw Tint, Chairman of Yangon West District and members, among others. Afterwards, Chair-

man of Danu national race Dhammayon construction committee U Soe Nyunt explained matters related to the Dhammayon. Next, Director-General Dr Myo Myint, Chairman U Soe Nyunt and U Tin Maung, a Danu national race, inaugurated the Dhammayon.

The minister then unveiled the stone inscription, sprinkled it with scented water and the ceremony ended. —MNA

## Industrialists urged to meet production target

YANGON, 19 Dec — Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin together with officials concerned arrived at South Dagon Industrial Zone of the Ministry of Industry-2 yesterday.

At the briefing hall, the minister heard reports on annual production to exceed the target, income and expenditures, power supply, arrangements being made for running of machines with full capac-

ity in dry cell workshop, battery container workshop, oxygen gas plant, acetylene gas plant, bolt and nut workshop and LNG plant presented by Managing Director U Kyaw Win of Myanmar Machine Tool and Electrical Industries.

Regarding the reports, the minister instructed officials to make efforts for production to meet the set standard during the period in 2004-

2005 fiscal year, to make arrangements for distribution of manufactured goods to the markets, to create condition for production of plastic fire extinguishers, to take preventive measures against outbreaks danger of fire and to systematically store fuel. While the minister was inspecting battery container workshop, bolt and nut workshop, wire workshop and oxygen gas plant, managing director U Kyaw Win and general manager Daw Le Le Win reported production lines to him. After hearing the reports, the minister instructed officials to produce quality battery containers more, to distribute bolts and nuts to Shwe Myanmar Shops and Industrial Zones, to make arrangements of test run of machines in wire workshop, to green industrial zone and its environs and to make efficient use of electricity and fuel.

MNA



*Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin inspects factories in South Dagon Industrial Zone. —INDUSTRY-2*

## Functions of MRTV inspected

YANGON, 19 Dec — Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, accompanied by Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Thein and officials this morning gave instructions on departmental functions to officials at Myanmar Radio and Television.

At the meeting, Director-General of MRTV U Khin Maung Htay reported on organizational set-up of MRTV, income and expenditure, efficient use of electricity, construction of re-transmission stations and on-going works. Chief Engineer U Tin Wan also submitted progress reports in detail.

After hearing the reports, the minister in-



Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan inspects the site chosen for construction of staff quarter of MRTV. — MNA

structed them to take fire prevention measures in the dry season, practise fire fighting exercise in accord with the plan, step up TV

and radio broadcasting systems, carry out telecasting of TV programmes with the use of fibre optic method, extend broadcast-

ing of MRTV-4 programmes with momentum and supervise timely completion of buildings this year meeting the set stand-

ard.

The minister and officials inspected fire prevention measures for MRTV building, staff

quarters and construction of buildings. Later, the minister gave necessary instructions to officials.

MNA

## CAFEO-22 concludes successfully thanks to Government assistance

YANGON, 19 Dec — The 22nd Conference of ASEAN Federation of Engineering Organizations hosted by the Union of Myanmar and organized by Myanmar Engineering Society continued its programmes for the paper-reading session, the meeting of ASEAN Federation of Engineering Organizations Governing Board and Procedure Norms Forum on second day today.

Present on the occasion were Chairman of the World Federation of Engineering Organizations Dato' Ir Lee Yee Chong, ASEAN Engineers Commission Dr Gue See Sew, advisers to the AFEO, President of AFEO-cum-Chairman of Myanmar Engineering Society Prof Dr Sein Myint, chairmen and leaders of the delegation and members of engineering

societies of ASEAN countries, representatives of Canada, Australia, the UK and the US, members of MES and observers.

The Paper-reading Session was held at the designated places of Sedona Hotel this morning and afternoon. Six groups of the resource persons submitted 84 papers to the session. A total of 134 papers were presented to the two-day paper-reading session.

The ASEAN Federation of Engineering Organizations Governing Board held its meeting at Ahlon Hall. Meeting Chairman Dr Sein Myint delivered an address. Participants discussed matters related to the reports submitted yesterday.

They briefed the meeting on accomplishment of tasks adopted at the 21st AFEO Governing Board in Indonesia in October

2003.

Leader of Myanmar new generation engineers group U Ye Myat Htoo submitted the minutes of their meeting No 11.

Chairman of the World Federation of Engineering Organizations Dato' Ir Lee Yee Chong explained tasks of World Federation of Engineering Organizations, and accepted gifts presented by Dr Sein Myint.

The meeting decided to hold the 23rd CAFE0 in Vientiane, the Lao People's Democratic Republic. Next, the delegates participated in the discussions on development of the AFEO Governing Board.

Afterwards, the press conference on the 22nd CAFE0 was held at 2 pm. Present were Chairman of MES Dr Sein Myint, ASEAN Engineers



ASEAN Federation of Engineering Organization-AFEO in progress. — MNA

Commission Dr Gue See Sew, Advisers to AFEO Ir Choo Kok Beng and Ir Chitr Lilavivat, chairmen of engineering societies and leaders of the delegations, President of Myanmar Foreign Correspondents Club U Sao Kai Hpa and members and officials.

Ir Prof Abang Abdullah Abang Ali, President of the Institution of Engineers, Malaysia, and Ir Prof Means Sokhom, President of the Engineering Institution of Engineers, Cambodia, briefed on the 22nd CAFE0 and the Yangon Declaration covering the future tasks of ASEAN Federation of Engineering Organisations which will be implemented during the next 10 years, agreement of the establishment of ASEAN Academy of Engineering and Technology and future plans and designation of 23rd CAFE0 to be held

in Laos.

Number of the participants and delegates from ASEAN nations to this conference were more than the past conferences. Thanks to the assistance of the Union of Myanmar government, the 22nd CAFE0 was successfully held on magnificent scale, they said.

Next, officials answered the queries raised by the journalists and the press conference concluded at 3.30 pm.

At 4 pm, the closing ceremony of the 22nd CAFE0 followed.

At the ceremony, Dr Sein Myint presented prizes to AFEO Honorary Fellowship winners from Indonesia and Cambodia and ASEAN Engineering Outstanding Award winners from the Philippines, Indonesia, Singapore and Myanmar.

Dr Sein Myint presented SEO Honorary

Member certificates to 14 persons—two from Thailand, nine from Myanmar, three from Cambodia and ASEAN Engineer Registrars certificates to 28 persons—one from Indonesia, two from Cambodia, three from the Philippines and 22 from Myanmar.

Next, Dr Sein Myint handed over the flag of the federation to New Chairman of the federation-cum-Chairman of Laos Union of Science and Engineering Association Ir Chanphong Phanvongsa to hold the 23rd CAFE0 in December 2005 in Lao PDR.

The new chairman extended greetings and explained matters concerning Lao PDR.

Later, Prof Dr Sein Myint expressed vote of thanks and the conference concluded successfully in the evening.

MNA



A press conference on the 22nd ASEAN Engineering Organization-AFEO in progress. — 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

## Commander, Rail Transportation Minister...

(from page 16)

On 17 December, the commander and the minister attended the ceremony to inaugurate bio-gas power plant in Thongwa model village in DaikU Township in the afternoon. The commander gave a speech.

Chairman of the Township Peace and Development Council U Myint Sein reported on efforts to be made for emergence of the plant.

Bago Division USDA Secretary U Saw Maw Tun presented cash donated by the minister to

Township USDA Executive Secretary of Village Power Supply Committee U Thet Lwin. Next, officials formally opened the plant. The commander unveiled the signboard and pressed the button to operate the power plant.

The bio-gas power

plant can generate 50 kilowatt of electricity. Its expenditure can expense over K 950,000 in generating power with 480 gallons of diesel a month. If the plant uses paddy husk, only over K 50,000 a month can be spent. Therefore, over K 900,000 can be saved in expense for the villagers.— MNA

Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint of Myanmar and Vice Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development of the SRV sign the Agreed Minutes of the 5th Meeting of Myanmar-Viet Nam Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation. (News on Page 8)

MNA



## Rail Transportation Deputy Minister greets delegates of WBS

YANGON, 19 Dec — Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation Thura U Thaung Lwin, together with Managing Director of Myanmar Railways U Min Swe, departmental heads and officials, cordially greeted the

delegates of World Buddhist Summit who arrived back from Mandalay by special train at Yangon Station at this morning.

MNA

## Experience on IATSS Forum clarified

YANGON, 19 Dec — Clarification on experience of the 35th and 36th International Association of Traffic and Safety Sciences-IATSS

Forum held in Japan took place at Traders Hotel on 17th December.

First, Ma May Swe Zin Myint of Nilay Naing Co Ltd and Tin Maung Oo of Win Trade Company explained their experiences and Director Mr Toshio Ashizawa replied to the queries raised by those present.

It is the IATSS Forum that the youths from ASEAN countries to exchange views on knowledge and cultures of Japan and respective ASEAN countries.

Youths, aged under 35, may contact IATSS Forum Myanmar Committee and IATSS Forum Alumni Association of UMFCCL.

MNA

## District News

### New school building handed over in Pyapon

PYAPON, 8 Dec — The handing over ceremony of new school building was held at Basic Education Primary School No 17 in Ward 14 of Pyapon Township on 1 December.

Present were Chairman of Pyapon District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Ye Htut, Secretary Maj Maung Htay, Chairman of Township PDC U Khin Maung Yi, District Education Officer U Thein San Aung, District Information and Public Relations Department Staff Officer U Aye Kyu and officials, teachers and students.

Chairman of Township PDC U Khin Maung Yi and District Education Officer U Thein San Aung formally opened the new school building. Next, officials of the construction committee handed over the building to the DEO. The school building is 54 feet long and 30 feet wide.

KYEMON

### Labutta FSD demonstrates fire fighting skills

LABUTTA, 3 Dec — The fire fighting demonstration, organized by Myanma Petroleum Products Enterprise and Township Fire Services Department under the leadership of Labutta Township Peace and Development Council, was held at the filling station of MPPE in Labutta on 27 November.

Chairman of the Township Peace and Development Council U Myo Han and officials attended the demonstration. Head of the Township FSD U Soe Naung and FSD members demonstrated the fire fighting skill. — KYEMON

### Construction of bridge inspected in Kawkaireik

KYA-IN-SEIKKYI, 2 Dec — For ensuring smooth transportation between rural and urban areas in Kya-in-Seikkyi Township, Deputy Commissioner of Kawkaireik District General Administration Department U Soe Mya, Chairman of Kawkaireik Township Peace and Development Council U Tin Win and officials on 16 November inspected the bridge on Kyakhatchaung Road built by the Township Development Affairs Committee.

Engineer in-charge U Tun Hla Aung briefed the Deputy Commission and officials on construction matters of the bridge.

It was one of the development tasks of the township DAC in 2004-2005 fiscal year.

\*MYANMA ALIN



Mr Toshio Ashizawa of IATSS Forum clarifies the course at Traders Hotel on 17th December. — H

### မြန်မာ့ရုပ်ရှင်လုပ်ငန်း

#### ၂၀၀၃-ခုနှစ်အတွက် အကယ်ဒမီရွှေစင်ရုပ်ဆွဲပေးပွဲ

##### ကျင်းပမည့်နေ့ရက်

အမျိုးသားအားကစား  
ဗြိတိန်(၁) သုဝဏ္ဏ

##### ကျင်းပမည့်နေ့ရက်

၂၆-၁၂-၂၀၀၄ (တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့)

##### ကျင်းပမည့်အချိန်

ညနေ (၅:၃၀)နာရီ

##### လက်မှတ်

ရောင်းချမည့်

နေရာများ



##### လက်မှတ်

ရောင်းချမည့်

ရက်

အချိန်

စင်ကြေးနှုန်း

##### အသွယ်ရုပ်ရှင်

ရိုက်ကူးမှုအောင်ဆန်းလမ်း

၂ ရက်နာရီရုပ်ရှင်

ဗြိတိန်(၁) သုဝဏ္ဏ

၃ အမျိုးသားအားကစား

ဗြိတိန်(၁) သုဝဏ္ဏ

၂၀-၁၂-၂၀၀၄

(အင်္ဂါနေ့)

နေ့စဉ် နံနက်(၉:၀၀)နာရီ

မှ ညနေ (၄:၀၀)နာရီ

ကျပ် ၂၀၀၀/- ၁၈၀၀/-

၁၅၀၀/- ၁၀၀၀/-



စုံပါကော်မီစစ်မှပုံရိပ်ကူညီသည်။

##### အထူးသတိပေးချက်

လက်မှတ်အတိုင်း ခေါ်ဝေါ်နိုင်မှုကြောင့် အထက်ပါ သတ်မှတ်နေရာများတွင် ဝယ်ယူသော လက်မှတ်များမှလွဲ၍ အခြားမြင်ပုံတွင် ဝယ်ယူသော လက်မှတ်များ အတွက် တာဝန်ယူပါ။

## China to diversify film import source countries

BEIJING, 18 Dec—China will raise the quotas on imported films from other countries, said an official with the State Administration of Radio, Film and Television on Wednesday.

In recent years, China imported about 50 films annually, about a half were from the United States.

Since many Chinese are unable to watch many films from other countries, the Film Bureau will make more efforts to diversify the source countries next year, said Tong Gang, director of the film bureau on an on-line talk programme.

Huaxia Films and China Film Group, the two Chinese distributors of foreign films, will distribute six films from January to March of 2005. Among them, half are from the United States, two from France and one from the United Kingdom, according to Huaxia's planning manager Guan Zheng.

"In order to enrich the market, 'multi-nation, multi-type and multi-theme' is our principle for importing films in 2005,"

Guan said.

According to Tong, the proportion of imported movies depends on the scale of the Chinese film market. Currently, most Chinese cinemas are traditionally single cinemas, who can show a limited number of movies. In order to protect Chinese movies from being overwhelmed by foreign competition, the administration requires the cinemas to spend at least two-thirds of the annual run time to domestic films.

However, more multi-screened cinemas are being built in China. The administration is actively promoting various types of investment — including private and foreign — to help build more cinemas, bringing more foreign movies to China, said Tong.

MNA/Xinhua

## At least 160 poisoned by arsenic in Liaoning Province

BEIJING, 18 Dec—At least 160 people have been poisoned by arsenic in China's northeastern province of Liaoning after waste water from a copper plant leaked into the water supply, state media reported on Friday.

The victims were being treated in hospital, the official Xinhua news agency said, but it did not say if anyone had died from the poisoning.

"The valves of the plant's waste water recycling pipelines did not function properly, so water containing heavy metals, such as arsenic and manganese, flowed into a nearby well," Xinhua said.—MNA/Reuters

## Suez Canal authorities will use chemical to disperse crude oil spill

ISMAILIA (Egypt), 18 Dec—Egyptian Suez Canal authorities are trying to direct a crude oil spill away from Port Said where it could damage ships and equipment, a canal official said on Friday.

The official said the authorities were attempting to direct the 20-kilometres (13-mile) long slick, heading north towards the port, to an empty waiting area normally used by ships crossing the canal, where it could be dispersed using chemicals.

"If the slick reaches Port Said it could damage ships' engines and quays," the official said.

"We are trying to direct the slick to an empty waiting area about 10 kilometres from the port... We will use chemicals to dis-

perse it," he said, adding canal traffic had not been affected by the spill.

The official said six ships were in Port Said on Friday but added it was not possible to say if the port would have to be closed if the slick reached it.

About 10,000 cubic metres of crude oil leaked from a Kuwaiti tanker on Tuesday after it collided with a quay in the canal.

The canal, nationalized in 1956, is a major source of foreign exchange for the Egyptian Government.

MNA/Reuters

## Customs seizes shipment of party drug in Guangdong Province

BEIJING, 18 Dec—Chinese Customs officers have made the biggest ecstasy bust in the country's history, seizing a shipment of the party drug in the southern province of Guangdong, China Central Television reported on Friday.

Customs found the high-grade stash last month hidden among a load of scrap metal, the report said.

Chinese police said they had arrested 13 people in connection with the case but did not identify any of them.

Customs officer Zhang Yuemin was quoted as saying two things raised suspicion about the shipment.

"It was declared as scrap steel, and the Guangzhou market for that is very limited.

"Second is the fee for shipping this from northern Europe to Guangzhou would be 10,000 yuan (1,200 US dollars), but the products were declared to be worth 30,000 yuan

(3,600 US dollars), so there would be almost no room for profit."

The drugs, weighing a total of 460.9 kilos, were produced in the Netherlands and smuggled in on a merchant ship that set out from North America and stopped in northern Europe before reaching China, the report said.

The case was unusual for the volume and purity of the drugs, Chen Jianwen, vice-director of the Guangzhou Nanhai Customs Bureau in Guangdong said. The ecstasy pills were over 50 percent pure, meaning seven or eight taken in one dose would be enough to kill a person, the report said.—MNA/Reuters

## Zimbabwe to prioritize development goals to reduce poverty

HARARE, 18 Dec—The Zimbabwean Government said Thursday it will prioritize three Millennium Development Goals (MDG) to reduce poverty and combat the spread of HIV/AIDS pandemic in the country.

The goals include halving poverty and hunger, promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women and combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases by the Year 2015.

In a speech read on his behalf at the Poverty Reduction Forum (PRF) annual general meeting on Thursday, Public Service Labour and Social Welfare permanent secretary, Lancaster Museka urged stakeholders to support the government in its efforts to realize the goals. "While there are eight goals to be achieved by 2015, we have singled-out three which we would like all stakeholders to give greater attention. These are the goals that dwell on poverty reduction, HIV/AIDS

and gender," he said.

He said Zimbabwe still faced a lot of challenges in terms of reducing poverty. The drop in the country's inflation, which is still the world's highest, did not necessarily translate into a decrease in prices, he said, hence the cost of living remained relatively high for the poor and vulnerable in society.

Speaking at the meeting, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) head for the Poverty and Economic Management Unit, Jesimen Chipika, revealed that Zimbabwe had produced the first comprehensive MDG report with the 2015 national targets on all the development goals.—MNA/Xinhua



A one-month-old dolphin named Zeus swims beside its mother, Mancha, at the Madrid Zoo on 17 Dec, 2004.

INTERNET

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## 12 miners missing in snowstorm in southern Iran

TEHERAN, 18 Dec—A total of 12 miners went missing in a snowstorm in the southern Iranian province of Fars Thursday evening, the official IRNA news agency reported Friday.

An informed official told IRNA that the miners went missing while heading home after they finished work in the mountains.

A rescue helicopter was dispatched to the region from the provincial capital Shiraz Friday morning and was currently on a search mission in the affected region, the official said.

Meanwhile, fortuitous events headquarters of the

province also sent rescue teams to help search the miners. It was reported the helicopter dispatched to the region crashed over the mountains due to the extremely bad weather, killing at least one crew member aboard.

IRNA said it could not confirm the report.

MNA/Xinhua

**Drive  
safely**



# မညာရေးဖြင့် ခေတ်မီပွဲပြီးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်ဖို့

## Pfizer Inc finds heart attack risk Celebrex

NEW YORK, 19 Dec — Pfizer Inc said it found an increased risk of heart attacks and strokes for patients taking high dosages of its top-selling arthritis painkiller Celebrex, the same problem that led to the withdrawal of its one-time competitor Vioxx.

The company said it has no plans to remove Celebrex from the market, but the disclosure on Friday sent Pfizer's shares tumbling because of fears that it could cripple sales of what had been the most-prescribed drug for treating arthritis.

Acting FDA Commissioner Lester Crawford said the government is advising physicians to consider prescribing drugs other than Celebrex to their patients.

But doctors have already been inundated with phone calls from worried

patients and say they will curtail writing prescriptions for the drug. Shares of Pfizer, a member of the Dow index and the world's largest pharmaceutical maker, plunged 3.23 US dollars, or 11.15 per cent, to 25.75 US dollars in late afternoon trading on the New York Stock Exchange. The decline wiped out almost 25 billion US dollars of Pfizer's market value.

The drug industry has already been under fire for numerous high profile debacles: Merck & Co.'s withdrawal of

Vioxx, the failure of Chiron Corp to deliver half the country's flu vaccines, and disclosures that drug companies had stifled negative clinical trial data from studies examining anti-depressant use in children.

Both Celebrex and Vioxx are a type of drug called cox-2 inhibitors. Vioxx was pulled from the market in September because it doubled patients' risk of heart attack and strokes.

National Institutes of Health director Dr Elias Zerhouni said that he or-

dered a full review of the more than 40 agency-supported studies involving cox-2 inhibitors.

News of the increased heart risk for patients using Celebrex came in one of two long-term cancer prevention trials.

The National Cancer Institute, which was conducting the study for Pfizer, said patients in the clinical trial taking 800 milligrammes of Celebrex had a 3.4 times greater risk of cardiovascular events compared to a placebo. For patients in the trial taking 400 milligrammes of Celebrex the risk was 2.5 times greater. The average duration of treatment in the trial was 33 months.

MNA/AP

## AMA concerned over teen use of sweet alcohol drinks

CHICAGO, 18 Dec — Sweet alcoholic drinks aggressively marketed to young people in the United States are anything but "cool and fashionable" and are luring troubling numbers of teens — especially girls — to engage in underage drinking, the American Medical Association said.

A nationwide AMA poll of 741 youngsters aged 12 to 18 found that 31 per cent of girls and 19 per cent of boys had consumed drinks some call "alco-pop" or "malternatives" in the past six months.

The products include fruit-flavoured malt drinks with soda pop-like flavours and packaging that critics say disguises the alcohol content. The beverages, such as Mike's Hard Lemonade and Smirnoff Ice, are this generation's version of wine coolers.

Teen girls said they drank the sweetened beverages

more than any other alcoholic drinks, while women 21 and over ranked them as their least-consumed alcoholic beverage, a second poll showed.

Jeff Becker, president of the Beer Institute, an industry trade group, said Thursday that brewers "share the AMA's concern over illegal underage drinking regardless of the type of beverage being consumed."

"Flavored alcohol beverages are not new products in the marketplace, and marketing for these is directed at adults," Becker said. — MNA/AP



Miss World Maria Julia Mantilla of Peru, greets people as she arrives to the northern city of Trujillo, on 18 Dec, 2004. —INTERNET

## 2006 Oscar date selected for 5 March

LOS ANGELES, 18 Dec —US Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences has selected March 5 as the date for the 78th Academy Awards in 2006, Academy President Frank Pierson announced Thursday.

The Academy's Board of Governors decided that the 2006 Oscar show will fall a week later in the calendar than in 2004 and 2005, before returning to late February in 2007.

The step back into March in 2006 was designed as a one-year expedient to avoid a conflict with the closing ceremonies of the 2006 Winter Olympics scheduled to fall on the Academy's natural date of Sunday, February 26. — MNA/Xinhua

## Magnetic bracelets can help ease pain of hip and knee

LONDON, 18 Dec — Magnetic bracelets can help to ease the pain of osteoarthritis of the hip and knee, British researchers said on Friday.

In a study of nearly 200 sufferers of the joint disease, patients who wore a standard-strength magnetic bracelet reported having less pain than those who wore weaker or non-magnetic bracelets for 12 weeks.

"We found evidence of a beneficial effect of magnetic wrist bracelets on the pain of osteoarthritis of the hip and knee," Professor Edzard Ernst, of the Peninsula Medical School in Plymouth, southern England, said in a report in the *British Medical Journal*.

Although the results are consistent with previous studies that analysed magnetic therapy, the sci-

entists said they did not know whether the reported improvement was due to the bracelet, the placebo effect, a believed benefit from a treatment that has no effect, or both.

"Whatever the mechanism, the benefit from magnetic bracelets seems clinically useful," Ernst and his colleagues added. The patients wearing the higher strength magnetic bracelets reported the biggest improvement, which the scientists said suggested the magnetic strength is important. The benefits were in addition to improvements from standard treatments for the illness.

MNA/Reuters

## France launches inquiry into German railway's train fire

STRASBOURG (France), 19 Dec — A French judge has launched a judicial inquiry into the responsibility of Germany's Deutsche Bahn railway in a train fire that killed 12 people in 2002, a judicial source said on Saturday.

The state-owned railway is being probed for involuntary homicide, injuries and damages to victims of the flash fire on board an overnight Paris-Vienna express as it passed through Nancy in eastern France, the source said.

Five Americans, three Germans and two Russians were killed in the blaze. The US victims included an eight-year-old boy and a 12-year-old girl. A Greek and a Hungarian also died.

The German conductor of the Deutsche Bahn sleeper car hit by the fire, which also injured nine people, was put under judicial investigation in March.

Investigators said safety measures were lax in the train.

MNA/Reuters

## Baby girl cut from mother's womb found in good health

MARYVILLE (Missouri), 19 Dec — A baby who was cut from her mother's womb during a grisly slaying has been found in good health, bringing relief to authorities who had spent a day frantically searching for the little girl.

Two people were taken into custody, and the baby was taken to a hospital in Topeka, Kansas, authorities said. Nodaway County Sheriff Ben Espey said during a news conference in Maryville Friday he was confident the little girl taken from Skidmore had been found, noting that the Amber Alert issued for the baby had been cancelled.

FBI agent Rick Thornton said the father has been reunited with his child.

The discovery of the baby and possible arrests came a day after authorities arrived at 23-year-old Bobbi Jo Stinnett's home and found her nearly dead. Paramedics tried to revive her, but she was pronounced dead at a hospital. —MNA/AP



Russian skater Maria Petova and her male partner Alexei Tikhonov, compete in the Pairs Free Skating, at the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final 2004/2005 in Beijing, China on 18 Dec, 2004. —INTERNET

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S**Juventus stays clear after holding AC Milan 0-0**

**TURIN (Italy), December 19** — Juventus and champions AC Milan drew 0-0 at the Delle Alpi Stadium on Saturday, leaving Juve four points clear at the top of Serie A after a game dominated by the visitors.

Milan's newly crowned European footballer of the year Andriy Shevchenko struck the post in the 17th minute and with a minute remaining Andrea Pirlo fired just wide, while Juve created little.

Carlo Ancelotti's Milan will consider the result to be two points dropped after failing to score from a series of chances against a Juventus side who were well below their best.

Juve go into the Christmas break with 39 points while Milan have 35 and Udinese, who are at home to Lazio on Sunday, are third on 28.

Milan were forced into a late change when captain Paolo Maldini pulled out with a calf muscle injury and 38-year-old Alessandro Costacurta replaced him in the centre of defence and in the skipper's role.

The champions were the sharpest out of the blocks and went close in the fourth minute when Brazilian Kaka fed Shevchenko on the right and the Ukrainian fired in a low cross which Hernan Crespo was just unable to connect with.

Shevchenko then beat Buffon, but not the post, with a firmly struck low drive from around 20 metres out as Juve struggled to cope with the visitor's speed and movement.

Argentine Crespo and Dutchman Clarence Seedorf both tested Juventus keeper Gianluigi Buffon while Juve's first effort on goal did not come until close to halftime when Gianluca Zambrotta's drive from the left was well dealt with by Dida.

MNA/Reuters



Juventus' Mauro German Camoranesi, left, and A C Milan's Andrea Pirlo challenge for the ball during the Italian first division soccer league match between Juventus and Milan at Turin's Delle Alpi Stadium, northern Italy, on 18 Dec, 2004. — INTERNET

**Chelsea outclass Norwich 4-0**

**LONDON, 19 Dec** — Chelsea showed no mercy in extending their Premier League lead to six points on Saturday, brushing aside promoted Norwich City 4-0 while second-placed Everton were held to a 0-0 draw at Blackburn Rovers.

First-half goals from Damien Duff, Frank Lampard and Arjen Robben and a superb Didier Drogba header late on handed Jose Mourinho's side a comfortable win at Stamford Bridge.

Chelsea, who have now hit four goals in six of their last nine league games, hold an eight-point advantage over champions Arsenal who can reduce that gap to five if they overcome Portsmouth at Fratton Park on Sunday.

Manchester United, in fifth, host Crystal Palace in a Saturday evening clash.

Chelsea, who never had to hit top gear, served up

another four-goal show for their fans in defeating a Norwich side who have won only two matches since their return to the top flight.

"I think we deserved the victory, no doubt," Mourinho told Sky Sports. "I cannot remember a difficult situation for (goalkeeper) Peter Cech but to be fair, in the first half, they were better side than us."

"Norwich had some control of the game. It was difficult for but our front players are very dangerous — on the counter-attack they are very difficult to stop."

"The second half was different, we had full control of the game."

A defeat was never in doubt once Duff was gifted his seventh goal of the season on 10 minutes from a wayward pass.

More slack defending led to Dutch winger Robben squaring for Lampard to crash an unstoppable shot into the roof of the net for his 50th Premier League goal and Robben hit the third just before halftime. Substitute Drogba added the gloss with a fine header from Duff's corner seven minutes from time.

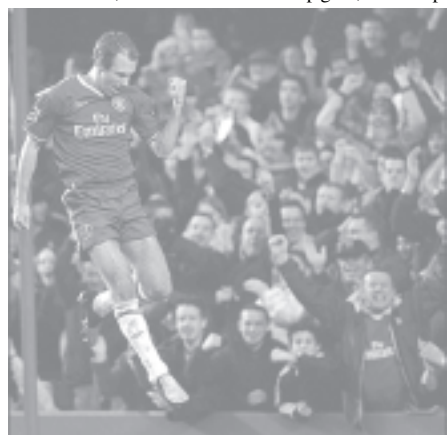
Everton remained in an automatic Champions League place but missed the chance to notch their 12th victory against a resilient Blackburn side who edged out of the relegation zone by taking a point at Ewood Park.

Blackburn, without a home league win since September, could have taken all three in stoppage time but Brett Emerton's deflected shot struck the woodwork.

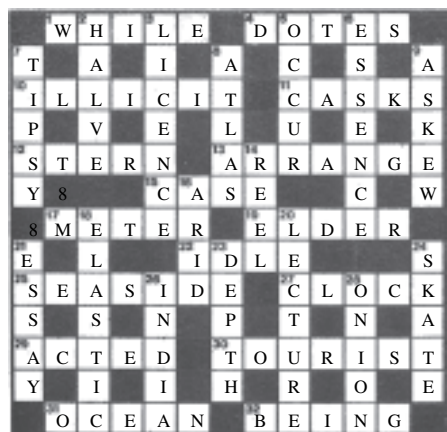
Everton boss David Moyes said his side were not at their best. "We were slow coming out of the blocks and never really recovered. But you can't take this point (from the draw) in isolation. We've taken seven points out of nine in our last three games."

Middlesbrough leapfrogged Manchester United into fourth, completing a satisfactory week by following up Wednesday's UEFA Cup win over Partizan Belgrade by seeing off Aston Villa 3-0 at the Riverside.

MNA/Reuters



Arjen Robben jumps to celebrate scoring Chelsea's third goal against Norwich during the Premiership match at Stamford Bridge in London. Chelsea won 4-0 to remain top of the Premiership. — INTERNET

**Answers to yesterday's Crossword Puzzle****Birmingham City crush West Bromwich Albion 4-0**

**LONDON, 19 Dec** — Birmingham City cruised to their second Premier League derby win in six days, crushing bottom side West Bromwich Albion 4-0 on Saturday to leave manager Bryan Robson still seeking his first win. Albion have picked up just one point in six games since Robson took over as manager and face an uphill struggle to escape relegation in the second half of the season.

Birmingham, who won 2-1 at city rivals Aston Villa on Sunday, went three goals up in the first half hour at St. Andrews.

Wales midfielder Robbie Savage converted a third-minute penalty after Clinton Morrison had been bundled over and Ireland striker Morrison added a second when he was left unmarked to fire home Darren Carter's cutback.

MNA/Reuters

**Porto remain top at Portuguese Premier League**

**LISBON, 19 Dec** — Boavista squandered a chance to take a two-point lead at the top of the Portuguese Premier League when they lost 3-0 at Braga while Benfica closed the gap with a 1-0 home win over Penafiel on Saturday.

Brazilian defender Argel, unmarked inside the box, headed home a free kick by Armando Petit after 22 minutes to secure Benfica's win. Braga, who climbed to fourth on 26, one point behind Boavista, opened the scoring in the third minute, with a goal by defender Luis Lourenco following a corner. Boavista defender Tiago put Braga 2-0 up with an own-goal before halftime and French substitute Baha completed the rout seven minutes from time. — MNA/Reuters

**English Premier League standings**

**LONDON, 19 Dec** — Following are the standings of English Premier League after matches played on Saturday (tabulated under games played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, against and points):

1. Chelsea	18	13	4	1	37	8	43
2. Everton	18	11	4	3	21	14	37
3. Arsenal	17	10	5	2	44	22	35
4. Manchester United	18	9	7	2	28	13	34
5. Middlesbrough	18	9	5	4	32	22	32
6. Liverpool	17	7	4	6	25	19	25
7. Tottenham Hotspur	18	7	4	7	21	18	25
8. Aston Villa	18	6	7	5	22	22	25
9. Charlton Athletic	17	7	3	7	19	27	24
10. Manchester City	18	6	5	7	22	18	23
11. Bolton Wanderers	18	6	5	7	26	26	23
12. Portsmouth	17	6	5	6	23	24	23
13. Newcastle United	17	5	6	6	28	32	21
14. Birmingham City	18	4	8	6	18	19	20
15. Fulham	17	5	3	9	19	28	18
16. Blackburn Rovers	18	2	9	7	16	30	15
17. Norwich City	18	2	9	7	17	32	15
18. Crystal Palace	18	3	5	10	19	29	14
19. Southampton	18	2	7	9	18	31	13
20. West Bromwich Albion	18	1	7	10	15	36	10

MNA/Xinhua



Manchester United's John O'Shea, right, scores his team's fifth goal against Crystal Palace during their English Premier League soccer match at Old Trafford Stadium, Manchester, England, on 18 Dec, 2004. — INTERNET



## Annan indicates difficult to meet G-4 demand on UNSC

WASHINGTON, 19 Dec — United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan has indicated that it would be difficult to meet the demand of the group of four countries for permanent membership of the Security Council with the right of veto.

"I don't think anyone disagrees with the need for better representation in the Council. So the question is which option are they going to adopt at the end of the day," Annan said referring to the bid by India, Japan, Brazil and Germany to become permanent member of the UN Security Council.

He said it should be possible for the member nations to agree on one or the other options suggested by the High Level Panel for UN Reform.

The panel has suggested having six new permanent members to the UNSC who will not have the right to veto.

Another recommendation of the panel was to create a new category of eight four-year renewable term seats and one new two-year non-permanent and non-renewable seat, divided among the major regional areas of the world.

"Obviously there are a group of countries determined to get permanent seats and are campaigning very much for that and there are others in the organization which are determined to prevent them from getting permanent seats," Annan said.

The expansion of the Council is, however, opposed by some who say it will slow down decisions. But Annan said it (expansion) is a tradeoff. It is better to have a democratic and representative body even if it takes a bit longer to arrive at decisions. He said tomorrow's UN must have reformed and revitalized institutions. The Security Council must reflect the 21st Century world and not the world of 1945 as it is now.

Earlier, Annan met outgoing US Secretary of State Colin Powell and held discussions on a wide range of issues. — MNA/PTI

## Nissan launches new products in Mideast

ABU DHABI, 19 Dec — Japan's Nissan Motor Company announced its Infiniti brand would launch latest luxury vehicle lineup in the Middle East, *Times of Oman* daily reported Saturday.

The new range of Infiniti vehicles would make the Middle East its second regional market outside of North America, said Carlos Ghosn, president and CEO of Nissan Motor Co. Ltd.

"We are convinced that Infiniti, following its success in the fiercely competitive US market, will strongly appeal to Middle East luxury vehicle customers," said the president, adding the company would sell a complete range of Infiniti vehicles, supported by eight dealers across the region.

In early 2005, a new range of Infiniti cars and luxury sport utility vehicles (SUV) will be available to customers in the Middle East, which includes the FX crossover and G35 sports sedan and coupe QX56 full-size SUV.

The Middle East is one of the world's most important luxury auto market of two billion US dollars.

Infiniti will make an immediate impact and quickly establish a significant presence in the Middle East market, Ghosn was quoted as saying.

Following the introduction of the G35 sports sedan and coupe in 2001, Infiniti has expanded its vehicle lineup constantly and become the fastest-growing luxury brand in the United States for the past two years.

The Infiniti brand has been represented in the Middle East since 2002 through the limited import of the Q45 luxury sedan, reported the daily.

MNA/Xinhua

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တူတူမ(သ)သက်၊ မြ(စ)ယောက် ကို၏ကြီးအစ်မ(သ) (၁၈-၁၂-၀၄)  
နေ့ည (၁၁)နာရီတွင် မော်တင်အထူးကုဆေးရုံတွင် ကွယ်လွန်ပါသည်။  
(၂၀-၁၂-၀၄) တနင်္လာနေ့ နံနက် ၅ နာရီတွင် တိရစ္ဆာန်သေဆုံးသည့်  
ပို့ဆောင် မီးသင်္ဂြိုဟ်ပါသည်။ (နေအိမ်မှကားများ ၁၂:၄၅ နာရီ  
တိရစ္ဆာန်ထွက်ခွာပါသည်။) ကျန်ရစ်သူသားစု



## WEATHER

Sunday, 19 December, 2004

**Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:** During the past 24 hours, weather has been fair in the whole country. Night temperatures were (3°C) above normal in lower Sagaing Division, (8°C) below normal in eastern Shan State, (5°C) below normal in Yangon Division, (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in the northern Shan, Chin, Kayah and Kayin States, Magway, Bago and Taninthayi Divisions and about normal in remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Hakha (1°C), Kengtung and Namsam (2°C) each and Pinlong (3°C).

Maximum temperature on 18-12-2004 was 91°F. Minimum temperature on 19-12-2004 was 54°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 19-12-2004 was 77%. Total sunshine hours on 18-12-2004 was (8.4) hours approx. Rainfalls on 19-12-2004 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 5 mph from West at (21:30) hours MST on 18-12-2004.

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

**Forecast valid until evening of 20-12-2004:** Possibility of isolated light rain in Taninthayi Division and weather will be partly cloudy in Rakhine State, Ayeyawady and Yangon Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (40%).

**State of the sea:** Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters.

**Outlook for subsequent two days:** Likelihood of isolated light rain in extreme Southern Myanmar areas.

**Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 20-12-2004:** Partly cloudy.

**Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 20-12-2004:** Fair weather.



Monday, 20 December  
View on today:

- 7:00 am  
1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Saya-daw
- 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. Songs of National races
- 8:05 am  
6. Cute little dancers
- 8:15 am  
7. ကရင်ပြည်နယ် မိုးကောင်းတံတား
- 8:30 am  
8. International News

- 8:45 am  
9. Grammar made easy
- 4:00 pm  
1. Martial song
- 4:15 pm  
2. Song to uphold National Spirit
- 4:30 pm  
3. Practice in English
- 4:45 pm  
4. Musical Programme
- 5:00 pm  
5. အဆင်သင့်တော့သိုလ်ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ - တတိယနှစ် (ရက္ခစော အထူးပြုများ) (ရက္ခစော)
- 5:15 pm  
6. Dance Variety
- 5:30 pm  
7. လက်ဆင့်ကမ်းဆေး ရီတေး
- 5:30 pm  
8. Songs and dance of National races
- 5:50 pm  
9. သုံးဆယ်ရေလှောင်တံစာ
- 5:55 pm  
10. Musical Programme

- (The Radio Myanmar Modern Music Troupe)
- 6:05 pm  
11. Discovery
- 6:10 pm  
12. နိုင်ငံခြားကာတွန်းစာတိုလမ်းညွှန် "ဓမ္မာပဒ်ဇီဝရန်" (အပိုင်း-၅၁)
- 6:30 pm  
13. Evening News
- 7:00 pm  
14. Weather report
- 7:05 pm  
15. မြန်မာစာ၊ မြန်မာစကား
- 7:25 pm  
16. Musical Programme
- 7:40 pm  
17. Industrial Achievement
- 8:00 pm  
18. News
19. International News
20. Weather report
21. ပညာရေးအကြံ တိုင်းရင်းဆေးနှင့် ဆေးပညာဦးမြှင့် (အပိုင်း-၄)
22. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတိုလမ်းညွှန် "သံခဏ်မုရီသု" (အပိုင်း-၂၂)
23. The next day's programme



Monday, 20 December  
Tune in today:

- 8:30 am Brief news
- 8:35 am Music:  
-Witch Doctor
- 8:40 am Perspectives
- 8:45 am Music:  
-Doctor Jones
- 8:55 am National news/Slogan
- 9:00 am Music:  
-Dub dub
- 9:05 am International news
- 9:10 am Music  
-Reality
- 1:30 pm News/Slogan
- 1:40 pm Lunch time music  
-Do I love you?  
-Where do you go?  
-What can I do?
- 9:00 pm Spotlight on the star  
-The Corrs
- 9:10 pm Article
- 9:20 pm Radio Magazine
- 9:35 pm Golden land's melody  
-Beautiful Ngapali
- 9:45 pm News/Slogan
- 10:00 pm PEL

**Four political objectives**

- \* Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order
- \* National reconsolidation
- \* Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
- \* Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

**Four economic objectives**

- \* Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well
- \* Proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system
- \* Development of the economy inviting participation in terms of technical know-how and investments from sources inside the country and abroad
- \* The initiative to shape the national economy must be kept in the hands of the State and the national peoples

**Four social objectives**

- \* Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation
- \* Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character
- \* Uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit
- \* Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation



Senior General Than Shwe hears reports on Yeywa Hydel Power Plant Project by Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut. (News on page 1)—MNA

## Agriculture and regional development tasks inspected in Hlegu, Mingaladon

YANGON, 19 Dec — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe this afternoon inspected supply of irrigation water to the field and installation of 160 KVA transformer near Malit Village in Hlegu Township.

Moreover, the commander also oversaw the cultivation of summer paddy in the special model field. Officials concerned reported to him on arrangement for supply of irrigation water to cultivate summer paddy. Next, the commander attended to the needs.

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe and party also inspected tarring of the 12-mile long and 18-ft-wide circular road linking No 1 and No 2 highways and progress of the construction of Balar No-2 Bridge on the circular road. Later, they arrived at the paddy field between Hlegu and Mingaladon townships where Yangon Command has been growing paddy. The commander inspected the water pumping project aimed at



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe inspects water supply for agricultural purpose by natural gas fired pump near Malit Village of Hlegu Township.—YANGON COMMAND

irrigating 83 acres of paddy field in summer, digging and arrangements for installation of 40 hp motor and of irrigation canals, construction of the pump house 315 KVA transformer. —MNA

## Commander, Rail Transportation Minister attend cash donation for Shwemawdaw Pagoda, opening of bio-gas plant

YANGON, 17 Dec — The gold foils donation for Shwemawdaw Pagoda and second cash donation ceremony were held at Kyaukpadaung Dhammayon in the precinct of the pagoda in

Bago on 17 October.

Present on the occasion were Dhamma lankara Monastery

Sayadaw Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Bhaddanta Visuddha and members

of the Sangha, Chairman of Bago Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-

ern Command Maj-Gen Ko Ko and wife Daw Sao Noon Khun Hsam, USDA Central Executive Committee member Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min, Col Than Shwe of Indaing Station, officials and wellwishers.

The commander and wife and the minis-

ter offered gold foils for the pagoda to Ovadaçariya Sayadaws. Next, the commander, the minister and officials accepted cash donated towards the funds for offering gold foils to the pagoda. The cash donation amounted to over K 62.33 million.

(See page 11)

Commander Maj-Gen Ko Ko and Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min inspect bio-gas power generator in Thongwa model village of DaikU Township.—MYANMA RAILWAY

**INSIDE**

Irrigation Department under the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation has been constructing dams and diversion weirs on the tributaries of the major rivers to develop the agricultural sector and to supply water.

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KYAW SEIN