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Saturday, 25 December 2004

Independence

If taken for granted, independence can be lost all of a sudden to alien subjugation. The struggle to regain it, however, may cost much blood, sweat and life.

Senior General Than Shwe

Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services

(From address delivered at the opening ceremony of the USDA Special Refresher Course No 3, Management Course for USDA Executives No 15, and International Relations Course No 2).



Building of industrialized nation needs large number of highly-qualified human resources Defence Services Technological Academy holds 7th Intake graduation ceremony



Senior General Than Shwe addresses graduation parade of 7th Intake of Defence Services Technological Academy in PyinOoLwin.— MNA

YANGON, 24 Dec — The graduation parade of 7th Intake of Defence Services Technological Academy was held at the parade grounds of DSTA in PyinOoLwin at 8.30 am today, with an address by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe.

In his address, Senior General Than Shwe said: At this seventh intake of the DSTA, I would like to impart to you what you should know in all seriousness.

You have already been nurtured and trained by the DSTA to become good sons of the nation to discharge the national defence duties as technicians. From now on, you will have to enter the practical field of your profession from the training field, and discharge your duties as junior engineer military leaders.

The 21st Century sees rapid advancement and progress in science and technology. When compared to other areas, development in science and technology experiences more tests and inventions in military hardware and

software. And the fact stands witness to the global powers' dogmatism practices to dominate and manipulate the world for self-interest.

Soon after the regaining of independence, the national unity faced grave deterioration, and the nation saw the lack of peace and tranquillity. The agro-based national economy fell below the level of food and other necessities for the growing population in all aspects. At a time when other countries entered the industrial age, our nation lost its way, and was in backwardness, without having any capital for progress. In the end, the political sector of the nation reached beyond the limits of

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INSIDE

The country is achieving progress in every sector as a result of united efforts made by the State, the people and the Tatmadaw.

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PERSPECTIVES



Cadet companies seen at the graduation parade of 7th Intake of Defence Services Technological Academy in PyinOoLwin.— MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 25 December, 2004

Harmony in State, people and Tatmadaw will ensure emergence of discipline-flourishing democracy

There has been equitable development across the nation as a result of the development projects aimed at narrowing down the development gap between one region and the other.

The State Peace and Development Council has placed priority on this drive on the assumption that the development infrastructures can only be built through the concerted efforts of the government and the people.

State Peace and Development Council Chairman, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe visited Magway Division, where he met with departmental officials, members of social organizations and townsenders on 22 December. On that occasion, the Head of State gave guidance, saying that "the development momentum around the country is living proof that unity is success and that it was necessary for the State, the people, and the Tatmadaw to make continued efforts to defend and build the country".

The country is achieving progress in every sector as a result of united efforts made by the State, the people and the Tatmadaw.

With national outlook, the government is doing all in its capacity to ensure the emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation in the interests of the country and the people.

This being the case, the onus is on the government employees as well as on the people to be loyal to the country and to do their share of responsibility in the framework of law.

In the past, the regions in Magway Division and the western part of Ayeyawady Division lagged behind in development. However, the State is implementing development projects by designating Magway and Pakokku regions as development zones.

As a result, irrigation facilities, railroads, motor roads, factories, workshops and airports are growing in number in the respective regions.

Now under implementation is the seven-point Road Map that will help shape a discipline-flourishing democratic nation. In this process, the State and the people are going hand in hand to achieve the goal.

It is absolutely necessary for the State, the people and the Tatmadaw to work closely for the establishment of a discipline-flourishing democracy.

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

Sayadaws leave for India, Nepal

YANGON, 24 Dec — Twenty-one Sayadaws led by Vice-Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Dawei Gawthitayama Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Arçinda-bhivamsa left here by air this morning on pilgrimage for four Samvejaniya places in India and Nepal.

The Sayadaws were seen off at Yangon International Airport by Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aung



Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko sees off Sayadaws before their departure for India and Nepal.— MNA

Ko, Director-General Religious Affairs and disciples.
Dr Myo Myint of the Department, officials MNA

‘Soon’ offered to Sayadaws of State Pariyatti Sasana University (Yangon)

YANGON, 24 Dec — The State Peace and Development Council Office and the Central Offices made cash donation for offering ‘soon’ to 450

members of the Sangha of State Pariyatti Sasana University (Yangon) this morning.

Present were Director-General of State Peace

and Development Council Office Lt-Col Pe Nyein, Director-General U Myint Thein of Pyithu Hluttaw Office, Director-General U Tun Tun of President’s

Office, Deputy Director-General U Sein Hla of the Government Office, officials and staff.

Director-General Lt-Col Pe Nyein handed over K 238,000 for spending on offering ‘soon’ donated by staff of SPDC Office and Central Offices to Director U Aung Thein Nyunt of Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana. Professor Sayadaw of SPSU (Yangon) Maha Ganthavaçaka Pandita Bhaddanta Suçitta delivered a sermon, followed by sharing of merits.

Later, Director-General Lt-Col Pe Nyein, departmental heads and staff offered ‘soon’ to the Sayadaws. — MNA



Director-General Lt-Col Pe Nyein of SPDC Office hands over K 238,000 for offering ‘soon’ to 450 Sayadaws of SPSU (Yangon) to Director U Aung Thein Nyunt of Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana.— MNA

Regional development undertakings inspected in Shan State (North)

YANGON, 24 Dec—Deputy Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Areas and Development Affairs Brig-Gen Than Tun, together with Director-General of the Progress of Border Areas and National Races Department Col Than Swe, held discussions on regional development with officials at Shan State (North) Development Affairs Committee in Lashio on 20 December.

On 21 December, the deputy minister inspected upgrading of Mongpak-Weinkaung-Panhsan Road being undertaken by the Ministry, and Talar Quarry. On 22 December, he inspected Weinkaung Station Hospital, Weinkaung post office and TV retransmission station and provided assistance for the offices.

In the afternoon, he met officials in Panhsan and dealt with upgrading of Mongpak-Weinkaung-Panhsan Road and Kengtung-Mongkhat-Mongyan Road, requirements and tasks for progress of Wa region.— MNA

Academy Award presentation ceremony to be telecast live

YANGON, 24 Dec — The Academy Award presentation ceremony, to be organized by Myanmar Motion Picture Enterprise of the Ministry of Information, will be held at the National Indoor Stadium-1 (Thuwunna) at 5.30 pm on 26 December (Sunday).

The TV Myanmar will telecast live the presentation ceremony beginning 5 pm on that day.— MNA

All this needs to be known

- * Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
- * Do not be boistered whenever flattered
- * Do not be softened whenever appeased

နိုင်ငံတော်အစိုးရဌာနပိုင်
မော်တော်ယာဉ်များမသုံးစွဲရနေ့

လစဉ်လ၏ ဒုတိယပတ် (တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့) နှင့်
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Chavez will seek to boost China's oil investment in his country

BEIJING, 23 Dec— Energy-starved China, forging ahead in its campaign to improve relations with a range of key oil states, this week hosts visits by Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez and Iraqi interim Foreign Minister Hoshiyar Zebari.

The world's seventh largest economy, number two behind the United States in oil consumption, has awakened to the need for secure energy lifelines to continue its economic prosperity, and its diplomacy increasingly reflects that, analysts say.

"Every time the Chinese leaders go somewhere there's always bound to be some energy-related deals or discussions," said a diplomat in Beijing who follows China's energy policy.

"With the (domestic) energy shortage being one of the priorities, it's only logical that in all their foreign policy initiatives they would factor in this matter."

When the year is out China will have

met publicly with senior officials from all 11 members of the Organization of Petroleum-Exporting Countries (OPEC).

Chavez will seek to significantly boost China's investment in his country's oil and gas sector during his five-day visit, Venezuela's Foreign Minister has said. The President was due in Beijing later on Wednesday.

China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC) already operates two oil fields in Venezuela and is involved in a joint project with Venezuela's state oil firm PDVSA to build a plant to produce orimulsion, a boiler fuel manufactured from Venezuelan extra-heavy crude.

MNA/Reuters

ထိုက်တိုက်နင်းဆဲ တိုးမြှင့်ကြ



Snowy ride : Cyclists ride along a quiet tree-lined street near the east gate of the Forbidden City in Beijing as the first snow of the winter hits the capital.

INTERNET

Vietnam offers general rank to 72 military officers

HANOI, 23 Dec— Vietnam's Defence Ministry on Tuesday offered the general rank to 72 officers, the *Vietnam News Agency* reported.

Among the military officers, four received the senior lieutenant-general rank, 10 lieutenant-general, two vice-admiral, 53 major-general, and 3 rear-admiral. Defence Minister General Pham Van Tra presented the new military ranks to the promoted officers, saying the promotion reflected the special attention of the Communist Party of Vietnam and the State given to the Army.

The promotion ceremony was conducted on the occasion of the 60th founding anniversary of the Vietnam People's Army which falls on 22 December.

MNA/Xinhua

Cambodia's tourist arrivals in November increase sharply

PHNOM PENH, 23 Dec— Cambodia's tourist arrivals in November 2004 increased sharply compared with the same month last year, according to the figures of the Ministry of Tourism on Wednesday.

The figures show that 108,719 foreigners visited Cambodia in November, up 38.70 per cent compared with 78,387 last same month. Visitors arrivals from South Korea topped the list with 15,627 visitors, followed by Japan with 13,553 and the United States with 10,946 visitors.

The number of tourists visiting Cambodia has increased to 900,000 in 2004, a 40-per-cent increase from the previous year. That number is projected to increase by a further 25 per cent in 2005, according to Thong Khon, Tourism Ministry secretary of state.

Tourist arrival in the total year of 2003 were only at about 701,000, affected by diseases such as severe

acute respiratory syndrome and bird flu as well as the war in Iraq. The World Bank predicted that Cambodia's tourism sector is expected to grow by 15 per cent in 2005, despite the GDP growth will decrease from 4.3 per cent in 2004 to around 2.4 per cent in 2005.

In order to attract more tourists to the capital, Phnom Penh Municipality recently plans to open its first full-serve night markets to serve tourists and locals near Phsar Chas and in front of the Royal Palace.

The night markets will offer fruits, food and other goods that are suitable for roadside selling. The new markets will be bigger and have better security.

MNA/Xinhua

Singapore's shipping tonnage exceeds one billion tons

SINGAPORE, 23 Dec— The shipping tonnage at Singapore's port exceeded one billion tons Tuesday with the arrival of the container ship *COSCO Shanghai*. At the celebration of the city state's first billionth vessel arrival in its 185-year history, Minister for Transport Yeo Cheow Tong highlighted the cooperation between China Ocean Shipping (Group) Company (COSCO) and the Port of Singapore Authority (PSA).

COSCO, the biggest shipping company in China, established a joint-venture with PSA in December last year to develop two dedicated berths in Singapore. Yeo said that Singapore will reduce the port dues next year to maintain its position as the world's busiest port in terms of shipping tonnage and the number one bunkering hub.—MNA/Xinhua

Four US military personnel killed in Iraq as base bombing probed

BAGHDAD, 24 Dec— Three US Marines and a soldier were killed in two attacks in Iraq as the US military investigated how a suicide bomber managed to penetrate an army base in a strike that killed 22 people.

The Marines were killed while conducting security operations in the restive western Al-Anbar Province, home to the former guerilla stronghold of Fallujah, where a few hundred residents entered the war-battered city for the first time

since a massive US-led offensive against guerillas in November.

In Baghdad, a roadside bomb claimed the life of a US soldier and wounded two others, while mortar attacks killed three civilians and one policeman.—Internet



A US Marine directs truck movement at his base on sunset in the Iraqi town of Fallujah, on 22 Dec, 2004.—INTERNET

1,323 US troops killed since beginning of Iraq war

WASHINGTON, 23 Dec— As of Thursday, 23 December, 2004, at least 1,323 members of the US military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an *Associated Press* count.

At least 1034 died as a result of hostile action, the Defence Department said. The figures include three military civilians.

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

The British military has reported 75 deaths; Italy, 19; Poland, 16; Spain, 11; Ukraine, nine; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary and Latvia one death each.

Since 1 May, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,185 US military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 925 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

A soldier was killed Thursday by an explosive in western Baghdad, Iraq.

Three Marines were killed Thursday in Iraq's Anbar Province.

Internet

China lowers conviction criteria of IPR violations

BEIJING, 23 Dec — China announced Tuesday stricter criteria for intellectual property right (IPR) violations, intensifying the crackdown on rampant IPR infringements.

The Supreme People's Court and the Supreme People's Procuratorate held a joint Press conference Tuesday to announce the judicial interpretation of the Criminal Law application on IPR violations. The new criteria will go into effect on 22 December.

The new interpretation allows for the sentencing of people convicted of producing and selling fake registered trademarks, selling products with counterfeited trademarks and infringing copyright with the economic value of 50,000 yuan and above. Previously, the criteria was 100,000 yuan to 200,000 yuan.

The interpretation also said one is an accomplice if he/she knowingly provides various conveniences or acts as an import/export agent for someone who carried out the crime of IPR infringement.

ments.

"Giving 'help providers' the same criminal punishment will definitely strengthen the efforts of cracking down on IPR violations," said Cao Jianming, Vice-President of the Supreme People's Court.

In the new interpretation online piracy is seen as copyright infringement and those who violate the law will be prosecuted accordingly.

The interpretation also set sentence criteria on CD, VCD and software piracies. Now a person who copies literature, music, movie, TV programmes and software in more than 5,000 CDs or VCDs without the permission from the copyright owners will be sentenced in prison for three to seven years.

MNA/Xinhua

စက်မှုပစ္စည်းအား ခေတ်တော်ဖွံ့ဖြိုး

Cambodian National Assembly approves state budget for 2005

PHNOM PENH, 23 Dec— Cambodia's National Assembly on Wednesday approved the 2005 budget submitted by the government.

After three-day heated debate, the 2005 budget, totalling 792 million US dollars, was approved by overwhelming majority of parliamentarians attended the session.

This year's budget, up from 752 million US dollars last year, focused on funding priority ministries such as education, health and defence.

Finance Minister Keat Chhun said that the government will still be looking to donor countries for help and the budget's 28 per cent will come from foreign assistance.

At the same time, the government plans to spend about 22 million US dollars to pay its foreign debt to other countries. In 2003, the government paid 15 million to its debt.

Moreover, Keat Chhun said the government will make efforts to attract more private sectors to invest in infrastructure construction.

The government would raise civil servants' salaries by 15 per cent next year and will continue its war against corruption, Keat Chhun said.

MNA/Xinhua

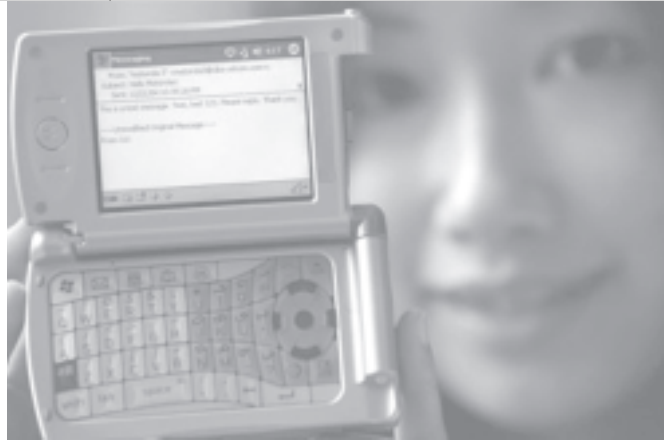
Pakistan favours early restoration of peace in Iraq

ISLAMABAD, 23 Dec— Pakistani Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz Tuesday said Pakistan desires early restoration of peace and harmony in Iraq.

Talking to visiting Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshiyar Zabarvi, the Prime Minister said a successful holding of elections in Iraq will help a great deal in bringing peace to the country, the *Associated Press of Pakistan* (APP) reported.

Aziz underlined the need for enhancing commercial and trade relations with Iraq, which is rich in natural resources and has very efficient human resource. He expressed the confidence that Iraq will be able to reconstruct itself quickly.

MNA/Xinhua



Joanne Chin, Motorola sales executive shows a MPX Mobile Internet Phone displaying the Celcom Email and Beyond services after its official launch in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 22 Dec, 2004. —INTERNET

PIOs, NRI matters to be handled by Overseas Affairs Ministry

NEW DELHI, 23 Dec— All matters relating to Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) and Non Resident Indians (NRIs) except those specifically allotted to other departments would be dealt with by the Overseas Indian Affairs Ministry headed by Jagdish Tytler, it was officially stated on Tuesday.

Several of the subjects handled by Tytler's Ministry would be pursued in consultation with the External Affairs, Economic Affairs, Labour and Employment, Human Resource Development, Culture and other ministries, according to an official notification. — MNA/PTI

Bangladesh faces crisis in manpower export

DHAKA, 23 Dec — Bangladesh faces a crisis in manpower export as Gulf countries are thinking of limiting the time the expatriate workers can stay there to just five years.

Manpower exporters in Bangladesh urged the government to take diplomatic steps immediately for arranging special options and relaxation of rules from governments of the Middle East countries, the most frequent destination of overseas workers and the largest source of remittance for Bangladesh, according to the *New Age* Wednesday.

In a summit meeting of the Gulf Cooperation Council in Manama on Sunday, Bahraini Labour Minister Jajed al-Alawi announced that the council is considering limitation of the number of years expatriate workers can stay in the economic bloc to just five years.

Ministers of council countries — Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, attended the summit.

Manpower exporters claimed issuance of individual visas had declined by nearly 50 per cent over the last six months as authorities in Saudi Arabia were issuing fewer visas after recently adopting measures to increase the number of Saudi people in different sectors.

MNA/Xinhua

Americans wounded in Iraq blast flown to Germany

LANDSTUHL (Germany), 23 Dec— Many of the 35 Americans flown to a US military hospital in Germany after being wounded in Tuesday's suicide bomb attack in Iraq are in critical condition, the hospital's commander said on Thursday.

Colonel Rhonda Cornum, head of the medical center in Landstuhl, said she was confident the death toll would not rise. The blast killed 18 Americans and four other people in a mess tent at a major US military base in Mosul.

"We certainly don't have anybody that we are not expecting has a reasonable chance of surviving," Cornum told a news conference in Landstuhl, west of Frankfurt, after the wounded arrived on flights from Iraq on Wednesday and Thursday.

The United States believes the attack at the Marez base was probably the work of a suicide bomber. Thirteen US soldiers and five American civilians were among those killed. Another 69 people were wounded — an extraordinary toll for a single suicide bomber.

Cornum said she could see no evidence as to what had caused the explosion and most of the shrapnel had been removed from victims' wounds before they were flown to Europe, she said.

Internet



A US military vehicle is seen driving off a deserted bridge in the northern city of Mosul, 370 kms from Baghdad recently. —INTERNET



Foggy Delhi: A man wrapped in warm clothes walks on New Delhi's Rajpath on a foggy morning.—INTERNET

Expansion of SAARC secretariat to be discussed

DHAKA, 24 Dec — The standing committee meeting of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) will thrash out the expansion plan of its secretariat in Kathmandu, sources of the Commerce Ministry said on Thursday.

The sources said an expert meeting was due to take place in Dhaka last week, but it could not be held due to "unavoidable reasons". The meeting of the Standing Committee consisting of the foreign secretaries of the seven-nation SAARC, which groups Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, the Maldives, Nepal and Bhutan, is slated to be held on January 5-6 next year, the

sources added.

The sources said Bangladesh will propose that poorer states of the economic bloc contribute more to the 1.5-million-US-dollar budget of the SAARC secretariat so that the bigger players would not feel they are bearing most of the expenses of the secretariat.

Bangladesh Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan has already expressed the

willingness of Dhaka to act in line with a working paper submitted by the secretariat, the sources said, adding that the secretariat has proposed to enhance the rank of the secretary-general of the SAARC equivalent to a minister, create a post of his deputy and more positions for advisers, technocrats and administrative staff.

MNA/Xinhua

Senior CPC official calls for more awareness of law, discipline

CHONGQING, 23 Dec — All local party committees should strictly implement law and discipline to prevent possible corruption of officials, said a leading disciplinary official of the Communist Party of China (CPC), the country's ruling party.

Wu Guanzheng, a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and secretary of the CPC Central Commission for Discipline Inspection, made the remarks during his inspection tour of southwest China's Sichuan Province and

Chongqing Municipality from 17 to 21 December.

He said that there are still violations of party discipline in some regions and departments.

The lack of discipline awareness is a major reason why many officials made mistakes.

MNA/Xinhua

Malaysian consortium to invest in Bangladesh high-tech park

DHAKA, 24 Dec — A Malaysian consortium is likely to invest in setting up a high-tech park in Bangladesh, the daily *New Age* reported on Thursday.

The Malaysian Super Corridor Technology Centre, a technology-based global business organization, plans to launch a two-month feasibility study in January 2005 to develop the overall framework outlining the strategic, technological and financial requirements for the implementation of the proposed Bangladesh High-Tech Park.

The park will be lo-

cated in Gazipur Town, some 40 kilometres north of the capital Dhaka, and the Malaysian consortium will provide strategic and technology assistance in the implementation of the park.

The park will be set up to promote knowledge-based and technology-intensive industries with its main focus on Information and Communication Technology (ICT).

The companies to be set up in the high-tech park will be involved in business including electronics, computer and communications hardware & software, IT-enabled services, human resources development institute, design and consultancy, agro-bio-technology and genetic engineering, automobiles and metal industries, new and advanced materials, medical supplies and de-

vices, pharmaceuticals and clinical products.

According to official source from the Ministry of Science, Information and Communication Technology (ICT), the formalities of the handover of 106-hectare land for the park have been completed, and the ministry has also finished their own feasibility study on the project.

MNA/Xinhua

Syrian PM urges foreign troops to withdraw from Iraq

DAMASCUS, 23 Dec — Syrian Prime Minister Mohammed Naji Ottri on Wednesday urged foreign troops to withdraw from neighbouring Iraq, the official SANA news agency reported.

Ottri made the remarks while meeting with his visiting Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan, recently on a two-day official visit to Syria.

The US-led war failed to bring peace and stability in the region and freedom and democracy to the Iraqis, Ottri was quoted as saying.

The Premier also called to allow the Iraqi people to play their role in the political process of a unified, free and democratic Iraq.

Erdogan also held talks with Syrian President Bashar al-Assad on Wednesday, which touched on Iraq where elections are scheduled for January 30 despite an upsurge of violence.

MNA/Xinhua

Few Filipinos return home after bomb attack in Mosul US camp

MANILA, 23 Dec — Only 15 Filipino workers in Iraq have decided to return home while more than a hundred others still stay after the bomb attack in Mosul leaving two Filipinos injured, a diplomat said on Thursday.

Charge d'Affaires to Iraq Ricardo Endaya told ABS-CBN News Channel that only those who have already finished their contracts opted to leave Iraq.

The Filipino women are in stable condition after being injured in the attack on a tented dining hall at a US military base, foreign affairs department said.

"The facility that was targeted was a huge tent with a capacity of 1,000 people, where many Filipinos serve meals to US soldiers," Endaya said.

"Good thing is that the incident happened after meal time. If this happened earlier, more Filipinos might have been injured," he added.

The Philippine Government has repeatedly

urged Filipinos to follow the deployment ban of overseas workers to Iraq in light of Filipinos being injured in latest attacks on US military camps, which as the government put, "should serve as a fair warning to those planning to sneak into Iraq amidst the volatility of the peace and order situation in that country".

MNA/Xinhua

Senior Chinese official calls for reform in agriculture sector

BEIJING, 23 Dec — A Chinese senior official highlighted the importance of the agriculture sector during his December 17-21 inspection tour in east China's Anhui Province.

Jia Qinglin, chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), called for more efforts to care for rural areas, agriculture and farmers.

Jia said that the agriculture sector plays a key role in all government businesses. He pointed out several ways to improve the work, including

the raising of the comprehensive production capacity of agriculture and promoting the continuous growth of the grain output and farmer's income. He also recommended continuing policies that help boost agriculture, such as grain subsidies, tax exemption and reductions and the timely payment of wages to migrant workers. — MNA/Xinhua

China, Syria stress dialogue between civilizations

DAMASCUS, 23 Dec — China and Syria highlighted on Wednesday the importance of dialogue between civilizations in the current world.

Visiting Chinese Deputy Cultural Minister Zheng Xinniao and Syrian Cultural Minister Mahmud Sayyed made the emphasis during their meeting.

"Human civilizations are diverse and differences between them should be respected," said Zheng, who is also the director of China's famous Museum

of the Imperial Palace.

"We can achieve and improve understandings between civilizations through dialogue," he added.

He hoped that bilateral cultural exchanges could play a proper role in promoting the good relations between China and Syria.

MNA/Xinhua



A vehicle drives past a burning oil pipeline near the northern city of Kirkuk on 21 Dec, 2004, following an explosion.—INTERNET



Members of USA and social organizations, delegates and outstanding youths saluting the State Flag at the meeting of Kachin State USA in Myitkyina. — MNA

Kachin State USA approves...

(from page 16)

nation in accord with the wish of the people after taking lessons from internal and external events. The USA Patron gave guidance to USAs at all levels at the AGM (2004), saying that stability, peace, national economy and high education standard play a major role in building a nation with

doing its utmost round the clock so as to fulfil these requirements. It managed to persuade armed groups to return to the legal fold, and they are participating in the nation-building tasks region-wise. Based on that achievement, it is taking various steps to further cement national unity, he said.

The Annual General Meeting annually adopts future tasks, objectives and work programmes that help implement the State's goals and objectives, he said. He called on the members to give advice and make frank suggestions to be able to seek ways and means to put the seven objectives and nine future tasks into motion. And associations at different levels are to adhere to the resolutions

Next, Kachin State USA Joint-Secretary U Tin Maung Win tabled a motion on speedy implementation of the seven objectives; Kachin State USA Executive Daw La Zat Lwan Nywe, a motion on speedy implementation of the nine future tasks; and Kachin State USA Executive U Soe Thein, a motion on carrying out plans in Kachin State.

Mohnyin District USA Secretary U San Lin, Myitkyina District USA Executive Daw Shi Zaw Lwan Hlan, Secretary of Bahmo Township USA in Bahmo District U Aung Hsan Win; and Executive of Machambaw USA in Putao District Daw Mar Hsan seconded the motions respectively.

Kachin State USA Joint-Secretary U Tin

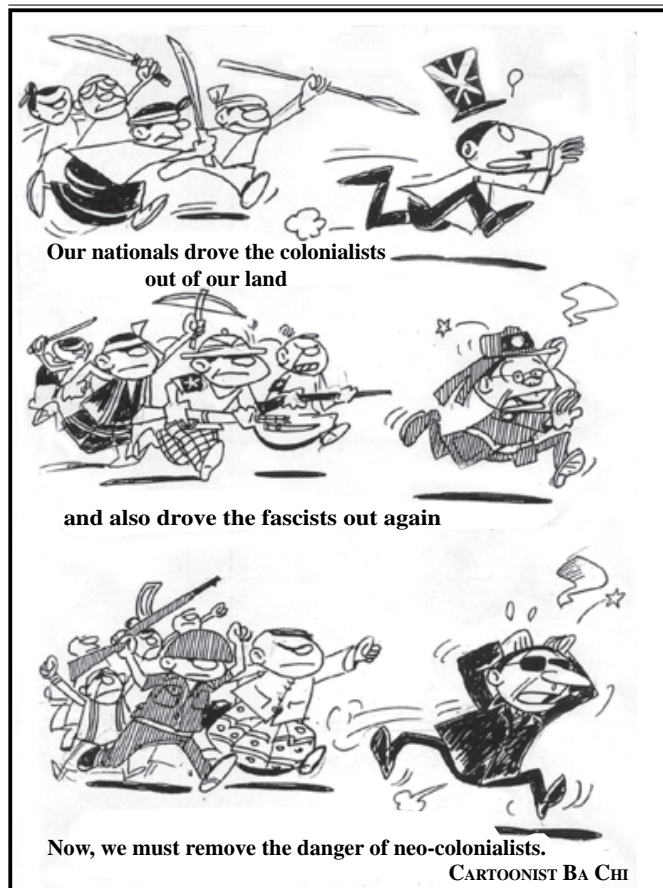


flourishing of democracy. The government is passed by the meeting, he said.

Maung Win, Kachin State Organization for Women's Affairs Supervisory Committee President Daw Tin Tin Nwe, Kachin State Maternal and Child Welfare Association President Daw Tin Tin Htay and Myitkyina District War Veterans Organization Supervisory Committee member Captain Saw Aye Ko presented gifts to outstanding youths.

The meeting chairman announced the approval that Kachin State USA will make continued efforts to implement the seven objectives, nine future tasks and the plans.

The meeting was brought to an end with shouting of slogans later in the morning. — MNA



POEM

Our Business

- * **What's Our Business**
You want to know distinctly
Please clarify, you asked
You, my beloved young brother.
- * Myanmar has regained independence
Into the long mire of slavery
Not to fall again
That's Our Business.
- * Myanmar has become united
Thinking together, helping each other
Nationals sharing benefits together
In amity with each other
Intimate and not losing solidarity
To prolong amity, that's Our Business.
- * Myanmar has become prosperous
From this good earth
Rising high, almost reach the clouds
Tall buildings ever so gracious
Across snaking rivers, bridges are built
Lofty mountains pierced by tunnelling
The modern buildings of our country
Brushwork never to fade
To hike honour, that's Our Business.
- * O, young and tender, my brother
Discerningly, if you think
"Myanmar's Business, is Our Business"
"What Myanmar must do is Our Business"
Because Myanmar is truly patriotic
Won't so to him, won't be swayed
Won't kow-tow, won't lose face
That's Our Business, What it is
This marching ahead, flag flying
This the people's strength.
Myinmu Maung Naing Moe (Trs)



Those present at the meeting shouting slogans.—MNA



New tube-wells in Thakayta Township opened

YANGON, 24 Dec—CEC members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and YCDC Vice-Chairman Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa, accompanied by officials,

attended the ceremony to open new tube-wells at Ward 5, Thakayta Township by Thakayta Township USA to hail the Independence Day and accepted the USA membership applications this morning.

Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and

officials formally opened the new tube-wells.

The new tube-wells opened today were dug by the Township USA led by Secretary U Zaw Win Naing and those facilities will be able to provide 1,070 households with potable water.—MNA

HAILING THE 57TH ANNIVERSARY INDEPENDENCE DAY

The following is the table showing 180 feet and above long bridges built in the time of the State Peace and Development Council

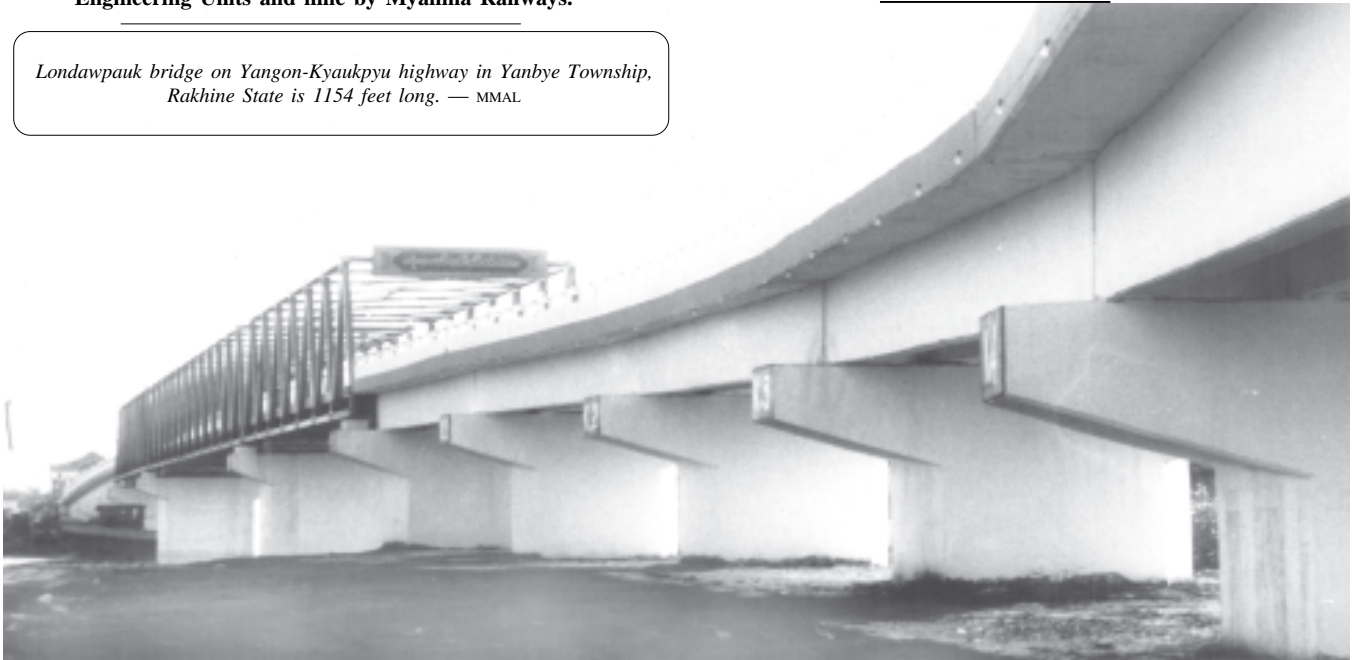
Sr	State/Division	Quantity
1	Kachin	11
2	Kayin	6
3	Chin	2
4	Sagaing	19
5	Taninthayi	8
6	Bago	16
7	Magway	14
8	Mandalay	7
9	Mon	2
10	Rakhine	31
11	Yangon	26
12	Shan	10
13	Ayeyawady	40
Total		190

Note: Altogether 190 bridges including seven built by Military Engineering Units and nine by Myanma Railways.

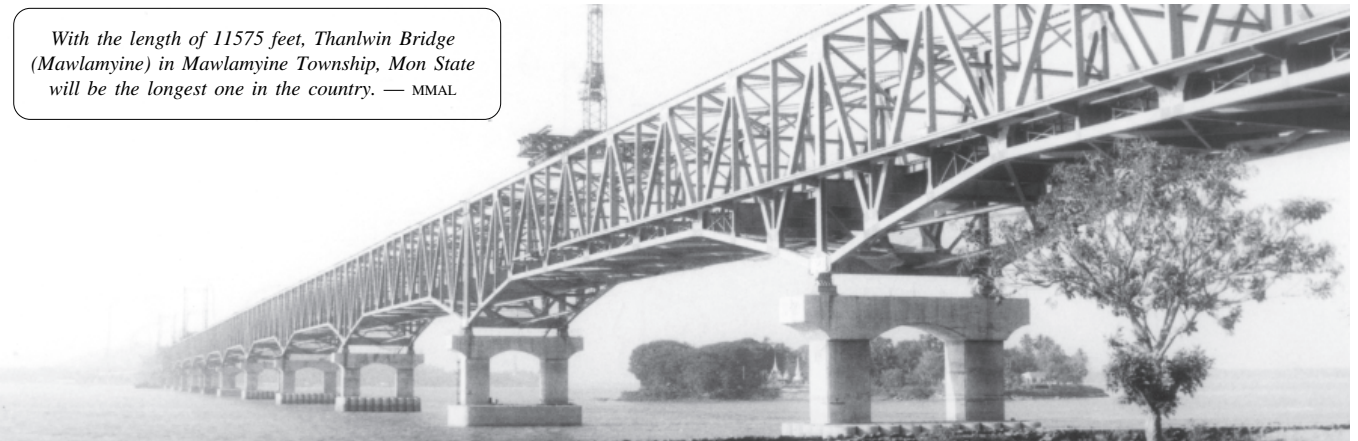
Londawpauk bridge on Yangon-Kyaukpau highway in Yanbye Township, Rakhine State is 1154 feet long. — MMAL



Patheingyi bridge across Ngazun river is 2140 feet long. The magnificent bridge seen from the west bank of Ngazun river. — MMAL



With the length of 11575 feet, Thanlyin Bridge (Mawlamyine) in Mawlamyine Township, Mon State will be the longest one in the country. — MMAL



Cherish the Independence, safeguard it at the risk of lives



Independence is the priceless jewel of a nation. All the people of a nation have equal rights to share and enjoy the

pendence. Whether a single race or people of various national races are residing in a country, they all are its citizens

called the family. When a group of families live in the same area they become a clan. A tribe represents a unit of social

As Myanmar has the territory, the population, the government and the sovereignty, it is a nation having the full characteristics. As all the over 100 national races of the nation equally represent the race Myanmar, our country is called Myanmar. The country is

Ywangan Township in Shan State and along the Ayeyawady River basin have proved that Stone Age did exist in Myanmar. The literature, music, ten traditional arts and crafts and architecture, Myanmar had invented and developed throughout the Tagaung,

phire, jade stone, pearl and other gems of fine quality are found in Myanmar, and they are being kept as national treasures.

Once the proud people of Myanmar with fine traditions and culture had fallen under subjugation of colonialists, who

Once the proud people of Myanmar with fine traditions and culture had fallen under subjugation of colonialists, who tried to grab other's territories all over the world to loot the natural riches. The whole nation fell under enslavement in 1885. But the national races in the entire country fought back the occupiers, sacrificing lives, blood and sweat, till the nation regained independence.

Invaluable jewel of the nation

natural riches, which are their heritage. Using the land and water resources as investment, the citizens will have to strive for the development of their nation with physical and intellectual power.

Every nation and its citizens have basic rights to live under their sovereign power or inde-

pendence. According to law. International legal experts and political experts say that a nation must have territory, population, government and sovereignty. Moreover, it must be free from foreign subjugation.

According to researchers, people of a single stock having the same culture, customs, language and colour are

organizations consisting of a number of families and clans who share a common ancestry, culture, and when minority groups sharing a common ancestry and culture are living in the same territory, they become nationalities. Normally, a nation is a community of nationalities living together in unity.

like a big house in which a large number of families are living together in harmony. Thus, the nation is not built with unitary system, but with union system, and it is proclaimed as the Union of Myanmar.

Fossilized remains of anthropoids found at Pondaung-Ponnya region stand witness to the fact that primates had lived in Myanmar 40 million years ago. The fossilized remains of their African cousins found in Egypt in the north of the continent are only 30 million years old. So, Myanmar people take pride in their nation as the origin of human race.

The finds at Pyadalin Cave in

Srikestra, Beikthano, Hanlin, Pyu, Bagan, Pinya, Inwa, Sagaing, Myinsaing, Nyaungyan, Toungoo, Konboun and Yadanabon periods had glorified the fine cultural

tried to grab other's territories all over the world to loot the natural riches. The whole nation fell under enslavement in 1885. But the national races in the entire coun-

Tekkatho Myat Thu

traditions of the nation in her history.

Myanmar people use water from natural watercourses and waterbodies, man-made lakes and monsoon rains to irrigate crops. The nation has over 40 million acres of cultivable land and an abundant supply of natural resources including precious minerals and gems and oil. The world's largest ruby, sap-

try fought back the occupiers, sacrificing lives, blood and sweat, till the nation regained independence. Myanmar faced exploitation of her riches for more than a century as a colonized nation. Thus, the independence struggle of the nationalities has been marked as a milestone in history. The country regained independence (See page 9)

According to researchers, people of a single stock having the same culture, customs, language and colour are called the family. When a group of families live in the same area they become a clan. A tribe represents a unit of social organizations consisting of a number of families and clans who share a common ancestry, culture, and when minority groups sharing a common ancestry and culture are living in the same territory, they become nationalities. Normally, a nation is a community of nationalities living together in unity.



The battle of Wethigan is the proof of national unity.



The entire national people bravely fought against the colonialists

Invaluable jewel of the nation

(from page 8)
as the Union of Myanmar, possessing all the characteristics of a nation — the territory, population, government,

and sovereignty — again on 4 January 1948.

Independence is the symbol of sovereignty. And sovereignty guarantees freedom for

the nation and the people. The three branches of sovereign power are the legislative power, the administrative power and the judicial power.

They are the powers that can ensure peace, security, progress and prosperity of the nation. When the foreigners took away the three branches of power, the nation became a colonized territory, and its people were subject to oppression. So, we will never let our independence fall again into the hands of others. Independence can be lost all of a sudden, but it will take much time to regain it. We will have to pay a high price to restore our independence, as we

have to sacrifice a lot of lives, sweat and blood for the cause. Besides, the country will face unjust exploitation beyond its endurance under alien subjugation.

We come to realize the true value of health only when we become sick or unhealthy. If a country falls under foreign enslavement, it will have to suffer a lot of hardships.

The longer we live under subjugation, the greater desire we have for independence. Our ancestors fought back

the colonialists for all the future generations to enjoy independence. The people will know the value of independence only if they have the experience of losing it. As the Myanmar people had made great sacrifices to regain independence, they all know its value. Thus, in no way, they will allow others to take away their independence again. Independence is the invaluable jewel of the nation.

(Translation: TMT)

Independence is the symbol of sovereignty. And sovereignty guarantees freedom for the nation and the people. The three branches of sovereign power are the legislative power, the administrative power and the judicial power. They are the powers that can ensure peace, security, progress and prosperity for the nation. When the foreigners took away the three branches of power, the nation became a colonized territory, and its people were subject to oppression. So, we will never let our independence fall again into the hands of others. Independence can be lost all of a sudden, but it will take much time to regain it.



A British military officer pays a courtesy call on King Alaungmintaya at Hinthada port on 23 July 1759.



Senior General Than Shwe takes the salute of cadet companies at Graduation Parade of 7th Intake of Defence Services Technological Academy. — MNA



Building of industrialized...

(from page 1)

control resulting from the economic slump.

As the national situation worsened to the uncontrollable degree, the Tatmadaw has to take over the State duties. In its endeavours to build up the national economy, which lacked capital then, the Tatmadaw focused on agriculture that has been the original source for national economic development since the past.

In this regard, the Tatmadaw Government has laid

omment. In this situation, you will have to strive as the human resources building a developed nation, while striving to further promote the science and technological sectors of the Tatmadaw. As the saying, which goes, "The taller the person, the longer his shade", the task to build an industrial nation will be swifter and speedier, only if you try to enhance your ability.

As a result of one innovation after another, every new innovation has been superseded by other one. Therefore, you have to try your best to keep pace with this changing process. In the first place, you have to

acquire knowledge, and then imitate the new technology and lastly innovate your own.

You will see that the celebrated scientists were those who had succeeded in their translation of their own ideas into practice. You will also find that they were of great diligence and perseverance. Mysterious inventions are the product of perseverance and diligence rather than of strength. This being the case, you have to make a lot of endeavours for the improvement of science and technology in the country.

(See page 11)



Senior General Than Shwe presents Best Cadet Award to Cadet Soe Arkar Tun. — MNA



Senior General Than Shwe presents Award for Excellence in Study to Cadet Myo Thet. — MNA



Senior General Than Shwe presents Award for Excellence in Training to Cadet Hlaing Bwa. — MNA

down and implemented the economic objective — Development of agriculture as the base and for all-round development of other sectors of economy as well. Thanks to the collective efforts of the Tatmadaw, the Government and the people, clusters of agricultural infrastructures have already been built in all necessary places. More infrastructures will be built in the future also. Because of the energetic efforts to extend sown acreage, increase per acre yield, and introduce new crops species, the nation now is enjoying surplus rice.

As the nation is able to produce enough food for the people, we will have to establish an industrial nation for the prosperity of the national people. But the setting up of an industrialized nation needs a large number of highly-qualified human resources. Hence, the Government has established 24 development zones, the project covering the task to develop human resources simultaneously in the entire nation. The rural development tasks are being attached to the project for development of all regions of the nation. Now, all the nationalities have the opportunity to get access to science and technological studies in their own regions.

In addition, the Government is giving priority to increased generation of electricity for industrial devel-



Distinguished guests at the Graduation Parade of the 7th Intake of the Defence Services Technological Academy. — MNA

Building of industrialized...

(from page 10)

Now, you have been trained in respect of the military tactics. As a result, you have now become ones ready for battles in defence of the country. This being the case, you have to possess the spirit of willingness to fight and risk your life. Moreover, you have to behave in the manner of leadership. Furthermore, you have to cultivate the spirit of preserving the fine tradition of the 12 novel objectives of the Tatmadaw.

In conclusion, it is incumbent upon all of you to establish yourselves as technocrats responsible for defence of the country, to work hard for the improvement of science and technology of the Tatmadaw and the establishment of a modern armed forces, to establish yourselves as new generation leaders who will preserve the 12 fine traditions of the Tatmadaw at risk of your lives, and to improve the science and technology of the Tatmadaw while lending yourselves to the drive for national development.

Also present on the occasion were Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence, 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, Quar-



General Thura Shwe Mann and party attend the Graduation Parade of the 7th Intake of the DSTA. — MNA

termaster-General Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Chief of Armed Forces Training Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and Lt-Gen Tin Aye of the Ministry of Defence, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Rear-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye

Myint, ministers Maj-Gen Htay Oo, U Aung Thauang, Maj-Gen Saw Tun, Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, Maj-Gen Thein Swe, Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, Brig-Gen Lun Thi, U Thauang, Dr Kyaw Myint, Brig-Gen Thein Aung and Col Zaw Min, Military Appointment-General Maj-Gen Hsan Hsint, Judge Advocate-General Maj-Gen Soe Maung, Maj-Gen Kyi Win of the Ministry of Defence, Vice-Chief of Armed Forces Training Maj-Gen Aung Kyi, Directors Maj-Gen Mya Win, Maj-Gen Tin Soe, Maj-Gen Thein Tun, Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint, Maj-Gen Khin Maung Tint, Brig-Gen Than Aung, Maj-Gen Tin Tun, Maj-Gen Than Htay, Maj-Gen Sein Lin, Maj-Gen Aye Myint and senior military officers, Mandalay Mayor Brig-Gen Yan Thein and departmental officials, Commandant of DSTA Brig-Gen Win Myint and officials, parents and relatives of the cadets and guests.

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe inspected cadet companies. Next, the cadet companies marched past the Senior General.

Afterwards, the Senior General presented Best Cadet Award to Cadet Soe Arkar Tun, Excellence in Training Award to Cadet Hlaing Bwar and Excellence in Study Award to Cadet Myo Thet. Next, the Senior General left the parade grounds.

After the graduation parade, Senior General Than Shwe met with three outstanding cadets and their parents at the parlour of DSTA. — MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and party attend the Graduation Parade of the 7th Intake of DSTA. — MNA

Traditional Medicines and Medical Equipment Exhibition continues

YANGON, 24 Dec—With the aim of enabling the people to buy a variety of traditional medicines at a single place at reasonable prices, the fifth Traditional Medicines and Medical Equipment Exhibition continued for the ninth day at the Tatmadaw Convention Hall on U Wisara Road here today.

A wide range of Myanmar traditional medicines produced by PP Traditional Medicines Industry, Sayagyi U Thein Maung Traditional Medicines Industry, Seinbayet Traditional Medicines Industry, Sayagyi U Sein Kho Traditional Medicines Industry, Shwethamin Traditional Medicines Industry, Waizzamyetlon Traditional Medicines Industry, Sandhi Brothers Trading Co Ltd and Traditional Medicines Department were put on display.

The exhibition was crowded with members of the Sangha and people and it continues tomorrow.

MNA

Chinese goodwill delegation goes back home

YANGON, 24 Dec — The Chinese delegation led by Chairman of Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries Mr Chen Haosu who visited here at the invitation of Yangon City Development Committee Chairman Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, left for home by air this morning. — MNA

Vice Chief of General Political Department of Vietnamese Army visits National Defence College

YANGON, 24 Dec — Visiting Vice Chief of General Political Department of the Vietnamese Army Lt-Gen Phung Khac Dang and party arrived at National Defence College on Shwedagon Pagoda Road, here, this morning. Commandant of the college Maj-Gen Moe Hein

extended greetings. Deputy Commandant Brig-Gen Than Maung and officials explained facts about the NDC. Deputy Director-General U Pe Than Oo of the Political Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs briefed the guests on foreign policy of the Union of Myanmar, Deputy Di-

rector-General U Myat Thu of the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development on endeavours for economic development of the State, and Head of Transnational Crime Eradication Department Police Col Sit Aye of the Ministry of Home Affairs

on eradication of transnational crimes. Lt-Gen Phung Khac Dang extended greetings. Next, Lt-Gen Phung Khac Dang and Maj-Gen Moe Hein exchanged souvenirs.

Lt-Gen Phung Khac Dang posed for documentary photo and signed the visitors' book. — MNA



Maj-Gen Moe Hein extends greetings to Vietnamese delegation led by Lt-Gen Phung Khac Dang. — MNA

**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 9.00 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 23rd, December 2004.
- Tender will be closed on 7th, 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

TRADE MARK CAUTION
AVENTIS PASTEUR, a French Société Anonyme of 2 Avenue Pasteur, 69007 LYON, FRANCE is the Owner of the following Trade Marks:-

PENTAXIM
Reg. No. 6490/2004
MENINGO A+C
Reg. No. 6491/2004
in respect of "Class 5: Pharmaceutical products, vaccines".
Fraudulent imitation or unauthorised use of the said Trade Marks will be dealt with according to law.
Win Ma Tin,
M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L.
for AVENTIS PASTEUR
P.O. Box 60, Yangon
Dated: 25 December 2004.



**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV MINDORO VOY NO (7)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MINDORO Voy No (7) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27.12.04 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of Myanma Port Authority where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: TOKO KAIUN KAISHA LTD, JAPAN**
Phone No: 256924/256914

Invitation to Bid

Integrated Community Development Project

1. We hereby solicit interested suppliers, manufacturers for the supply of following two items for Integrated Community Development Project (MYA/01/001):-

- Treadle Pump** 320 units
- Compound Fertilizer** 4,500 bags

2. Interested Suppliers may obtain further information and detailed specification of above items at the following address:

Address of Office: General Services Unit,
UNDP
No. 6, Natmauk Road,
Tamwe Township Yangon
95-1-542911 (Ext:214)/
Fax: 95-1-545634

3. Sealed bids must be delivered to the above office on or before 16:30 hrs. on 5 January 2004. Late bids shall be rejected.

**China
reassigns
several
ministerial
officials**

BEIJING, 23 Dec—China's State Council appointed several ministerial officials recently, following a series of reshuffles of several top provincial posts a week ago.

Wang Taihua, born in 1945, becomes the director of the State Administration of Radio, Film and Television (SARFT), leaving his former post as the secretary of the CPC Anhui Provincial Committee.

Liu Peng was appointed as director of the State General Administration of Sport to replace Yuan Weimin.

Chen Jianmin, replacing Song Ruixiang, was assigned as the director of the China Seismological Bureau.

MNA/Xinhua

Russian oil, gas output up in first 11 months

Moscow, 23 Dec — Russia increased its oil production by 9.2 per cent year-on-year to nearly 419.3 million tons in the first 11 months of the outgoing year, the Federal State Statistics Service said Wednesday.

Oil giant YUKOS, whose main production unit was sold for paying back part of its huge back

tax bill, was still the biggest producer during the period with some 78.4 million tons of oil output. Lukoil produced 76.6 million tons of oil in January-November, followed by Surgutneftegas with 54.4 million tons.

Russia's natural gas output hit 537.3 billion cubic metres during the period, up 1.85 per cent year-on-year. The state-owned gas giant Gazprom produced 485.9 billion cubic metres of gas.

MNA/Xinhua

DON'T SMOKE

ပြည်တွင်းပြန်ကုန်အားပေးပါ

**Falling FDI may hamper economic growth
in Thailand**

BANGKOK, 23 Dec—The dropping Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in addition to the slowdown in sector reform, productivity, education and a possible housing bubble may put a brake on Thailand's economic growth next year, an investment bank has warned.

The bank said in a recent report that as the FDI drops, Thailand is under pressure to make itself more attractive as a destination for international capital lest it gradually lose out to other countries.

"FDI has actually fallen so far this year compared to last year while that into China continues

to soar. Both Thailand and the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) need to improve their competitiveness and economic integration to maintain their attractiveness," the company was quoted by *The Nation* newspaper as saying on Wednesday.

According to the Bank of Thailand (BoT), FDI went down 13 per cent in September.

Japan continue to provide the bulk of FDI with net negative FDI from North America and ASEAN. The data could be even worse for ASEAN FDI into Thailand although ASEAN was a relatively strong investor

in Thailand last year, said the report.

With subdued credit growth and a fewer investment, the economy remains more dependent on consumer spending. Some people even question the sustainability of the economic growth as consumers take on more debt.

The central bank forecast Thailand's GDP growth would stand between 5.5 and 6.5 per cent for 2005, the same as it predicted for this year.

"Although the BoT keeps reassuring investors that they have things under control, it has some questions," it said.

MNA/Xinhua



Thomas Grandi of Canada passes a pole during a men's World Cup Slalom in the Austrian ski resort of Flachau on 22 December, 2004.

INTERNET

**Malaysian vehicles sale up in first
11 months**

KUALA LUMPUR, 23 Dec — For the first 11 months of 2004, a total of 435,051 vehicles were sold in Malaysia, up 16.2 per cent over the same period last year, the Malaysian Automotive Association's (MAA) said on Wednesday.

Out of the total vehicles sold during the period, 298,951 units were national vehicles and the remaining 136,100 units were non-national vehicles, MAA said in a statement released here.

Both the national and non-national vehicles saw significant increase in terms of sales compared with sales at the same pe-

riod last year, which was 273,479 units and 100,793 units respectively, according to the statement.

During the period of January-November 2004, a total of 420,748 vehicles were manufactured, up from 392,365 vehicles for the same period in 2003, the statement said.

Revising forecast for 2005, the statement indicated that the total sales of vehicles next year is expected to be between 460,000 units and 470,000 units, higher than the earlier forecast of 440,000 units.

The higher-than-expected total industry volume was due to the strong

economic growth, positive consumers sentiments, attractive financing scheme and the many new models introduced into the market, the statement added.

With oil money and foreign technology, Malaysia has been making tremendous efforts to develop its national automobile industry.

Malaysia National Automobile Corporation (Proton), the national car maker, was established in 1985 as part of Malaysia's industrialization programme. Importing technology and some parts from Japan, Proton has grown rapidly in the past decades.— MNA/Xinhua

Maungtau region should strive for meeting the target of 1.1 million acres of monsoon paddy next year

YANGON, 24 Dec — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt and Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Phone Swe, left here by air on 22 December morning and arrived at Sittway later in the morning.

Accompanied by Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Commander of Western Command Brig-Gen Min Aung Hlaing and Maj-Gen Thein Htaik and Maj-Gen Aung Thein of the Ministry of Defence, flew to Buthidaung, they arrived at Buthidaung. Yesterday, they proceeded to Gandama model village of Lewedet Pyinshay Village-tract in Buthidaung Township and met with local people at the Village Basic Education Primary School.

Speaking on the occasion, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than said that it is necessary to preserve national, religion, Sasana and traditional culture and to uplift of education standard at primary level. Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and Minister Col Thein Nyunt presented cash assistance to households of the villages.

At Wethali model village, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than said that the Government is implementing five rural development tasks. Therefore, locals are to harmoniously carry out agriculture and livestock breeding tasks for gaining success in implementing the rural development tasks.

On arrival at the office of Maungtau District Peace and Development Council, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than met with departmental officials. He heard reports on development of the district by District PDC

Chairman Lt-Col Yan Myo Aung.

In his address, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than said that the Government is building a peaceful, modern and developed nation. Thus, departmental personnel at different levels should strive for achieving success of the plans and aims laid down by the State. As Maungtau Township is in border area, efforts are to be made for achieving greater economic development. At present, the Government has laid down and is implementing five rural development tasks for narrowing the gap between rural and urban areas. He stressed the need to extend sown acreage and meet the target of cultivation for food sufficiency of Maungtau District. As the plan is under way to cultivate 1.1 million acres of monsoon paddy in Rakhine State next year, Maungtau region should strive for meeting the target of cultivation. Apart from monsoon and summer paddy, pulses and beans, Thitseint (Belleria myrobalan) and rubber are to be doubled on the farmlands.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than urged local farmers to extend livestock breeding and agricultural tasks. In addition, departmental officials are to make field trips to grassroots level for prevalence of law and order and security in cooperation with officials and local people.

They left for Sittway in the evening. This morning, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, accompanied by Brig-Gen Than Tun Aung of Sittway Station and staff officers, met with Tatmadawmen and families of regiments and units at Sittway Station. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than gave instructions on agriculture and livestock breeding tasks to be carried out for staff welfare. After cordially greeting the Tatmadawmen and families, they left for Yangon. — MNA



Myanmar delegation arrives back from LPDR

YANGON, 24 Dec — The Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu arrived back here by air this evening after attending the 6th Ministerial Meeting of the ASEAN-Mekong Basin Development Cooperation held in Vietiane, Lao People's Democratic Republic from 21 to 22 December.

The Myanmar delegation was welcomed back at Yangon International Airport by departmental heads, senior officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Mr Chanthavy Bodhisane, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Embassy of the Lao People's Democratic Republic. — MNA



Deputy Minister U Kyaw Thu attends the ASEAN-Mekong Basin Development Cooperation. — MNA

Minister Maj-Gen Maung Oo meets members of Special Investigation Department. — SID

Passport Issuing Division inspected

YANGON, 24 Dec — Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo accompanied by Deputy Director-General Col Zaw Win of Myanmar Police Force met with members of the Special Investigation Department at the Passport Issuing Division on Pansodan Street, here, yesterday evening.

The minister gave instructions on passports to be issued to the applicants as soon as possible.

Next, the minister inspected the functions of the division.

MNA

Myanmar delegation returns home from PRC

YANGON, 24 Dec — The Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint arrived back here by air this evening after attending 5th BCIM Regional Economic Cooperation held in Kunming, People's Republic of China from 20 to 22 December.

The Myanmar delegation was welcomed back at Yangon International Airport by departmental heads, senior officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Counsellor Mr Yo Boren of the People's Republic of China. — MNA

MWAF officials make field trips to Mon, Kayin States

YANGON, 24 Dec — The meeting between Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation with Mon State Organization for Women's Affairs took place at the City Hall in Mawlamyine, Mon State, on 22 December, attended by 1,006 members of MWAF.

President of MWAF Daw Than Than Nwe made an opening speech, saying that the federation has been implementing its seven objectives and basic principles. The government encourages the flourishing of NGOs in cementing the consolidation of the people for the perpetual existence and development of the nation. The federation is also taking active part in the prevention of violence against women and human trafficking, and raising the social standard of women.

Upholding our three main national causes, the State has laid down and is implementing 12 objectives for peace and tranquillity and development of the State day in and day out. A so called Women's League of Burma, the foreign-based women's organization expressed in a leaflet titled 'System of Impunity' that armed forces of the State were committing violence against the national race women. When the members of MWAF investigated the matter forming the inspection groups, the accusation was found untrue. The patriotic spirit and Union Spirit of the federation members will be awakened after understanding the present progressive situation. In conclusion, she urged the MWAF members to serve the interest of the State hand in hand with social organizations — the Union Solidarity and Development Association, the Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Red Cross and Auxiliary Fire Brigades.

Afterwards, she cordially discussed sectoral development of respective working groups.

The president and party of MWAF met with officials of Mon State Organization for Women's Affairs at Dawna Yeiktha of South-East Command and explained organizational set up, duty and functions and organizational tasks of the federation. On 23 December, the MWAF officials held a discussion with members of Kayin State Organization for Women's Affairs at Zwagabin Hall in Hpa-an. — MNA

Destructionist-planted bomb kills UDE student

YANGON, 24 Dec — A 21-year old university football selected of Kayin State died and three others were wounded in a bomb blast at a sports equipment shop in Hpa-an, Kayin State, at 11.55 am today.

Sa Aung Myo Myat (a) Myo Myo, a first year student of University of Distance Education died when a cassette bomb exploded at the Myaukmin sports equipment shop, when he pushed its button, without knowing who left it behind on the car. The two student football players of the state, Maung Aung Soe Moe, 19, and Maung Chit Nyi Nyi, 19, and Maung Win Phone Kyaw, 17, son of the owner of the shop, were wounded in the explosion.

When the ticket conductor of the passenger bus which the students had ridden found a cassette recorder on the car, he went to Sa Aung Myo Myat, who was at the shop, and asked him whether it was his property. Sa Aung Myo Myat told the conductor that it was not his, but he would like to examine it, and when he pushed the button, the bomb exploded and killed him.

Together with other two selected players of the state university football team, Sa Aung Myo Myat, son of U Mahn Aung Lwin, of Kawkaik, travelled from the town to Hpa-an, the capital of Kayin State, to take part in the student sports festival to be held in the capital from 23 to 25 December.

When the light bus arrived at its stop in front of Aung Thanlwin Sport stadium in Hpa-an, Sa Aung Myo Myat and two friends went to the shop to meet their friend. The authorities concerned are making investigations to expose and arrest the destructionist bombers, and urging the public to inform them in time if they found any suspicious packages, or cassettes or watches.

MNA

SPORTS

China sets tennis target for Beijing Olympics

BEIJING, 24 Dec — Chinese tennis players will aim at a medal in the women's doubles event at the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing, a leading sports official said here on Thursday.

This target seems far away from China's Olympic gold-medal performance in the Athens Games this summer, where Chinese duet Sun Tiantian and Li Ting won the doubles title.

But Sun Jingfang, director of the Chinese Tennis Administrative Centre, looks the matter the other way. "To be frank, China don't have the absolute capacity to win a medal in the (doubles) event. Chinese players have never reached the last four in the four Grand Slam tournaments and our best result is the women's doubles last eight at this year's Australian Open," Sun said.

For goals in other events, Sun said, China would try to go further than the first round in the women's singles while in men's competition, Olympic qualification is the only goal.

MNA/Xinhua

Mourinho needs stable player to give midfield some help

COBHAM (England), 24 Dec — Jose Mourinho and his billionaire boss Roman Abramovich may dabble in the transfer market next month, though the Chelsea manager has ruled out any big-name signings.

Mourinho said he might strengthen his midfield after Scott Parker broke his foot, an injury likely to keep him out of action until March.

"If we do something it won't be a big buy. I don't need top, top, top players," the Portuguese manager said after a session at the club's new training ground

in the Surrey countryside 50 kilometres outside London.

"Anyway, to get better midfield players than we have got already, I wouldn't know where to find them. "We would need a stable player to give the midfield some help. Forget Joaquin, forget Defoe, forget big names," he added.

Dozens of players have been linked with Chelsea because of Abramovich's unique spending power, with Real Betis winger Joaquin and Tottenham striker Jermaine Defoe among the most prominent.

Mourinho said the decision on whether to go shopping would depend on Parker's progress.

The 24-year-old, often used to understudy Claude Makelele in a defensive midfield role, may need surgery on the metatarsal bone in his left foot.

MNA/Reuters



Real Madrid's Portuguese Luis Figo (above) jumps over Sevilla's goalkeeper Esteban during their Spanish Premier League football match at Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid on 22 Dec, 2004. —INTERNET

COC denounces steps taken by US against sport

HAVANA, 23 Dec — The Cuban Olympic Committee (COC) denounced the worsening of the blockade imposed by the US Government against the island and in particular against Cuba's sports, local Press said Wednesday.

The declaration was adopted Tuesday by the Annual General Assembly of COC, which condemned the application by the present government of the United States of "arbitrary and unfair measures" which damage "the normal performance of our noble mission for peace and understanding among nations and men."

The text reminds that despite the limitations caused by the blockade "relations of sports exchange between the United States and Cuba were made possible."

"Nevertheless, over the past years, this exchange encouraged by the Olympic committees of both countries has become so drastically reduced that it is on the verge of disappearance," said COC, headed by Vice-President Jose Fernandez. — MNA/Xinhua

Arrigo Sacchi hopes to revive Real's fortunes

MADRID, 24 Dec — Real Madrid's new director of football Arrigo Sacchi says he has not come to the club with a magic wand in his hand, but is confident the team will recover after a miserable year of underachievement.

"For me it is a great honour to be here at a legendary club and my aim is to work as hard as I can to help it improve," the former AC Milan and Italy coach told a news conference in Madrid on Thursday.

"I'm not a magician, but I do have confidence in myself, the players and the club and believe that we will get out of this situation. I'm a positive person who always sees the glass as half full rather than half empty."

Sacchi watched from the stands as Real slipped to a 1-0 defeat at home to Sevilla on Wednesday, a loss that meant they dropped to fifth place in the Primera Liga, 13 points behind leaders and arch-rivals Barcelona.

"If we play like we did yesterday then we will lose the league," he said. "But last season Barcelona were 18 points behind us at this stage and ended up finishing ahead of us so there is room to manoeuvre if we change."

"There is no doubt that the club is in a difficult situation and we all have to work together to try and resolve the problems it now faces. Everyone at the

club is clear that things can and should improve."

The 58-year-old Italian, who had been technical director of Serie A side Parma for the last three seasons, gave his backing to Real's coach Mariano Garcia Remon who has come under heavy pressure after the team's recent poor performances.

"Mariano is a very loyal person, a servant of the club and we have full confidence in him. I don't want to coach anymore and there is no question of me taking over the coaching here."

Sacchi also dismissed suggestions that many of the so-called Galacticos in the Real squad were now past their best.

"I don't think a cycle has ended at Real," he said. "Real has players that every team in the world wants. We just have to make sure that they give everything for a club which is perhaps the most famous in the world."

"Nowadays it is impossible to have a quality team that does not have star players and for a club like Real Madrid it is vital not only to win but also to play well to give the fans something to cheer about." — MNA/Reuters

Gronkjaer making new start at Atletico Madrid

MADRID, 23 Dec — Danish international Jesper Gronkjaer says he is looking forward to making a new start at Atletico Madrid after a brief and frustrating spell at Birmingham City.

"At last all the speculation about my leaving Birmingham is over and everything is sorted out," the wingertold reporters when he arrived in Madrid for a medical. "I was really keen to come to Atletico as it is one of the big teams in Spain and is known throughout Europe. It's fantastic to have arrived at this club and I hope that I can play some good football here."

Gronkjaer joined

Birmingham City from Chelsea for 2.2 million pounds last July, but failed to settle at St Andrews and manager Steve Bruce allowed him to move on.

The 27-year-old, who will sign a two-and-a-half-year deal with Atletico for a reported fee of 2 million euros (2.68 million US dollars) could make his

debut against city rivals Real Madrid on January 8. "It would be great to play by first game against Real," he said. "It would be a magnificent way to make my debut in the Spanish league. It is a great derby and one of those games any player would like to take part in."

MNA/Reuters



Hawaii's Bobby Nash shoots over Southern California's Greg Guenther during the first half of the final game of the Rainbow Classic in Honolulu, Thursday, on 23 Dec, 2004. In the background is Hawaii's Matthew Gipson. —INTERNET

Chinese striker poised to join Sheffield United

BEIJING, 24 Dec — China striker Ilao Ilaidong is poised to join English club Sheffield United on a four-year deal at the cost of one pound (1.9 US dollars), according to Chinese media reports.

A talismanic figure for China, the 34-year-old will join United for a symbolic transfer fee initially as a player but then as part of the club's training staff.

Sheffield United manager Neil Warnock has lined up Ilao following protracted negotiations in a bid to gain access to the Far East's lucrative market.

Ilao's club Dalian Shide have allowed him to go as a reward for his distinguished service at the Chinese club.

"This is a dream come true," Ilao was quoted by the Chinese sports daily Titan Sports. "Sheffield have been in contact with me since 1999. It's a great chance at the end of my career."

Ilao, a former bad boy of Chinese soccer, acknowledged his decision had been partly due to China's shock exit from the Asian 2000 World Cup qualifiers last month. — MNA/Reuters

Three star pianists to play in HK next month

HONG KONG, 24 Dec — Three award-winning pianists, Angela Cheng, Alan Chow and Alvin Chow, will perform at a concert in Hong Kong next month, according to the Hong Kong Government web site.

Presented by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department of Hong Kong government, the "Piano Concert with One to Many Hands by Angela Cheng, Alan Chow and Alvin Chow" will be staged at 8:00 pm on 23 January, 2005 at the Auditorium, Shatin Town Hall.

The pianists will perform Chopin's "Ballade No. 1 in G Minor, Op 23" (Piano Solo), Milhaud's "Scaramouche" (Two Pianos), Brahms' "Hungarian Dances" (One Piano, Four Hands), Scriabin's "Nocturne, Op 9, No 2" (Piano Solo, left hand alone), Szymanowski's "Waltz" (One Piano, Three Hands), Dvorak's "Slavonic Dance in G Minor, Op 46, No 8" (One Piano, Four Hands), Rav-

el's "Frontispiece" (One Piano, Five Hands), Bernstein's "West Side Story" (One Piano, Six Hands).

Angela Cheng, a gold medallist of the Arthur Rubinstein International Piano Masters Competition as well as a prize winner of the Montreal International Piano Competition, is hailed by critics for her remarkable technique, tonal beauty and musicianship and considered to be one of Canada's most distinguished and respected pianists.

Alan Chow has won first prize at the Concert Artists Guild International Competition, the UCLA International Piano Competition and the Palm Beach Invitational International Piano Competition. — MNA/Xinhua

IMF projects 5.5% economic growth in Uganda next year

KAMPALA, 24 Dec — The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has projected that Uganda's economy will grow by 5.5 per cent during 2005 due to favourable macro-economic indicators.

IMF resident representative Peter Allum was quoted by *The New Vision* newspaper on Thursday as saying that if the Ugandan Government implements structural reforms across the board, growth prospects are high. "Macro-economic performance is favourable. The underlying inflation rate is good and revenue collections are on course. If the government tackles all these problems, Uganda will post growth in 2005," Allum told the state-owned newspaper.

However, he said there is need to improve management of the economy by strengthening revenue collection because the 12-per-cent contribution to gross domestic product is still low, even according to African standards. — MNA/Xinhua

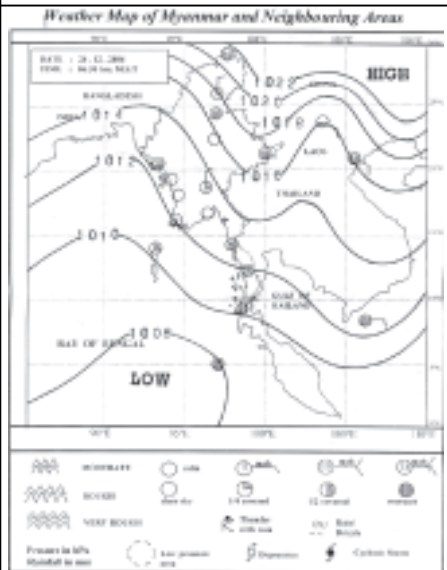
Brazil's Congress gives final approval to bill for infrastructure

BRASILIA (Brazil), 24 Dec — Brazil's Lower House gave final approval on Wednesday to a bill that should help pump billion of dollars in investments into the countries failing roads, ports, bridges and railways.

Investors have been watching the bill, which will allow the government to strike partnerships with the private sector in funding public works projects and provide a major source of direct investment for South America's biggest economy.

Congress gave its final approval to the bill on Wednesday, allowing it to be signed into law in coming days by President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva and end his second year in office on a positive note.

Lula expressed his optimism over the bill's passage through the Senate earlier on Wednesday, saying that Brazil would occupy a space "much greater and more secure" in the international arena. — MNA/Reuters



WEATHER

Friday, 24 December, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:

During the past 24 hours, weather has been generally fair in the whole country. Night temperature were (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Kayin State, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions, (5°C) to (6°C) below normal in Chin and Shan States, Bago Division, (3°C) above normal in upper Sagaing Division and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperature were (1°C) in Hakha, (3°C) each in Namsam, Moekok and Pinlong.

Maximum temperature on 23-12-2004 was 91°F. Minimum temperature on 24-12-2004 was 56.5°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 24-12-2004 was 73%. Total sunshine hours on 23-12-2004 was (8.4) hours approx. Rainfalls on 24-12-2004 were nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2004 were 112.28 inches at Yangon Airport, 106.77 inches at Kaba-Aye and 109.68 inches at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 12 mph from Northeast at (12:30) hours MST on 24-12-2004.

Bay inference: Weather is cloudy in the Southwest Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 25-12-2004: Weather will be generally fair in the whole country.

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Fair weather in the whole country. **Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 25-12-2004:** Fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 25-12-2004: Fair weather.

Weather outlook for last weekend of December 2004: During the coming weekend weather will be fair in Yangon and Mandalay Divisions.

Earthquake report

(Issued at 10:00 hours MST on Today)

An earthquake of very strong intensity (8.1) Richter Scale with its epicenter outside of Myanmar about (6,000) miles Southeast of Kaba-Aye seismological observatory was recorded at (21) hrs (41) min (43) sec MST on 23th December 2004.



Saturday, 25 December
View on today:

7:00 am

1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayadaw U Ottamathara

7:25 am

2. To be healthy exercise

7:30 am

3. Morning News

7:40 am

4. Nice and sweet song

7:55 am

5. ချောင်းမြင်း (မြို့ဝှ)

ရေလှောင်တံ (ပဲခူးတိုင်း)

8:10 am

6. Musical programme

8:30 am

7. International news

8:45 am

8. Grammar made easy

11:00 am

1. Martial song

11:15 am

2. Musical programme

11:30 am

3. News

11:40 am

4. Games for Children

12:05 pm

5. Round-up of The Week's TV Local News

1:15 pm

6. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတိုလမ်းတွဲ

"သစ္စာချစ်ခင်" (အပိုင်း-၅၄)

1:55 pm

7. ဘိုးအိုတံတား (ပဲခူးတိုင်း)

2:05 pm

8. "ရုပ်သေချော့ ရုပ်သေချော့"

ကဏ္ဍစာအုပ်စုံ: မိုင်းခွင်ထဲ

၁၂၅၀၀-၀၆၆၆၆၆

2:20 pm

9. Dance of national races

2:35 pm

10. မိုင်းတုံ့ရေလှောင်တံ

2:45 am

11. International news

4:00 pm

1. Martial song

4:15 pm

2. Song to uphold National Spirit

4:30 pm

3. English for Everyday Use

4:45 pm

4. Musical programme

5:00 pm

5. အစောင့်သင်တန်းသို့ လိုလံသွားရေး

ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ

-၇ တီထွင် (သစ်အသံကြား)

(သစ်အသံ)

5:15 pm

6. (၅၇) နှစ်မြောက်လွတ်လပ်ရေးနေ့

ဂုဏ်ထူးဆောင်

5:30 pm

7. မြန်မာ့မြေကြွယ် ယဉ်ကျေးမှုအက

5:40 pm

8. အတိုးမြှင့်ပွဲ

5:45 pm

9. Musical programme

5:55 pm

10. Game for Children

6:15 pm

11. Musical programme

6:30 pm

12. Evening News

7:00 pm

13. Weather report

7:05 pm

14. Discovery

7:10 pm

15. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတိုလမ်းတွဲ

"ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားလွှဲလမ်းရိုင်းငယ်"

(အပိုင်း-၄၃)

7:40 pm

16. အချစ်အမြင်အာသာ ဓနုရည်ကြာ

မိုင်းခွင်ထဲ

"သမိုင်းမော်ကွန်းထွန်းသစ်စကြာ

ပြည်မြန်မာ"

8:00 pm

17. News

18. International News

19. Weather report

20. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတိုလမ်းတွဲ

"အချစ်သံသရာ" (အပိုင်း-၄)

21. The next day's programme



Saturday, 25 December
Tune in today:

8:30 am Brief news

8:35 am Music:

-little drummer boy

8:40 am Perspectives

8:45 am Music: When a

child is born

8:55 am National news/

Slogan

9:05 am Music: Rocking

around the X'mas

true

9:10 am International news

9:15 am Music (Spotlight

on a star)

-The corrs

1:30 pm News/Slogan

1:40 pm Request

-Silent Night

-Children's X'mas

9:00 pm ASEAN Review

-Soy

9:10 pm Article

9:20 pm Myanmar culture by

Dr. Khin Maung

Nyunt

9:30 am Souvenirs

-While X'mas

-God be with you

9:45 pm News/Slogan

10:00 pm PEL

Four political objectives

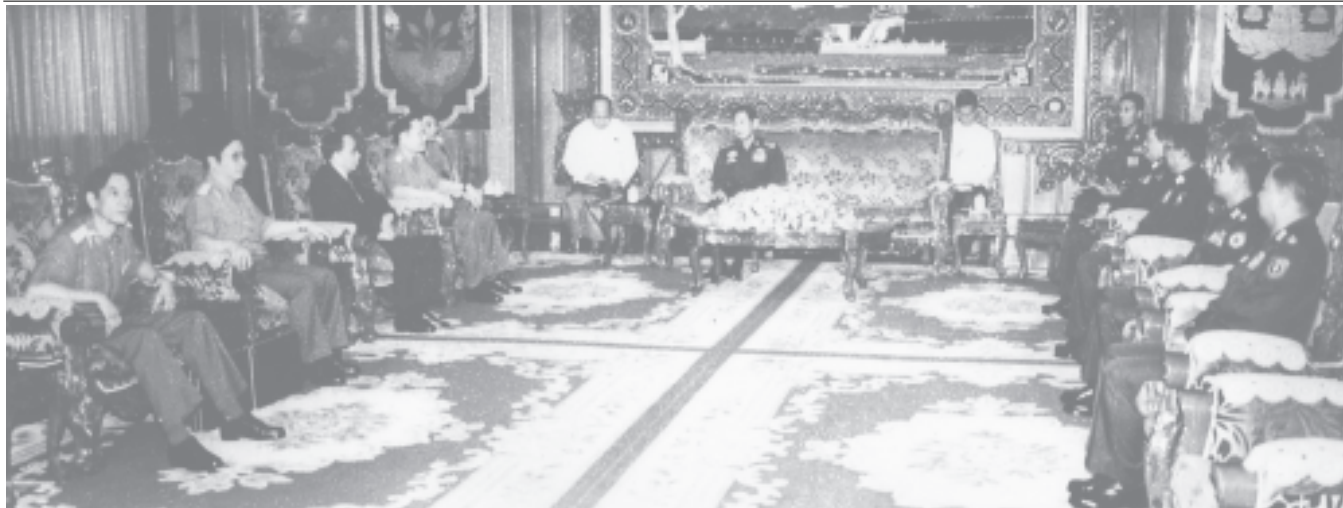
- * Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order
- * National reconsolidation
- * Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
- * Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye receives Vice-Chief of General Political Department of Vietnamese Army Lt-Gen Phung Khac Dang and party at Zeyathiri Beikman. — MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye receives Vice-Chief of General Political Department of Vietnamese Army

YANGON, 24 Dec — Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye received Vice-Chief of General Political Department of the Vietnamese Army Lt-Gen Phung Khac Dang and goodwill delegation members

at Zeyathiri Beikman Hall on Konmyinthta, here, at 9 am today.

Also present at the call were Members of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and Lt-Gen Maung Bo of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command

Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Commandant of National Defence College Maj-Gen Moe Hein, and Director-General U Thaung Tun of the Political Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Vietnamese delegation was accompanied by Vietnamese Ambassador Mr Pham Quang Khon and Military Attaché Senior Colonel Le Van Thanh. — MNA

Kachin State USDA approves of successful implementation of seven objectives, nine future tasks of AGM (2004) and plans

YANGON, 24 Dec — Kachin State Union Solidarity and Development Association held a meeting at Myitkyina City Hall yesterday morning to discuss the implementation of the seven objectives and nine future work programmes laid down by the USDA Annual General Meeting (2004) and the plans being carried out in Kachin State.

It was attended by USDA members, townselders, members of Myanmar War Veterans Association, Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation, Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Red Cross Society, Auxiliary Fire Brigade, nurses, cultural troupes of national races, delegates of Kachin Special Region 1 and 2, students and outstanding youths.

Chairman of the meeting Secretary of Kachin State USDA U

Yawungoun said that now the Tatmadaw government's endeavours have

contributed to peace, tranquillity, and development the length and breadth of

the nation.

The government is taking systematic measures

effectively for the flourishing of democracy in the (See page 6)



The meeting on implementation of seven objectives and nine future tasks of USDA and future tasks to be carried out in Kachin State in progress at City Hall in Myitkyina. — MNA