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Thursday, 23 December 2004

## Senior General Than Shwe sends felicitations to Japan

YANGON, 23 Dec — On the occasion of the birthday of His Majesty Akihito, Emperor of Japan, which falls on 23 December 2004, Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Majesty Akihito, Emperor of Japan.—MNA

The industrial zones were established for development of import substitute industries in the country, production of quality products with the use of modern equipment, creation of jobs and use of local-made products easily at reasonable price. In the initial period, the industrial zones were only blacksmith's forges.

## Government will provide necessary assistance for development of industrial zone continuously Senior General Than Shwe inspects Yenangyoung Industrial Zone

YANGON, 22 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 Shwe 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, Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and Lt-Gen Tin Aye, 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



Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe inspects three-wheeled motorcycles produced by Yenangyoung Industrial Zone. — MNA

Myint, the ministers, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, the

Chairman of Magway Division Peace and Development Council, of-

officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and heads of depart-

ments, arrived in Yenangyoung by helicopter on 20 December.

Senior General Than Shwe and party were (See page 8)



Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe gives guidance to departmental officials in Magway Division, members of the Supervisory Committee of Yenangyoung Industrial Zone and industrialists. — MNA

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

## PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 23 December, 2004

## Strive for speedy completion of multipurpose dams

The government is building transport, education, health and agriculture infrastructures for all-round development of the regions across the Union. State-level officials, including the Head of State himself, often visit states and divisions to make a first-hand study of the implementation of development tasks and fulfill the requirements sector-wise.

Accompanied by high-ranking military and civil officials, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe, on 19 December inspected the project sites of the Manipura multipurpose dam to be built in Falam Township, Chin State, and the Myittha dam to be constructed in Gangaw Township, Magway Division, and gave necessary guidance.

In his meeting with responsible personnel of the projects, Head of State Senior General Than Shwe said that the Irrigation Department should implement the Manipura and Myittha dams as speedily as possible and respective departments make necessary arrangements and coordination to be able to fulfill all the requirements, including fuel oil, in parallel with the time.

The Manipura multipurpose dam being constructed across the Manipura river is to be about 3,300 feet long and 525 feet high. On completion, it will be capable of irrigating 100,000 acres of farmland.

Moreover, it will be able to prevent floods in the lower part of Kalay and generate some 540 megawatts of electricity.

The Myittha Dam project to be built in Gangaw Township will involve the construction of the main dam 2,300 feet long and the Konekyaw dam 27,450 feet long. On completion, it will be capable of irrigating 12,000 acres of farmland and generating around 40 megawatts of electricity.

In its bid for development of each and every region, the government has also given special emphasis to smooth and easy transport. Railroads and motor roads linking Magway Division and Chin State have contributed a great deal to education, health, economic and social development of the local people.

The government has been fulfilling all the requirements for the development of regions throughout the Union.

Therefore, we would like to call on all those responsible to strive for the speedy completion of the Manipura and Myittha dams that will benefit the local people in many ways.

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## 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

## 'Soon' offered to Sayadaws of State Pariyatti Sasana University (Yangon)

YANGON, 22 Dec — The Ministry of Immigration and Population held the ceremony to offer alms and 'soon' to the Rector Sayadaw and Sayadaws of academic and management sectors and student monks of State Pariyatti Sasana University (Yangon) at Mogok Refectory of the university on Thiri Mingala Kaba Aye Hill, here, at 10 am today.

Minister for Immigration and Population Maj-Gen Sein Htwa presented K 262,500 to be spent on offering one-day 'soon' to Director U Khaing Aung of Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana.— MNA



Minister for Immigration and Population Maj-Gen Sein Htwa and wife offer alms to a Sayadaw of State Pariyatti Sasana University (Yangon) at the 'soon' offering ceremony.— IMMIGRATION

## Chinese youth delegation calls on USDA CEC members

YANGON, 22 Dec — A 12-member delegation led by Vice-Chairperson

of Shenzhen Youth Association Ms Lin Yan of the People's Republic of

China called on Central Executive Committee members of the Union

Solidarity and Development Association Headquarters at the parlour of HQ of USDA on New University Avenue here this morning.

They discussed mutual understanding and cooperation between youths of Myanmar and China.

Present at the call were USDA CEC members U Than Shwe, Brig-Gen Pyi Sone, Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein and U Thein Sein. The Chinese delegation was accompanied by Counsellor Mr Yu Boren of the Chinese Embassy.

MNA



USDA CEC members U Than Shwe, Brig-Gen Pyi Sone, Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein and U Thein Sein receive Vice-Chairperson Mr Lin Yan and party of Shenzhen Youth Association of China.— MNA

## Conference of Myanmar Dental Association on 26-29 January

YANGON, 22 Dec — The 25th Conference of Myanmar Dental Association will be held in conjunction with the 6th FDI-MDA Joint Education Meeting of MDA and Federation of Dental International-FDI from 26 to 29 January 2005 at the Traders Hotel.

At the conference, resource persons will present papers on den-

tistry, and talks on modern dental treatment will be given. Exhibition on dental medicines and equipment will also take place.

Those dentists wishing to attend the conference may register at the hotel on 24 and 25 January.

Those wishing to participate in the exhibition may dial Tel: 271723. — MNA

## 1,329 acres of natural teak conserved

YANGON, 22 Dec —According to Bago Yoma greening project, Bago Township Forest Department designated plot No 57 of Taungzamari Forest Reserve as a natural teak area and has been carrying out afforestation tasks.

The department has conserved a total of 1,329 acres for natural teak area so far.

MNA

## All this needs to be known

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



## Asia's first multivisceral transplant successful in Shanghai

SHANGHAI, 21 Dec— Surgeons from Shanghai's Ruijin Hospital said Monday an operation to transplant seven organs from a single donor to a 38-year-old woman on 14 December was a success.

"The 14-hour multivisceral transplant surgery went smoothly and successfully, and the patient is recovering well one week after receiving the new liver, pancreas, spleen stomach, small bowel, duodenum and colon from one donor," said Li Hongwei, chief surgeon and president of Ruijin Hospital at a Press conference. The operation is the first of its kind in Asia, according to doctors from Ruijin Hospital.

The local woman was diagnosed with a rare disease called familial adenomatous polyposis striking one in every 7,000 to 24,000 people.

Adenomatous polypoidous calic gene mutation had caused numerous polyps of different sizes to form in her digestive system. Polyps had also developed cancer cells in her stomach, duodenum and had spread to other organs.

Overseas practice shows the only treatment for the disease is to replace the diseased organs. The first such operation was conducted at the Transplant Centre in Pittsburgh in the United States in 1989, according to Tuesday's *China Daily*.

"But this case was really challenging

and risky because the patient needed to have seven organs and tissues removed and replaced," said another chief surgeon, Yin Lu, of the operation.

The multivisceral transplant surgery was formally started at 5 pm on 14 December. Five hours later, the donor's organs were ready to be put into the recipient's empty abdominal cavity. The most demanding task then began connecting the patient's arteries and veins to the donor's liver.

"We carefully opened the vessels to let the blood circulate. Otherwise, the sudden blood flow would cause liver failure or other complications," said Yin.

Surgeons then connected the donated stomach with the patient's gullet and the donated colon with the patient's intestine. By 5.15 am on 15 December, the surgery was completed. The patient remained under hibernation condition during the whole process, but was able to breathe the first day after the operation.

She is now able to drink water and communicate with doctors and will remain under close observation for at least a month, the doctors said, describing her recovery as "excellent".—MNA/Xinhua

## Syria's Assad to visit Jordan

AMMAN, 21 Dec— Jordanian Government spokeswoman Asma Khader said here on Monday that Syrian President Bashar al-Assad will visit Jordan later this month.

Khader said at a Press conference that Assad and Jordan's King Abdullah II will hold a summit on the border issue, Iraq, Palestine and the Golan Heights.

MNA/Xinhua

## Five thousand Cubans rally outside US dip mission

HAVANA, 21 Dec— Five thousand Cubans rallied outside the US diplomatic mission in Havana on Monday, denouncing US policy toward their country, Iraq and elsewhere.

Communist youth, university, and high school leaders blasted "US imperialism" at the evening rally between anti-war and nationalist songs, as two powerful members of the Communist Party Political Bureau, Vice-President Carlos Lage Davila and National Assembly President Ricardo Alarcon, looked on.

"The new fascism of the United States continues harassing our revolution. ... As long as the provocations continue, we will do what is needed to fight them," said the leader of Havana University students, Carlos Lage.

The event was held in front of the US mission, on Havana's busy sea-side drive.

MNA/Reuters



US Marines from 3rd battalion, 1st Marines, patrol in the Iraqi town of Fallujah, 50-km west of Baghdad, on 21 Dec, 2004.

INTERNET

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## Lee Kuan Yew says East Asian economic bloc is a distant goal

SINGAPORE, 21 Dec— East Asia is so diverse that it would take a long time for the region to craft an economic community similar to that of the European Union, Singapore's founding father said.

"If we want an economic community, I think it is possible. But it will take many years," Lee Kuan Yew said Monday at a dinner hosted by the Foreign Correspondents Association in Singapore. "Asia is so different, so diverse. We don't have a homogeneous, Christian civilization dating back to Roman times," he said.

Instead, Lee said, Northeast Asia has been

heavily influenced by Confucianism and Chinese script while Islam has made big inroads in South-east Asia. Lee said the 10-member Association of South-East Asian Nations, or ASEAN, represented a tiny economic bloc compared to the giant Indian and Chinese markets.

"What will pull them together in ASEAN is the need to be sufficiently competitive," said 81-year-

old Lee, who holds the title "minister mentor" and remains active in the Cabinet headed by his son, Lee Hsien Loong. "It is to the advantage of ASEAN countries that any such East Asian community should include India," Lee Kuan Yew said. ASEAN comprises Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam, Brunei, Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar.—MNA/AP



Singapore's elder statesman Lee Kuan Yew speaks at a forum at the Foreign Correspondents Association of Singapore on 20 Dec, 2004.—INTERNET

## Vietnam to ban smoking in public means of transport

HANOI, 21 Dec—Vietnam plans to forbid smoking in public means of transport from late this month, according to local newspaper *Young People* on Tuesday.

Smoking will also be not allowed in railways, bus stops, airports and wharves. However, smoking areas will be built at the places.

Vietnam will ban the sales of cigarettes to juveniles, the implementation of cigarette promotion programmes, and tobacco makers, sponsoring socio-

economic activities from March 2005, when the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control initiated by the World Health Organization comes into force. It has already prohibited tobacco advertisements.

The moves aim at reducing the number of local smokers which

increases by 700,000-800,000 each year. Statistics from the Vietnamese Ministry of Health show that over 50 per cent of local men and around 3 per cent of local women smoke cigarettes, and that smoking has caused 30,000-40,000 deaths annually.

MNA/Xinhua

## Badawi suggests FTA to boost Indo-Malaysian trade ties

NEW DELHI, 21 Dec— Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi on Monday underlined the need for strengthening the Indo-Malaysian trade ties through a free trade agreement and asked Indian businessmen to suggest a

framework to maximize the gains from such an agreement.

Addressing a gathering of Indian and Malaysian businessmen at a meeting organized by the FICCI and CII here Badawi said he was keen to know the expectations

of the two sides so that mutual aspirations could be reflected in the FTA to make it viable.

He assured Indian business community that all roadblocks in the way of efficient functioning of free trade would be removed.—MNA/PTI

## Thailand moves to protect fragrant rice varieties

**BANGKOK, 22 Dec—** Authorities in Thailand want to patent a range of local fragrant rice varieties in a bid to ensure quality and to protect growers' intellectual property rights, a government agricultural researcher said.

The move was a joint initiative by the Departments of Agriculture and Intellectual Property.

The Researcher, Dr Laddawan Kananuch, was quoted by the *Thai News Agency* as saying Monday that the attempt was unprecedented, and would begin with at least two types of fragrant rice — Jasmine rice from the country's northeastern Surin Province, and from nearby Thung Kula.

Thailand expects to achieve the aim within the next year. Later, Thailand also likes to include in the scheme some famous Thai fragrant rice varieties from other provinces, she said.

Dr Laddawan said the move would not only protect local intellectual property rights, but would also increase the value of Thai rice on the world market.

"However, there would be a lengthy procedure to go through before we can achieve our goal. There would have to be an inspection of the entire production process, including the origin of the rice and all methods used.

With the quality of the product assured, the rice would carry a logo guaranteeing its origin and protecting its rights," she said.

MNA/Xinhua

## Toyota to raise production by eight per cent in 2005

**TOKYO, 22 Dec —** Toyota Motor Corp will increase its group's global vehicle production to 8.12 million units next year, up 8 per cent from 2004, Toyota President Fujio Cho said in a news conference on Tuesday.

The projection includes output by Daihatsu Motor Co and Hino Motors Ltd, and marks the first time for Toyota to eye output above the 8 million line.

Under the projection, Toyota aims to increase its production by 8 per cent to 7.28 million vehicles, while Daihatsu Motor will target an increase by 2 per cent to 750,000 units and Hino Motors by 5 per cent to 100,000 units.

Output will be increased mostly at the group's overseas facilities.

As for sales, Toyota projects the group will sell 8.03 million vehicles on the world market, up 7 per cent, with sales growing 8 per cent to 7.18 million units for Toyota, 5 per cent to 750,000 vehicles for Daihatsu and 14 per cent to 110,000 units for Hino.

MNA/Xinhua

## Crude oil prices to go up in 2005

**MEXICO CITY, 22 Dec—** Prices of crude oil on the world market will go up next year, said a Mexican analyst on Monday.

Market demand is expected to increase to 83.96 million barrels per day in 2005, but the Organization of the Petroleum-Exporting Countries (OPEC) has trimmed its daily output, and therefore world oil prices will unavoidably go up, said Ignacio Cedillo, an analyst of Mexico's Bursametrica Energy Consultant Company.

Terrorists' threat to attack the petroleum production equipment in Iraq and Saudi Arabia and the uncertainty on auction process of Russia's oil company Yukos will also boost the prices, he said.

The fall of crude oil prices on Monday was a result of traders' profit taking, but it was only a temporary drop, he said.

On the New York Mercantile Exchange on Monday, crude oil for January delivery fell 64 cents to close at 45.64 US dollars a barrel. Meanwhile, on London's International Petroleum Exchange the February Brent crude-oil futures contract shed 94 cents to settle at 42.45 dollars per barrel. Crude oil prices had jumped 5 per cent last Friday to reach their highest level this month. — MNA/Xinhua



A mortar and rocket attack on a US military base in the Iraqi city of Mosul killed at least 22 people and wounded more than 50 on 21 Dec, 2004 in one of the most deadly attacks on US forces since last year's invasion.—INTERNET

စက်မှုပစ္စည်းများ ထုတ်လုပ်ရန်

## Vietnamese Govt approves initial plan on third oil refinery

**HANOI, 22 Dec —** The Vietnamese Government has just approved an initial plan on constructing an oil refinery in central Phu Yen Province, the third of this kind in the country.

Capitalized at more than 500 million US dollars, the future refinery near the Vung Ro port has an annual capacity of processing 3 million tons of crude oil, or nearly half that of Vietnam's first oil refinery, according to local newspaper *Youth* on Tuesday.

This will be a wholly foreign-owned refinery. Its investor is Russia's Technor Star Company.

The government has instructed Phu Yen's authority and relevant ministries and sectors to complete and then appraise the plan carefully, regarding import of equipment for construction and prices of finished products.

Vietnam is building its first oil refinery named Dung Quang in central Quang Ngai Province at an estimated cost of 1.3 billion dollars. The refinery, expected to become operational in 2007,

will process 6.5 million tons of crude oil annually.

The country has planned to start construction of the Nghi Son Oil Refinery, the second and biggest of its kind, in northern Thanh Hoa Province in 2006. It will have a total investment of nearly 3 billion dollars and an annual processing capacity of 7 million tons of crude oil.

The two first refineries are expected to turn out 13 million tons of petroleum products in 2010, meeting roughly 76.5 per cent of the country's demand, said the Vietnam Oil and Gas Corporation.

Vietnam is expected to export nearly 20 million tons of crude oil and import 11.2 million tons of petroleum products this year, posting respective rises of 16.3 per cent and 13.8 per cent against last year. — MNA/Xinhua

## 49 killed as bus plunges into river in Peru

**LIMA(Peru), 21 Dec—** Forty-nine people, including four children, died when a bus plunged off a bridge into a river in Peru's northern jungle, police and bus company officials said on Monday.

The bodies have been removed, there are four children. The rescue operation was difficult because it was raining really hard, it was difficult to get them out of river and from among the mangled metal bars," said a police official, who declined to be named, in Aguaytia, where the accident happened.

MNA/Reuters



A worker pours fresh shrimp at a local seafood processing factory in Vietnam, on 20 Dec, 2004.—INTERNET

## Americans say Iraq war not worth fighting

**WASHINGTON, 22 Dec—** A majority of Americans now say the war in Iraq was not worth fighting, a view that has driven down the ratings of President George W Bush and Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, according to an ABC News/*Washington Post* poll released on Monday.

Fifty-six per cent of those questioned, a new high, said that the cost of the war outweighs the benefits and is not worth it. It marked a gain of seven percentage points from a poll conducted in July.

Fifty-seven per cent said they disapprove of the way Bush is handling the situation in Iraq, and 53 per cent disapprove of the way Rumsfeld is handling his job, according to the survey.

However, 60 per cent said the Iraqi elections scheduled for 30 January should go forward regardless of the

security situation.

The poll also found that most Americans — 58 per cent — still say US forces should remain in Iraq until order is restored.

Several Republican lawmakers have expressed doubts about Rumsfeld's performance and some Democrats want him fired over his handling of the war. More than half of the poll respondents, 52 per cent, said Rumsfeld should be replaced. Separately, a new USA TODAY/CNN/Gallup Poll also found growing pessimism over Iraq. — MNA/Reuters



## APR nations pledge dialogue for peace, sustainable development

**HANOI, 22 Dec**—Representatives from more than 30 countries in the Asia-Pacific Region have shown their determination to make dialogue on cultures and civilizations a central feature of interaction in all walks of life, to help boost peace and sustainable development.

At the two-day conference entitled "Dialogue Among Cultures and Civilizations for Peace and Sustainable Development" that ended here on Tuesday, the representatives adopted the Hanoi Declaration, under which, they committed to practice a culture of dialogue among nations and peoples, promote intercultural understanding through both formal and non-formal education and via other means, and enhance human security in the region by tackling such challenges as poverty, environmental degradation, gender equality and economic development.

The delegates recognized that, especially in the context of globalization, dialogue has the potential to become an engine for bolstering peace and security, reconciling conflicts, reinforcing cultural diversity and advancing sustainable development.

They emphasized that a commitment to dialogue among cultures and civilizations is also a commitment to combat terrorism, as terror rests always and everywhere upon prejudices, intolerance, exclusion and on the rejection of any dialogue.

The representatives also underlined the important role policymakers, governments, parliamentarians,

actors of civil society, the academic and scientific community, the private sector and professional associations, the media, religious and faith-based communities can play in initiating and conducting effective dialogue both within each country and within the Asia-Pacific Region.

They, therefore, called for more concrete actions at regional, national and local level to intensify people-to-people cultural and scientific exchanges and partnerships in the region, involving scholars, teachers, students and media practitioners.

The conference, jointly organized by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and Vietnam, mainly aims at raising awareness among broader sections of society of the importance of dialogue among cultures and civilizations, preparing preliminary input for a future collection of regional and inter-regional good practices of the dialogue, and identifying key activities for education and culture. The conference was attended by some 200 representatives of governments, scholars, experts and cultural practitioners from the region.

MNA/Xinhua

## ASEAN takes measures to control bird flu

**SINGAPORE, 22 Dec**—Members of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) on Tuesday agreed to focus on eight activities to prevent and control the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI).

The measures, which were adopted at the first meeting of the ASEAN HPAI taskforce, will be coordinated by five members of the organization including Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand and the Philippines.

Singapore will be responsible for the information sharing for regional epidemiologic study, and Thailand will focus on the disease surveillance and alert systems and the diagnostic capabilities.

Malaysia will deal with the establishment of disease free zones, effective containment measures and the emergency preparedness plans.

Each coordinating

country will prepare detailed workplans for consideration at the follow up meeting to be held in Thailand in May of next year.

Malaysia and Indonesia were elected as the Chair and Vice-Chair for the ASEAN HPAI taskforce at its first meeting, which was held on 20 and 21 December in Singapore. Representatives from ASEAN countries, the World Organization on Animal Health (OIE), World Health Organization (WHO), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) as well as experts from countries including China and South Korea attended the two-day meeting.

MNA/Xinhua



Chinese soldiers remove snow in China's capital Beijing after the city was hit by a heavy snowstorm on 22 Dec, 2004.— INTERNET

## China striving to restore ecosystem at Yangtze River estuary

**SHANGHAI, 22 Dec**—In a bid to repair the severely damaged ecosystem in Yangtze River, 25,000 Chinese mitten crabs (*Eriocheir Sinensis*) were released on Monday into the estuary waters.

The release was organized by East China Sea Aquatic Products Institute with China Academy of Aquatic Product Sciences, Yangtze River Estuary Navigable Route Construction Co, Ltd and Shanghai Municipal Administration for Fishery Supervision. It is part of the country's four-year-old campaign to restore ecosystem at the Yangtze River Estuary.

Chinese sturgeon, oyster and other river bed-borne life forms have also been released into the estuary waters on three previous occasions.

According to Profes-

sor Chen Yaqu with East China Sea Aquatic Products Institute, the Yangtze River Estuary is a prime propagating ground for Chinese mitten crabs, where the adult crabs mate between autumn and winter and the hatched fries will follow the tide upstream in the Yangtze between May and June. The crabs eventually settle down in fresh-water lakes and creeks connected to the Yangtze.

However, the crab fry resources grown in the wild have been on decline in the estuary area as a result of factors such as

construction of large water conservancy projects, especially building of embankments, as well as pollution and overfishing.

The crabs released on Monday are bred via artificial means with stock obtained from Yangcheng Lake in southeastern Jiangsu Province, which is best known for production of quality Chinese mitten crabs. "Under normal natural conditions, the crabs released this time will help raise the crab output in the estuary area by 10 to 20 per cent a year," said Chen.

MNA/Xinhua

## US warplanes kill four people, injure seven in western Iraq

**HIT (Iraq), 22 Dec**—US warplanes launched airstrikes on the town of Hit, in Iraq's Sunni Muslim western region, killing four people and wounding seven, hospital officials said on Tuesday.

A US Marines spokesman in the region confirmed the attack: "At approximately 2 am this morning (2300 GMT Monday), a US Air Force aircraft, in support of troops in contact, engaged an enemy fighting position with precision weapons," he said.

No further details were given by the unnamed spokesman in a reply to a question sent by e-mail.

Hospital staff said a woman and child were among those wounded in the strikes on the Jamaia and Sinai districts, on the eastern edges of the town, which lies about 170 km (100 miles) west of Baghdad.

Local tribal leader Sheikh Laith al-Hitti told Al Jazeera television by telephone that six people had been killed and nine wounded in the attack. He denied there were fighters in the area that was targeted.

MNA/Reuters

## Singapore, Australia to discuss open skies pact

**SINGAPORE, 22 Dec**—Singapore and Australia will hold talks soon for open skies agreement.

According to local Press reports on Tuesday, Singapore's Minister for Transport Yeo Cheow Tong said on Tuesday that he will meet his Australian counterpart John Anderson in the coming months for such talks.

Currently, Singapore is pushing hard for access to flight routes between Australia and the United States, but Qantas Airways has been lobbying against a full open skies agreement between Singapore and Australia as this will allow Singapore's national carrier Singapore Airlines (SIA) to compete with the Australian airline on direct flights from Australia to the United States and Europe.

MNA/Xinhua



Displaced children: Two girls from the city of Fallujah, wait with a family member outside the Iraqi Red Crescent Society headquarters in Baghdad, after being displaced by the violence on 21 Dec, 2004.

INTERNET

## Malaysian, Thai police to jointly fight drug trafficking

**KUALA LUMPUR, 22 Dec—** The Malaysia police are forging close collaboration with their Thai counterparts to effectively curb transborder drug trafficking, a police chief has said.

The two sides would work together in sharing intelligence and enforcement to fight drug smuggling into Malaysia through the neighbouring country, Inspector-General of Malaysia police Mohamed Bakri Omar told reporters on Tuesday after closing the inaugural 10-day narcotics course for 26 police officers, 16 from Malaysia and 10 from Thailand here.

He said the course would provide understanding to the Thai police of Malaysian laws in dealing with drug trafficking, including how to overcome the differences in legislation between the two countries.

"We have built up an excellent level of cooperation in various fields. I feel there is still much to be done, especially at the local and lower levels, to ensure that the existing collaboration is carried through," he said.

He said Malaysia did not produce

drugs like heroin, amphetamine and cannabis. Instead these drugs were smuggled in from Thailand and other neighbouring countries. Therefore, the Malaysia police and the National Anti-Drug Agency had outlined four strategies to fight drugs in Malaysia — to reduce the demand and storage of drugs, to rehabilitate drug addicts, to step up enforcement and to forge close cooperation among Southeast Asian countries to fight drug trafficking.

"This is part of our commitment and effort to make ASEAN (Association of South East Asian Nations) free from drugs in 2015," he said.

The drug trafficking along the border with Thailand is rampant. There are several methods used by smugglers to bring in these drugs including modifying vehicles to store drugs and hiring individuals to swallow the drugs before smuggling them in. — MNA/Xinhua

## Sri Lanka's mystery illness identified as influenza B

**COLOMBO, 22 Dec—** The mystery illness in the southern parts of Sri Lanka which has killed eight people was a type of influenza and had no links with bird flu or SARS (severe acute respiratory syndrome), the official *Daily News* said on Tuesday.

"This has been identified as an influenza B type disease. It is not related to bird flu or SARS. We have taken all precautionary measures," the newspaper quoted Healthcare and Nutrition Minister Nimal Siripala de Silva as saying.

De Silva said Monday that two high level teams, one from the Medi-

cal Research Institute (MRI) and another from the Public Health Department, had conducted extensive investigations to identify the mystery illness spreading in Matara, Padanangala and Embilipitiya.

So far, eight deaths have been reported by the disease. Fifteen suspected cases have been

recorded.

"There is no need to fear. A similar outbreak occurred in Colombo and its environs in 1998," senior epidemiologist Dr N Abeysinghe said adding that they have implemented several universally adopted precautionary measures to control respiratory diseases.

MNA/Xinhua

## Prices up greatly as holiday season approaches in Italy

**ROME, 21 Dec—** Prices went up significantly in Italy as the Christmas-New Year holiday season approaches, local media reported Monday.

Air ticket prices rose 13 per cent year-on-year in November, Italian national statistics bureau ISTAT. Package holiday prices went up by 5.92 per cent and entrance fees to amusement parks by 9.68 per cent. Meanwhile, hotel prices registered a rise of 1.5 per cent, and restaurant and bar prices of 3.4 per cent and 2.3 per cent respectively.

Food prices also rose. Wine and chocolate prices increased by 2.4 per cent and 2.16 per cent respectively, while the prices of dried fruits went up by 1.96 per cent. Flower and plant prices rose by 4 per cent, and the prices of jewellery and cosmetics products increased by 3.9 per cent and 2.4 per cent respectively.

MNA/Xinhua



Workers check electronic devices at a factory north of Tokyo, on 22 Dec 2004.—INTERNET

## မြို့ခြံရွှေတာ၊ ထိန်းပါးလေလွန်၊ ထုတ်တုန်မြင့်



Dressed in Santa Claus outfits, monkey and trainer try to raise more donations by ringing bells at a department store in Seoul, on 22 Dec, 2004. — INTERNET

## HK, Guangdong to promote intellectual property rights protection

**HONG KONG, 22 Dec—** Hong Kong and Guangdong have agreed to enhance and promote the "No Fakes Pledge" campaign, following a meeting here on Tuesday of the joint expert group on the protection of intellectual property rights.

The two sides also agreed to organize a new seminar on intellectual property and the development of small and medium enterprises in Guangdong Province, and to enrich the content of the intellectual property database for Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao web site.

Hong Kong's Deputy Director of Intellectual Property Peter Cheung said that since its inception in 2003, the meeting had built up a close partnership between the intellectual property related departments in the two places.

"With the increasing

economic co-operation between Guangdong and Hong Kong, we have to maximize this co-operation platform to combat intellectual property infringements and promote the use of intellectual property assets," Cheung said.

The Guangdong delegation leader, Guangdong Provincial Intellectual Property Office Director General Li Zhongduo, said "We have agreed to start on a number of initiatives, including a training and information sharing programme to be held in Guangdong for Hong Kong enterprises, lawyers and trademark or

patent agents."

A new TV announcement of public interest, "No Fakes Pledge" will start broadcasting in Guangdong and Hong Kong on Tuesday night.

The expert group, set up after the Sixth Plenary of the Guangdong/Hong Kong Co-operation Joint Conference in August last year, aims to enhance exchanges and co-operation on intellectual property, including promotion and education, training, enforcement and information dissemination. The group will meet for the fourth time in Guangdong in June. — MNA/Xinhua

## US Govt loses bid to block ACLU from getting CIA record

**NEW YORK, 21 Dec—** The US Government lost a bid on Monday to block civil rights groups from obtaining CIA records of its internal investigation into abuse of detainees held by US forces in Iraq and Afghanistan.

In a ruling from the bench, US District Judge Alvin Hellerstein denied a government motion aimed at stopping an earlier order to turn over documents.

The decision was made in a lawsuit brought against the government by the American Civil Liberties Union and other groups for what they said was the illegal withholding of records about US military abuse of prisoners held in Iraq, the Guantanamo Bay Naval Base in Cuba and other

locations.

The suit, filed in Manhattan federal court, charged that the CIA and other federal agencies failed to comply with a Freedom of Information Act, or FOIA, request filed by the groups in October 2003 and May 2004. The FOIA allows citizens access to public federal records. "This (ruling) is extremely important," said attorney Lawrence Lustberg, who is assisting the civil rights groups. "What we're going to get are the fruits of the CIA's own internal investigation."

Government lawyers argued that the documents should not be turned over until the CIA completes its internal probe.

"What if it is never closed?" asked Hellerstein.

The ACLU said it has obtained about 9,000 records from other agencies. "To date, however, the CIA has not provided a meaningful response to the ACLU's document request and has refused to confirm or deny the existence of specific documents concerning abuses," the ACLU said.

MNA/Reuters



# Myanmar in transition to democracy in accord with her social conditions

Aung Moe San

No nation in this world has the right to practise double-standard policies to control a developing nation that is in its transition to democracy. Because a developing nation can build and practise democracy in accordance with her existing social condition. Social science experts said that nothing should be viewed regardless of social conditions. In this regard, it is the right of every country to freely introduce a system that is in conformity with its own social conditions.

The world at present sees the People's Republic of China developing rapidly with the policies which suits her social communities, and enjoying sustainable progress both in the economic and social sectors. In addition, China has acknowledged, supported and encouraged others' right for self-determination.

The following is a rough translation of China's stance on her foreign relations.

In her long-term activities in the area of UN human rights, China has decisively opposed any nation's acts to impose models on her concept of values, views, ideologies, politics and development types, using human rights as a tool; and to interfere in other's affairs, especially, in those of a large number of developing nations to encroach on and tarnish their sovereignty, using human rights as an excuse.

China has launched the struggle against such acts together with a large number of developing nations, and stood for justice, and spoken for justice. In essence, human rights concern the internal administration of a nation.

The principles — respect for other's sovereignty, and non-interference — are the internationally accepted laws and norms. As the two principles are suitable for the entire area of international relations, China has constantly accepted that they should also be applied in the problem of human rights.

The UN Charter says "Nothing in the Charter is authorized the United Nations to intervene in matters which are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any State." The UN endorsed

declarations — non-interference in internal affairs of other nations and to safeguard their sovereignty; international laws concerning establishment of international friendly relations and cooperation in accord with the UN Charter; and non-interference and non-intervention — say that no nation or group has the right to directly or indirectly interfere in other nation's domestic and foreign affairs for any reason; and that all the nations have the duty to refrain from creating doubts or confusion among the world nations or among the allies, using human rights

**If the US and its western allies see a developing nation going against their way in its march towards adopting the market economy, they cut off all forms of aids to and impose economic sanctions on her. It is a policy which is in total contrast to China's stance, and a violation of the law of social science, which says, "The development of the productive forces is the highest criterion of the social progress." The policy brings only the sufferings to the people of that particular nation.**

as a weapon to cause distrust among them. As the declarations reflect the wish of the majority of nations to maintain and safeguard the international laws and global normal relations, they are the basic principles of human rights activities.

However, if the US and its western allies see a developing nation going against their way in its march towards adopting the market economy, they cut off all forms of aids to and impose economic sanctions on her. It is a policy which is in total contrast to China's stance, and a violation of the law of social science, which says, "The development of the productive forces is the highest criterion of the social progress." The policy brings only the sufferings to the people of that particular nation.

The root cause of the US and its western allies' policy is that true capitalism in those countries is on the wane, and is being replaced gradually by the growing power of governments favouring hegemonism and feudalism.

The true nature and characteristics of capitalism is against all forms of economic sanctions, but for the development of free trade, flourishing of the international monetary market and promotion of peaceful cooperation and friendship among various races.

As the US and its allies have been imposing

economic sanctions on Myanmar, which is in the process of building a democratic state, for over a decade, it is necessary to make an assessment of the real impact of the sanctions with the following questions and answers:

Do the sanctions help speed up Myanmar's transition to multi-party democracy?

No. They are just hindering the transition.

Do they benefit Myanmar's national re-consolidation drive?

They are hindering the drive, and heightening political tensions in the nation.

Do they serve as instruments to develop the nation's economy?

No, they are just like the brakes to slow down the already developing and advancing national economy.

Do they work as tools to improve the social standard of Myanmar?

No, they are just the weapons to hit the people hard.

Do the neighbouring countries, ASEAN nations and other Asian nations accept the lopsided sanctions on Myanmar?

They all are against the sanctions that will destroy the interest of Myanmar, regarding them as interferences in other's domestic affairs. They are helping Myanmar through cooperation.

Do the sanctions serve as a bridge to get Myanmar and the US and its allies closer?

No they cause the people of Myanmar to hate the US and its allies even more, and the Myanmar people see the US and the West bloc as the neo-colonialists.

Thus, the US and western allies should take the lessons of their failed and useless economic sanctions on Myanmar that have lasted for over a decade.

It's time for them to see the objective conditions of Myanmar, a nation building a democratic state in accord with her social conditions, and to realize the truth.

(Translation: TMT)

Kyemon+Myanma Alin: 22.12.2004.

\* \* \* \* \*

**ESSAY COMPETITION**  
**HELD:** As a gesture of hailing the 57th Anniversary Independence Day, talks on the Independence Day were given and essay competitions held at No 10 Basic Education Primary School in Bahan Township on 22-12-2004. Photo shows students taking part in the essay competition.—H



## Use Natural Gas Vehicles and save fuel oil

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



Senior General Than Shwe and party pay homage to Hsinmyashin Buddha Image. — MNA

## Senior General Than Shwe visits Lawkananda Swedawshin, Hsinmyashin and Shwezigon Pagodas

YANGON, 22 Dec—Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe, together with member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe 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, Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and Lt-Gen Tin Aye, 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, Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye, ministers, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Magway Division Peace and Development Council Col Phone Maw Shwe, officials of the State Peace

and Development Council Office and heads of departments, went to Lawkananda Swedawshin Pagoda in Bagan-NyaungU and offered 'soon', fruits, flowers and water at the pagoda on 20 December.

Senior General Than Shwe and party paid obeisance to Lawkananda Swedawshin Pagoda. Next Senior

General Than Shwe presented cash donation to the pagoda board of trustees and signed in the visitors' book.

Senior General Than Shwe and party paid obeisance to Hsinmyashin pagoda and donated cash to the pagoda board of trustees. Senior General Than Shwe and party then visited the Shwezigon Pagoda and paid

obeisance to the Buddha image in prayer hall in eastern stairways.

Senior General Than Shwe and party offered 'soon', fruits, lights, water and flowers at the pagoda and donated cash to the pagoda board of trustees.

Senior General Than Shwe and party then visited the Shwezigon Pagoda.

MNA

## Government will provide necessary assistance...

(from page 1)

welcomed by Minister for Cooperatives Col Zaw Min, Secretary of Magway Division Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Zaw Thein and officials.

Senior General Than Shwe and party went to Yenangyoung Industrial Zone and met departmental officials of the division, members of Yenangyoung Industrial

Zone Supervisory Committee and industrialists at the hall of Pinnatha General Industrial Cooperatives Ltd.

Chairman of Magway Division Peace and Development Council Col Phone Maw Shwe reported on establishment of the industrial zone on 9 April 1999, allotment of 261 blots of land, power and water supply and

products of the zone.

Next, Yenangyoung Industrial Zone in-charge Minister for Cooperatives Col Zaw Min reported on efforts to assemble motorcycles in the zone and arrangements to seek local and foreign markets and produce water pumps and generators widely.

Industrialists of the zone reported on efforts for progress of the zone and requirements.

In his guidance, Senior General Than Shwe said the industrial

zones were established for the development of import substitute industries in the country, production of quality products with the use of modern equipment, creation of job opportunities and use of local-made products easily at reasonable price.

In the initial period, the industrial zones were only blacksmith's forges. With the encouragement and assistance of the government and endeavours of the industrialists, significant

achievements have been made in the zone. The Yenangyoung Industrial Zone is one of the successful zones, he said.

He said the government would provide necessary assistance for the development of the zone and their industries continuously.

He spoke of the need for them to take measures not to harm the interest of the State and the people.

Duties have been assigned to Industrial

Development Committee to fulfil requirements of the zones, he added.

Senior General Than Shwe then cordially greeted the industrialists. Senior General Than Shwe and party inspected motorcycles and their parts, foodstuff, agricultural equipment and other machines manufactured in the zone.

They inspected two-wheel and three-wheel motorcycles and gave guidance.

(See page 10)



Two-wheel and three-wheel motorcycles produced at Yenangyoung Industrial Zone. — MNA





Senior General Than Shwe inspects progress in construction of Southern Building of Bagan Golden Palace and Pyinsapathada Palace in NyaungU.— MNA



## Senior General Than Shwe inspects...

(from page 16)

Maj-Gen Ye Myint, Sagaing Division PDC Chairman North-West Command Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye, ministers, senior military officers, Magway Division PDC Chairman Col

ment the project. The construction tasks are now systematically under way in conformity with the fine arts in Bagan Period after doing historical research, he reported.

Chairman of the Htoo Trading Co Ltd

itage. Next, the Senior General observed the scale model of the palace, samples of artistic works to be installed in the palace, and work progress.

In the afternoon, the Senior General and party proceeded to the

Project started after the Senior General had approved of the project on 18-4-2003. The company has been building 198-foot-high and 54-foot-wide tower that can withstand strong wind and earthquake. So far, 80 per cent of the 13-storey building has been completed. The company is also building the Nanmyint

Tower Hotel and efforts are being exerted for completion of the project by February 2005, he said. The Senior General called for timely completion of the project and inspected the scale models of the buildings.

Chairman of the Eden Group Co Ltd reported on the project for building of a 150-room

hotel in Bagan. The Senior General left necessary instructions and viewed the Nanmyint Tower Project site. The Senior General and party then enjoyed the beautiful scenery of Bagan from the tower. They also inspected progress of construction of the Nanmyint Tower Hotel and layout of the building.— MNA



Senior General Than Shwe views the scale model of Nanmyint Tower and Nanmyint Tower Hotel in Bagan Archaeological Region.— MNA



Senior General Than Shwe views scale model of Bagan Golden Palace being built in NyaungU.— MNA

Phone Maw Shwe, officials of the SPDC Office and departmental heads, the Senior General inspected the project for construction of Arimadapada Bagan Palace of Maha Raja Siri Aniruddha Deva King Anawrahta.

Director-General of the Department of Archaeology under the Ministry of Culture U Nyunt Han presented a report, saying that upholding the guidance given by the Senior General during his inspection tour of Bagan on 17 April 2003, measures were taken for finding out the site of the palace of King Anawrahta who founded the First Myanmar Empire. Now, the Htoo Trading Co Ltd is undertaking the project at the site approved unanimously by the historians, he said.

In accordance with the traditions, respective rituals were held to imple-

U Te Za gave an account of implementation of the project dividing it into three stages through specific programmes; architect U Thaw, on work progress; and traditional artistic designer Tampawady U Win Maung, on building the palace in line with Bagan Period artistic design.

In response, the Senior General gave guidance on compiling a book featuring complete facts about the construction of the palace based on the historical research. Only then, he said, will the posterity be able to gain the knowledge of the firm historical evidences on the reconstruction of the palace.

The Senior General gave guidance on construction of the palace in accord with the findings of the historical research, and use of high-grade construction materials for durability of the cultural her-

Nanmyint Tower Project and Nanmyint Tower Hotel Project in Bagan Archaeological Region. Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Thein Zaw presented a report, saying that there are four hotel zones in Bagan-NyaungU made up of 80 hotels, motels and inns that can provide 1,802 rooms. Now, the ministry and the hoteliers are taking collaborative measures for upgrading of the hotels to provide better services for local and foreign visitors, he said.

The number of the visitors to Bagan is growing annually and up to this November, the region received a total of 36,678 foreign visitors and 25,307 local visitors, he said, reporting on construction of Nanmyint Tower and Nanmyint Tower Hotel. Next, the chairman of the Htoo Trading Co Ltd presented a report, saying that the Nanmyint Tower



Progress in construction of 13-storey Nanmyint Tower in Bagan Archaeological Region.— 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

## Government will provide...

(from page 8)

Senior General Than Shwe and party proceeded to Shwenaga Industry and they were conducted round the industry by proprietor Daw Win Maw Tun.

Senior General Than Shwe and party inspected assembling of two-wheel motorcycles and quality

control test and Star brand motorcycles.

Senior General Than Shwe had a chat with officials and signed in the visitors' book of Shwenaga Industry. Senior General Than Shwe and party left Yenangyoung for Magway by helicopter. They arrived in Magway in the evening. They were

welcomed by Commander of No 88 LID Brig-Gen Aung Than Htut, Brig-Gen Htay Aung of Magway Station and officials. MNA



*Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and wife Daw Khin Hnin Wai being welcomed by Vietnamese Ambassador Mr Pham Quang Khon at the reception to mark 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day of Vietnam. — MNA*

## Foreign Affairs Minister U Nyan Win sends felicitations to Japan

YANGON, 23 Dec — On the occasion of the birthday of His Majesty Akihito, Emperor of Japan, which falls on 23 December 2004, U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Nobutaka Machimura, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan. — MNA

## Agricultural tasks inspected in Thanlyin, Thongwa

YANGON, 22 Dec — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe made an inspection tour of agriculture and regional development in Thanlyin and Thongwa Townships this morning.

At Phayagon Village-tract of Thanlyin Township, the commander inspected storage of water at Zamani Dam for irrigating summer paddy and supply of water from Alwanhsut Creek and Thilawa Dam to farmlands.

On arrival at Thaiktugan Village in Thongwa Township, Maj-Gen Myint Swe viewed thriving Peti Shwewa bean plantations on 1,000 acres of land.

The commander gave instructions on assistance on technology how to grow Peti Shwewa bean to be provided to the farmers for meeting the target of cultivation and pest control.

A total of 284,800 acres of pulses and beans have been cultivated in Yangon South District, and it exceeds 2,764 acres more than the target of 282,036 acres. In Yangon Division, 342,000 acres of land have been put under pulses and beans against the target of 350,000 acres. MNA

## Commander inspects cultivation tasks in Lashio

YANGON, 22 Dec — Chairman of Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Commander of North-East Command Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing on 19 December inspected summer paddy cultivation of Myanmar Police Force near Yepusan Village in Lashio Township and attended to the needs.

Afterwards, the commander and party went to the 200-acre model highland cultivation project in Tapon region in Lashio and inspected construction of ponds to store water from Namkhom Creek and gave instructions.

In the afternoon, the commander arrived at the 10-acre research paddy cultivation in seed production zone of highland cultivation zone-1 in Lashio and viewed around the thriving crops.

After hearing reports, the commander attended to the needs. In the zone, 6,546 macadamia, 4,400 honey orange trees and crops are being cultivated. MNA



*Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe addresses coordination meeting on excursion tour of UDNR trainees. — MNA*

## Excursion tour of UDNR trainees coordinated

YANGON, 22 Dec — A coordination meeting of the trainees who attended the 36th batch of BED four-year course at University for Development of National Races was held at the meeting hall of Pyithu Hluttaw Building on Pyay Road this morning, attended by Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe.

Also present on the occasion were members of the Administration Work Group of the excursion tour, officials, departmental heads and officials.

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe made an opening speech.

Next, Secretary of the administration work group Director-General of Civil Service Selection and Training Board U Hla Kyi reported on formation of subcommittees for the excursion tour. Afterwards, those present took part in the discussions concerning the excursion tour.

The meeting ended in the evening with the concluding remarks by Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe. MNA

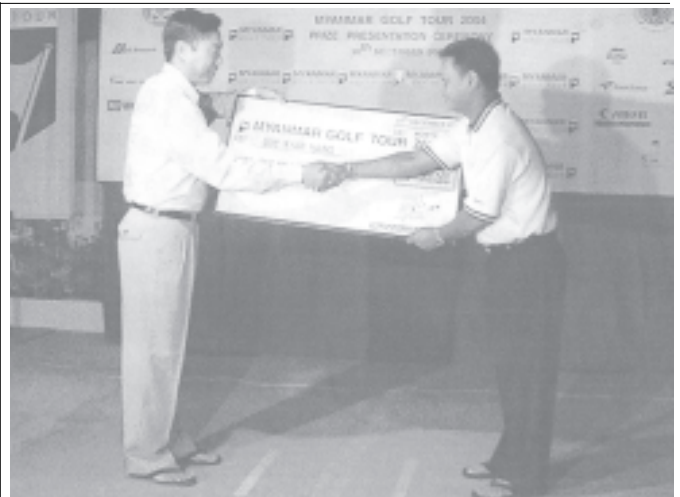
## Traditional medicine exhibition continues

YANGON, 22 Dec — The fifth Traditional Medicines and Medical Equipment Exhibition continued for the seventh day at the Tatmadaw Convention Hall on U Wisara Road here today.

Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation Thura

U Thaug Lwin visited the exhibition, where a total of 134 booths of ministries and private traditional medical enterprises are being staged.

Anyone may visit the free exhibition, which opens daily till 25 December. — MNA



*Commander of Coastal Region Command Maj-Gen Ohn Myint presents first prize to Soe Kyaw Naing (Srixon) of professional golfer event in Myeik Open Golf C'ship on 20-12-2004. — MGF*





*Daw Khin Than Nwe, wife of Lt-Gen Tin Oo, Daw Khin Lay Thet, wife of General Thura Shwe Mann, Daw Than Than Nwe, wife of Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win and Daw Khin Khin Win, wife of Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein at the competition of contestants in Miss ASEAN Culture Myanmar 2004. — NLM*

## Ei Yupa Win secures first in . . .

(from page 16)

State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann, Daw Than Than Nwe, wife of Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win, Daw Khin Khin Win, wife of Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, wives of the members of the State Peace and Development Council members, those of the Commander-in-Chief (Navy) and the Commander-in-Chief (Air), wife of the Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command, wives of the ministers, wife of the Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports, departmental heads, ambassadors of foreign missions, the Chairman of the Leading Committee for Organizing the Miss ASEAN Culture Myanmar President of UMFCFI and advisers, CEC members, members of the work committee, social organization members, journalists and enthusiasts.

President of UMFCFI U Win Myint extended greetings and explained the purpose of holding the contest.

A total of 24 contestant ladies took part in the contest and answered gen-

eral knowledge questions in English.

Out of 24, selected 10 contestants participated in the contest by playing musical instruments of their choice and answered three questions each on general knowledge in English. Of them, five were

million cheque to third prize winner May Pwint Hlaing; Daw Khin Hnin Wai, wife of SPDC Member Lt-Gen Aung Htwe, medal and K 2 million cheque to second prize winner May Nan Oo; and Daw Khin Than Nwe, wife of Lt-Gen Tin Oo, a gold statue, K 3 million

cheque and the diamond crown to first prize winner Ei Yupa Win. Ei Yupa Win, first prize winner, got an opportunity to take part in the Miss ASEAN Culture 2005 to be held in Jakarta, Indonesia, from 20 February to 4 March.

MNA



*Daw Khin Than Nwe, wife of Lt-Gen Tin Oo, presents prize to Ma Ei Yupa Win who wins Miss ASEAN Culture Myanmar 2004 Award. — NLM*

selected in final. They answered one question each on general knowledge in English again.

At the prize presentation ceremony, Daw Marlar Tint, wife of Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, presented medal and K 1

## Commander oversees summer paddy plantation

YANGON, 22 Dec — Chairman of Shan State (East) Peace and Development Council Commander of Triangle Region Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw together with officials concerned inspected measures being taken for cultivation summer paddy in the command on 18 December and instructed officials to cultivate summer paddy systematically. Two acres of Shweyin Aye paddy strain and paddy strain No 406 will be cultivated in the command area. Next, the commander inspected measures being taken for the multipurpose agricultural farm. Afterwards, he inspected plantations of lemon, mango, guava and castor oil plant. — MNA

## Commander oversees regional development tasks in Myeik

YANGON, 22 Dec — Chairman of Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Coastal Region Command Maj-Gen Ohn Myint together with officials concerned inspected Zawe-Tagu-Tharabwin road section in Myeik on 20th December.

On arrival at Tharabwin village, the commander met with departmental officials and members of social organizations and locals and gave instructions on making efforts on realization of five rural development tasks.

The commander also viewed around the students learning at Tharabwin Village Basic Education Middle School and presented K 1 million, cement and zinc sheets for building the school. — MNA



*Miss ASEAN Culture Myanmar Award winner Ma Ei Yupa Win. — NLM*

## District News

### Library science multiplier course opens in Hsenwi

HSENNWI, 2 Dec — The library science multiplier course for self-reliant libraries organized by Hsenwi Township Information and Public Relations Department was opened at TV hall of the department on 23 November morning.

Chairman of the Township Peace and Development Council U Ye Kyaw Khaing, Township PDC member U Aung Hmi and Head of Township IPRD Daw Yi Yi Mon explained the purpose of opening the course.

MYANMA ALIN

### Magit-1 cotton strain yields 1,073 viss per acre in Monywa

MONYWA, 9 Dec — The harvesting of high yield cotton strain was held at the cotton plantation of cotton grower U Thaug Shwe in Zalok Village, Monywa Township, on 3 December morning.

Before the harvesting ceremony, Chairman of Monywa District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Kyi Sein heard reports on cultivation of cotton presented by officials of Myanma Cotton and Sericulture Enterprise and local growers.

After harvesting the plantation, Hsurabi long cotton strain yielded 459 viss per acre, Superia strain 677 viss per acre and Magit-1 strain 1,073 viss per acre. In 2004-2005, MCSE and local growers extended to put the land under 11,101 acres of cotton in Sagaing Division.

MYANMA ALIN

### December mass walking race held in Taunggyi

TAUNGGYI, 8 Dec — The mass walking race for first week of December was held on Bogoyoke Aung San Road in front of Myoma Market in Taunggyi on 4 December morning.

Secretary of Shan State Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Ye Tun Sein and members, Assistant Director U Soe Naing of Sports and Physical Education Department, Chairman of Township PDC U Soe Naing, departmental personnel, local people and students totalling over 6,000 participated in the mass walking race.

The mass walking race will be held four times in four weeks of December on every Saturday.

MYANMA ALIN

### Self-reliant libraries surge nationwide

NYAUNGLEBIN, 16 Dec — With the assistance of the State, contributions of wellwishers and local people, self-reliant libraries have been mushrooming in rural areas.

Official statistics show that the number of libraries has increased to 10,791 nationwide up to 14 December.

On 12 December, Nyaunglebin Township Information and Public Relations Department opened a self-reliant library in Kya-InKyi Village in Nyaunglebin Township.

At the opening ceremony, wellwishers also provided books on general knowledge including magazines and journals.

Similarly, with the assistance of township IPRD and together with the efforts of locals, a self-reliant library was established in Hsaungpho Village in Kyauktalongyi, Shan State (South) and inaugurated on 5 December.

MYANMA ALIN

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

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

Sr. No.	Tender No.	Description	Quantity
1.	13(T)7/MR(E) 2004-2005	Spare Parts for Dozer and Excavator	1-Lot

Closing Date. -20.1.2005 (Thursday) (12:00) Hours.

2. Tender documents are available at the office of the Deputy General Manager (Supply), Myanma Railways, Corner of 51<sup>st</sup> Street and Merchant Street, Botataung, Yangon starting from 21.12.2004 during the office hours.
3. For further details please call: 291982, 201555 Ext-602,605,612

**Deputy General Manager**

**Supply Department, Myanma Railways, Botataung Yangon**

**THE ASEAN SECRETARIAT IN JAKARTA INVITES ASEAN NATIONALS TO APPLY FOR THE FOLLOWING VACANCIES**

**ASSOCIATE OFFICERS**

Associate Officer (AO) provides technical and administrative support for the coordination and implementation of policy decisions made by the various ASEAN Committees. They also organize and service committee meetings, manage projects, undertake research and perform protocol duties. Their exposure and time at the ASEAN Secretariat is also designed for enhancing their knowledge of ASEAN and development as young professionals.

AO candidates should be under 35 years old and preferably have a master's degree in international relations, public policy, law, international trade, developmental economics, political, social, agricultural or environmental sciences. Other required qualities are competency in written and spoken English; computer literacy and proficiency in the use of Microsoft Office tools; ability to multi-task and work long and irregular hours; ability to function effectively independently and as part of a team in a multi-cultural environment; and willingness to travel.

Successful candidate will be offered a one (1) year contract, which may be extended depending on performance and availability of funds. The monthly salary for an AO is between USD1,000 - 1,500, depending on the candidate's qualifications and experience. Other benefits include a monthly housing allowance and reimbursement of medical expenses.

Send your application, detailed CV, a recent passport-sized photograph and certified true copies of educational certificates and other supporting documents to: Personnel and Training Unit, ASEAN Secretariat, P.O. Box 10000, Singapore 11010, Indonesia, within three (3) weeks from the date of this advertisement. You may also email your application to [hr@aseansec.org](mailto:hr@aseansec.org). Only short-listed candidates will be contacted for further assessment. More information about ASEAN, the ASEAN Secretariat and this position is available on our website at [www.aseansec.org](http://www.aseansec.org).

**TRADE MARK CAUTION**  
**PHOON HUAT & CO**  
(PTE) LTD, a Company incorporated under the laws of the Republic of Singapore of 231A Pandan Loop, Singapore 128419, is the Owner of the following Trade Mark:-



Reg. No. 4087/1994  
in respect of "Meat, fish, poultry and game; meat extracts; preserved, dried and soaked fruits and vegetables; jellies, jams, fruit sauces; eggs, milk and milk products; edible oils and fats; bakery ingredients".



Reg. No. 4088/1994  
in respect of "Beers, mineral and aerated waters and other non-alcoholic drinks; fruit drinks and fruit juices; syrups and other preparation for making beverages; bakery ingredients".  
Fraudulent imitation or unauthorized use of the said Trade Marks will be dealt with according to law.  
Win Ma Tin JLA, R.O.P. DUBL for PHOON HUAT & CO (PTE) LTD.  
P.O. Box 60, Yangon  
Dated: 23 December 2004.

**UAE Etihad Airways buys five Boeing aircraft**  
ABU DHABI, 21 Dec — The United Arab Emirates (UAE)'s Etihad Airways has ordered five Boeing 777-300ER airplanes valued at 1.09 billion US dollars, local *Khaleej Times* daily reported Monday.

The airplanes, the first Boeing purchase for Etihad, will be delivered in 2005, with the first three in October and the other two at the end of 2005. Established in November 2003, Etihad Airways is positioned as the 21st Century airline, with a long-term goal to expand its fleet to 50 by 2009. After the purchase, the airline will be able to operate new routes in Asia, Africa, Europe and North America, reported the daily. — *MNA/Xinhua*

**ပြည်တွင်းပြင်ပကိုအားပေးပါ**

**MINISTRY OF RAIL TRANSPORTATION  
ROAD TRANSPORT  
INVITATION FOR TENDER  
NO. 004/TRT/ 2004-2005**

Sealed Tenders from eligible Suppliers are Invited for the supply of 1650 Tyre Sets with Tube and Flap Size 900 x 20 x 14 PR Rating - Lug Type, prices to be quoted in Myanmar kyats Yangon.

- Tender Documents are available at the office of Procurement & Stores Department, Head Office, Road Transport, No. 375 Bogyoke Aung San Street, Yangon, Myanmar, commencing on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, December 2004.
- Tender will be closed on 7<sup>th</sup>, January, 2005 at (16:00) hours.
- The Road Transport reserves the right to reject any or all Tenders.
- Detailed information will be available at the office of the Procurement & Stores Department, Phone Nos. (01-252574) (or) (01-376549).

**Road Transport**

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE  
M.V. YANGON STAR VOY NO (368)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV YANGON STAR Voy No (368) are hereby notified that the vessel arrives on 23.12.04 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

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

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

**Jordan, Oman to enhance  
bilateral economic ties**

AMMAN, 21 Dec — Meetings of Jordanian-Omani Joint Committee started here on Monday, in a bid to enhance economic and trade ties between the two countries, the official *Petra* news agency reported.

The meetings were co-chaired by Acting Secretary General of the Ministry of Industry and Trade Hani Dabbas and Deputy Secretary of the Omani Ministry of National Economy Abdul Malik Al Hana'i, the report said.

During the meetings, they reviewed a proposal to sign a free trade agree-

ment on increasing the volume of trade exchange between Oman and Jordan.

Other topics for discussion included the establishment of joint economic projects, seeking investment opportunities, enhancing bilateral ties in transport, agriculture, education, culture and health fields, according to the report.

Jordan's exports to Oman in the first seven months of this year reached 8.9 million dollars, while its imports from Oman stood at 5.6 million dollars. — *MNA/Xinhua*

**EAC council  
of ministers to meet  
on Uganda's  
exemption request**

DAR-ES-SALAAM, 21 Dec — The East African Community (EAC) council of ministers is to meet on Thursday in Tanzania's northern city of Arusha to discuss Uganda's request to have some raw materials exempted from tariffs after the EAC Customs union is expected to function early next year.

The ministers of the three EAC member countries, Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania, are to make a decision on the request after the ministers responsible for EAC cooperation have consulted their respective heads of state to clarify what was agreed upon during the last EAC summit held on 26 November, according to local newspaper *The Citizen*.

Kenya and Tanzania have maintained that Uganda's list of raw materials should be critically analysed to establish whether they comply with the Customs union protocol.

Uganda claims that those imported raw materials are crucial to the country's economy and therefore should be zero-rated from the EAC common external tariffs for five years.

Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania signed their Customs union protocol on 2 March and all have so far ratified the protocol and are depositing their instruments of implementation with the EAC.

The EAC Customs union regulates that Customs duties and other tariffs will be eliminated for goods traded among the member countries, but that there will be a tariff for goods imported from outside the three-country bloc. — *MNA/Xinhua*

**ပြည်ထောင်စုမြန်မာနိုင်ငံတော်  
ရန်ကုန်မြို့တော်စည်ပင်သာယာရေးကော်မတီ  
ပစ္စည်းဝယ်ယူချောင်းချေးအဖွဲ့**

ရက်စွဲ၊ ၂၀၀၄ခုနှစ်၊ ဒီဇင်ဘာလ ၁၄ရက်  
**ချိတ်ပိတ်ချေးနှုန်းလွှာများခေါ်ယူခြင်း**  
ရန်ကုန်မြို့တော်စည်ပင်သာယာရေးကော်မတီ၏ လုပ်ငန်းသုံးအတွက် လိုအပ်သော အောက်ဖော်ပြပါပစ္စည်းများကို ဌာနအရောက် ကျပ်ငြေပြင်ပယူရန် ချိတ်ပိတ်ချေးနှုန်းလွှာများ စိတ်ခေါ် ဝယ်ယူ-  
**စဉ် ပစ္စည်းအမျိုးအမည် အရေအတွက်**  
၁။ ကျောက်ခွက်သုံး ၁၆" Cone Crusher ၁ စုံ  
နှင့် ဆက်စပ်လျှပ်စစ်ပစ္စည်းများ  
၂။ ဆီဆေး(ဖြူ/နီ) ၂၀၀၀ ဂါလံ  
၃။ ရေမြှုပ်ပေါက်တာနှင့်ပန်းများ ၁၅ စုံ  
ချေးနှုန်းလွှာပိတ်ရက်မှာ ၂၉-၁၂-၂၀၀၄ (၁၆၀၀)နှာရှိဖြစ်ပြီး ချေးနှုန်းခံသွင်းလွှာပိတ်စံစံလျှင် ကျပ်၁၀၀၀(ကျပ်တစ်ထောင်တိတိ) နှုန်းဖြင့် ဘတ်ဂျက်နှင့်ငွေစာရင်းဌာန၊ ပစ္စည်းဝယ်ယူချောင်းချေးဌာနမှ တွင် ဝယ်ယူနိုင်ပါသည်။ အသေးစိတ်အချက်အလက်များကို ဖုန်းအမှတ် ၂၀၂၅၃၄၊ ၂၄၀၁၁၂ (လိုင်းခွဲ) ၂၃၅၀၃၁၆ ရုံးချိန်အတွင်း ဆက်သွယ်မေးမြန်းနိုင်ပါသည်။

**ဥက္ကဋ္ဌ  
ပစ္စည်းဝယ်ယူချောင်းချေးအဖွဲ့**

**Czech approves first national  
sustainable development strategy**

PRAGUE, 21 Dec — The Czech Government approved the first draft of the national strategy for sustainable development, local media reported Sunday.

Boosting the country's economic competitiveness will be one of the primary targets of the strategy.

The draft seeks to protect natural resources and

the environment by reducing the contradiction between economic development and environmental protection.

It also emphasized social harmony and stability by developing human resources, achieving lower unemployment rate and optimizing the age structure of population.

*MNA/Xinhua*

**DRIVE WITH CARE**

**EU agrees to clamp down on using cadmium in batteries**

BRUSSELS, 21 Dec — EU environment ministers agreed on Monday to clamp down on using cadmium in batteries in a bid to stop the toxic heavy metal from seeping into water supplies and polluting the atmosphere.

Cadmium in consumer batteries will be banned, but cordless power tools,

medical equipment, emergency lighting and alarm systems will be exempt.

Exposure to cadmium, most often found as nickel-cadmium in rechargeable batteries, has been linked with kidney and liver diseases. EU battery laws have been under review since 1997.

Batteries contain

heavy metals such as lead, cadmium and mercury that can be harmful if they leak into water supplies or eventually produce noxious gases which enter the atmosphere.

Such pollution can occur when used batteries are dumped in landfills or incinerated.

*MNA/Reuters*



# မညာရေးဖြင့် ခေတ်မီပွဲပြီးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်ဆဲ

## Europeans want TV violence banned during Christmas

AMSTERDAM, 22 Dec—Europeans would like to see TV violence banned during the Christmas season, according to a poll of viewers in 11 countries, and would forsake sports for a good family movie.

According to an 11-country survey conducted by UPC, Europe's largest cable television provider, two-thirds of the viewers want TV violence banned during the holiday season, with Hungarians and Poles leading in their opposition. Less than half of Romanians and Swedes wanted a ban.

The survey also showed that 60 per cent of Europeans would watch family-oriented films during the holidays with only 12 per cent planning to catch live sports. The survey of 5,000 Europeans was conducted for UPC by Research International.—MNA/Reuters

## Gasoline prices likely to rise this week in Thailand

BANGKOK, 22 Dec—Local gasoline prices are likely to edge up by 0.30 baht (0.07 US cents) per litre this week since crude oil prices have risen for many days upon a renewed concern over terrorist attacks on oil fields, an informed source at PTT Public Company Limite (PTT) said.

The source was quoted by the *Thai News Agency* as saying that crude prices in the New York market surged to 46.28 US dollars per barrel and Brent crude prices in Britain closed at 43.39 US dollars per barrel Monday follow-

ing a threat by the United States' most wanted criminal Osama Bin Laden to attack crude oil fields.

Market margins of local gasoline prices now have dropped to around 1.40-1.50 baht (0.35 cent-

0.37 cents) per litres from the normal level of 1.70-1.80 baht (0.43 cent-0.45 cents) per liter.

To offset the shortfall, he said, oil traders need to raise the gasoline prices by around 0.30 baht (0.07 cents) per li-

tres.

However, since the general election is nearing, PTT, which is a state-owned oil company, might be under the political pressure of not raising retail gasoline prices for a while.

MNA/Xinhua

## UAE's archaeologists find remains of 7,500-year-old man

ABU DHABI, 21 Dec—Archaeologists in the United Arab Emirates have found the remains of a 7,500-year-old man, the oldest skeleton found in the country, the official WAM news agency reported on Monday.

The skeleton was found buried on Marawah Island, some 100 miles off the coast of the capital Abu Dhabi. The man was aged between 20 and 40 years.

It was buried facing east, indicating a sophisticated community lived on Marawah, WAM quoted Peter Hellyer, executive director of the Abu Dhabi Islands Archaeological Survey, as saying.

Excavations at the island, which have lasted several years, have also unearthed remains of buildings and utensils. The UAE is located on the tip of the Arabian Peninsula.

MNA/Xinhua

## Chinese acupuncture relieves pain, improves knee function

LOS ANGELES, 22 Dec—Chinese traditional acupuncture provides pain relief and improves function for people with arthritis of the knee and serves as an effective complement to standard care, the US National Institutes of Health (NIH) said in a research report.

The landmark findings were published in the *Annals of Internal Medicine* to be released on Wednesday.

The research, the longest and largest clinical trial of acupuncture ever conducted, was funded by the National Centre for Complementary and Alternative Medicine (NCCAM) and the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases (NIAMS). Both are components of the NIH.

"For the first time, a clinical trial with sufficient rigor, size, and duration has shown that acupuncture reduces the pain and functional impairment of arthritis of the knee," NCCAM Director Stephen E. Straus said in a NIH Press release on Tuesday.

"These results also indicate that acupuncture can serve as an effective addition to a standard regimen of care and improve quality of life for knee arthritis sufferers," he said.

Acupuncture is the practice of inserting thin needles into specific body points to improve health

and well-being, a traditional method originated in China more than 2,000 years ago.

In a survey conducted in 2002 by the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the practice had been used by 2.1 million American adults.

In the study, researchers enrolled 570 patients aged 50 or older with arthritis of the knee.

Participants had significant pain in their knee the month before joining the study, but had never experienced acupuncture, knee surgery, or steroid injections thereafter.

The participants were randomly assigned to receive one of three treatments: acupuncture, sham acupuncture, or participation in a control group that followed the Arthritis Foundation's self-help course for managing their condition.

MNA/Xinhua

## OPEC oil price rebounds slightly last week

VIENNA, 21 Dec—OPEC's crude oil price jumped to 35.05 US dollars per barrel last week, 0.84 dollars higher than that in the previous week, according to data released by the Vienna-based OPEC Secretariat on Monday.

The oil prices, based on the average price of seven market-monitored crudes, reached 37.87 dollars per barrel last Friday, the highest in the five trading days. Analysts indicated that the expectations of colder weather conditions in the United States and the announced reduction in oil supply by the Organization of Petroleum-Exporting Countries (OPEC) from January 1 have helped push crude oil price to higher levels.

Meanwhile, a meeting of OPEC oil ministers, scheduled for January 2005 in Vienna, is likely to discuss the possibility to decrease OPEC's crude production ceiling, local media said.

MNA/Xinhua



Factory employees assemble artificial Christmas trees and Christmas novelties in Shenzhen recently.—INTERNET

## Accidents doubled during Water Festival in Cambodia

PHNOM PENH, 22 Dec—Traffic accidents nearly doubled during the Water Festival later last month, with 40 casualties reported per day, local media reported on Tuesday. The number is issued by the November Cambodia Road Traffic Accident and Victim Information System report. The normal daily

average was 21 casualties. Surveyed hospitals, clinics and police stations reported 628 casualties for the month, an overall increase of 3 per cent from October.

And there were 25 deaths, and more than one third of casualties were severe, requiring surgery or intensive care unit treat-

ment. Almost half of the victims were 18 to 25 years old; most were driving or riding motorbikes.

Cambodia has witnessed more traffic accidents and more people killed and injured in recent years since the roads are being improved and the transportation is on increase.—MNA/Xinhua



A shopper inspects shoes at a department store in Shanghai on 21 Dec, 2004.—INTERNET

## Sperm whale washes up dead in Cyprus

NICOSIA, 22 Dec—A sperm whale has washed up dead on Cyprus, far from its normal food-rich habitat of the western Mediterranean, marine biologists said on Monday. The 7-8 metre mammal, a protected species, landed on the remote north western Akamas Peninsula and bad weather made it impossible for authorities to reach it. The cause of death of the creature, whose size suggested it was a calf, was not known. Fin and sperm whales live in the western Mediterranean, but are a rarer sight further east because of a shortage of food. Larger marine species in the immediate vicinity of Cyprus are dolphins and tuna, with the occasional sighting of a shark.—MNA/Reuters

## SPORTS

## Jorge Benitez confirmed as Boca Juniors coach

BUENOS AIRES, 22 Dec— Three days after winning the South American Cup, Jorge Benitez was confirmed as coach of Boca Juniors in a meeting with leaders of the Argentine club who expressed their unanimous support.

Benitez, 54, who as a player was a symbol of Boca in the 1970s and 1980s, became coach in November to replace Miguel Brindisi who resigned amidst a serious crisis of results in the Buenos Aires club.

Friday Benitez also was supported by the players and fans, including his former teammate in the Boca 1981 championship, Diego Maradona, who was at the final versus Bolivian club Bolivar.

Meanwhile, Boca Juniors' President Mauricio Macri assured the coach will sign a one-year contract.

As a player, Benitez was an important midfielder, who debuted in 1969 with Racing Club and in 1973 was transferred to Boca, where he remained for 10 years (305 games and 40 goals) and won six titles: three locals, two Libertadores Cups and the 1977 Inter-Continental Championship.—MNA/Xinhua

## Greek athletes Kenteris, Thanou await IAAF ban decision

LONDON, 22 Dec— Greek sprinters Costas Kenteris and Katerina Thanou are expected to learn on Tuesday if they would be banned for missing pre-Olympics doping tests.

The International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) spokesman Nick Davies said a hearing would be held later in the day to determine any action. No public announcement is expected until Wednesday.

The pair were charged this month with missing tests just before the Athens Games in August. Both have sent explanations to the IAAF.

"I'm not expecting a public announcement until Wednesday. Both athletes and their lawyers have to be contacted (over the result) and one is in the United States," Davies said.

Kenteris, the 2000 Olympic 200

metres champion, and Thanou, the women's 100m silver medallist from the Sydney Games, also face a criminal hearing in Greece over the missed tests.

They failed to appear to give samples in Chicago and Tel Aviv shortly before the 2004 Games and again in Athens on 12 August, the eve of the opening ceremony.

Greek prosecutors have also charged the two with faking a midnight motorcycle crash which led to them spending four days in hospital as the IAAF sought to question them. Some medical staff have been charged with producing false medical reports.

MNA/Xinhua

## Mexican female soccer player to take part in friendly with men's team

MEXICO CITY, 22 Dec— As a way to make up for the negative of the International Soccer Federation (FIFA) to play in Mexico's second division professional soccer, female player Maribel Dominguez will take part in a friendly match with a men's team.

The Vice President of Celaya, the Mexican team that was to hire her, Mauricio Ruiz, said Dominguez will take part in a friendly on Sunday against Atlante.

Dominguez, a striker and member of the Mexican women's national soccer team, will participate in the match that will be played in the Miguel Aleman Stadium of Celaya, in Guanajuato state, in central Mexico.

This match, a tribute for Maribel, according to Ruiz, is aimed at people who believed in her to see her playing.

Last week she was introduced as player of Celaya, but FIFA and the Mexican Soccer Federation denied the permission to let her play, on the grounds that this sport is divided into men's and women's categories. She claimed to be at peace despite the refusal.—MNA/Xinhua

## Real's president intervenes in Butragueno-Roberto Carlos dispute

MADRID, 22 Dec— Real Madrid President Florentino Perez on Tuesday appeased a squabble between defender Roberto Carlos and vice president Emilio Butragueno.

Perez intervened after a conversation held between Butragueno and Roberto Carlos was made public, hinting a conflict as the reason why the Brazilian international who was left out of action last Saturday in the match versus Santander, with a 2-3 victory by Real.

"Roberto Carlos has a contract. We have renewed it and we are happy with him. He is one of the best players in the world and we are firm in having him here," Perez said.

It had been originally said the Brazilian international did not take part

in the match because of muscle problems, but latter rumours hinted at other reasons.

The version of Roberto Carlos did not coincide with what was said by Butragueno, who appeared upset because the Brazilian defender made reference to a conversation they held after the Saturday match.

"It is true I talked with him after the match, but because of our codes in the club, we were not supposed to disclose such conversation. He was unhappy for not playing and that is normal.

MNA/Xinhua

## Germany crushes Thailand 5-1

BANGKOK, 22 Dec— Germany crushed Thailand 5-1 on Tuesday to end their three-game tour of Asia on a high note after their weekend defeat by South Korea.

Kevin Kuranyi and Lukas Podolski both scored twice for Germany, who coped well with the sweltering heat in Bangkok following matches in bitterly cold Yokohama and Pusan.

Striker Gerald Asamoah was also on target for the 2002 World Cup runners-up, who led 2-0 at halftime after Kuranyi strikes in the 33rd and 38th minutes.

Sarayut Chaikamdee scored in the 58th minute to give brief hope to Thailand, whose defence of the regional Tiger Cup came to a halt last week when they were knocked out of the competition.

"This victory is a bit of a Christmas present for the team," Germany coach Juergen Klinsmann told reporters.

"We controlled the match and should have scored more goals but the pleasing thing has been the chemistry among the squad, which has been fantastic."

Germany overpowered Asian

champions Japan 3-0 in their opening game last Thursday but were beaten 3-1 by South Korea on Sunday as the hosts avenged their loss in the 2002 World Cup semi-final.

The defeat in Pusan ended Germany's unbeaten record under Klinsmann, who rested captain Michael Ballack, goalkeeper Oliver Kahn and striker Miroslav Klose against Thailand.

The three-times World Cup winners have now won five, drawn one and lost one since Klinsmann took over from Rudi Voeller in July.

Their games against Japan, South Korea and Thailand were a reward for the backing Germany received from Asian countries in their successful bid to host the 2006 World Cup. "There have been a lot of positives to take from the trip," Klinsmann said. "The integration between the younger players and the experienced players was a major plus." —MNA/Reuters



Germany's Tim Borowski (R) fights for the ball with Thailand's Kosin Hathairattanakool (L) during a friendly soccer match at Rajamangala stadium in Bangkok on 21 Dec, 2004.—INTERNET

## Samuel Eto'o grabs winner to give 2-1 victory over Levante

MADRID, 22 Dec— Barcelona ended the year on a high as striker Samuel Eto'o grabbed a late winner to give his side a 2-1 victory over Levante on Tuesday that ensured them of the symbolic title of winter champions.

The Cameroonian international turned past two defenders and fired a shot high into the net after receiving the ball on the edge of the area from recently crowned World Player of the Year Ronaldinho just three minutes from time.

The result left Barca 12 points clear of fellow Catalans Espanyol at the top of the table, although all their immediate rivals are in action on Wednesday.

Espanyol visit last season's champions Valencia on Wednesday, while third-placed Real Madrid, who have an additional game in hand, host Sevilla at the Bernabeu.

Barca took the lead just before the half hour when midfielder Deco scored with a deflected free kick, but they never looked comfortable against their determined rivals who were a constant threat on the break.—MNA/Reuters

## Cuba and Martinique to meet in Gold Cup qualifier

HAVANA, 22 Dec— Cuba was to visit Martinique in the second match of the Caribbean heat for the Gold Cup 2005 and expected to do well, national team coach Armelio Luis told the local Press on Tuesday.

Luis told the local Press that he expects his team "will have a good performance" through an offensive lineup after Cuba clinched a 2-0 home victory over Martinique on 12 December at Havana's Pedro Marrero Stadium.

"A draw would take us to the next phase, or even a one-goal difference. If we score it would be favourable to us," Luis stressed.

The Cuban team has not played any official match since the 1-1 draw with Costa Rica in San Jose on 20 June. And the Caribbean country has those of us who have been players want to join the team on the pitch," Butragueno said not secure a berth in the 2006 World Cup in 2006. "I believe the first match was very important after four months without matches against international teams," said Luis, who played in the national team from 1987 to 1997.—MNA/Xinhua





**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 enjoys beautiful scenes of Bagan from Nanmyint Tower in Bagan Archaeological Region.— MNA

## Senior General Than Shwe inspects construction of Arimaddanapura Bagan Palace, Nanmyint Tower and Hotel

YANGON, 22 Dec—Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe inspected Arimaddanapura Bagan Palace Construction Project, Bagan Archaeological Region Nanmyint Tower Project

and Nanmyint Hotel Project in NyaungU, Mandalay Division, on 20 December.

Accompanied by SPDC Member General Thura Shwe Mann, SPDC Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, members Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin

Aung Myint Oo and Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Rear-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Mandalay Division PDC Chairman Central Command Commander (See page 9)

## Functions of No 1 Automobile Factory inspected



Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin inspects CNG engine at No 1 Automobile Factory.— INDUSTRY-2

YANGON, 22 Dec—Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin inspected natural gas cylinders, CNG conversion kit and accessories, installation of CNG conversion kit in bus and TE-21 and installation of diesel and CNG-used engines in buses at No 1 Automobile Factory of Myanmar Automobile and Diesel Engine Industries on Inya

Lake Hotel Road in Mayangon Township this morning.

Deputy Minister Lt-Col Khin Maung Kyaw, Director-General U Khin Maung of Directorate of Myanmar Industrial Planning, Managing Director U Soe Thein of MADEI and General Manager of the factory U Hlaing Thein conducted the minister around the factory.

In the briefing hall, the deputy minister and officials reported on progress in installation of CNG engines in vehicles, import of natural gas cylinders and CNG conversion kits and arrangements for installation of CNG engines.

The minister gave instructions on tasks to be speeded up for installation of CNG engines, innovative measures to be taken for producing some parts of CNG conversion kits, the plan to make preparations for CNG installation tasks and educative tasks on of CNG to be given to the people.— MNA

## Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win sends felicitations to his Japanese counterpart

YANGON, 23 Dec — On the occasion of the birthday of His Majesty Akihito, Emperor of Japan, which falls on 23 December 2004, Lt-Gen Soe Win, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Junichiro Koizumi, Prime Minister of Japan.— MNA

## Ei Yupa Win secures first in Miss ASEAN Culture Myanmar 2004

YANGON, 22 Dec — The final event of the Miss ASEAN Culture Myanmar 2004, organized by the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, was held at the National Theatre on Myoma

Kyaung Street in Dagon Township at 6 pm yesterday.

Present were Daw Khin Than Nwe, wife of Lt-Gen Tin Oo, Daw Khin Lay Thet, wife of Member of the (See page 11)



(From left) Second prize winner Ma May Nan Oo, first prize winner Ma Ei Yupa Win and third Ma May Pwint Hlaing seen with their prizes at Miss ASEAN Culture Myanmar 2004.— NLM

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*"The development of the productive forces is the highest criterion of the social progress." The policy brings only the sufferings to the people of that particular nation.*

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AUNG MOE SAN