

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Thursday, 30 December 2004

Strength and prowess of Myanmar is glorious in history

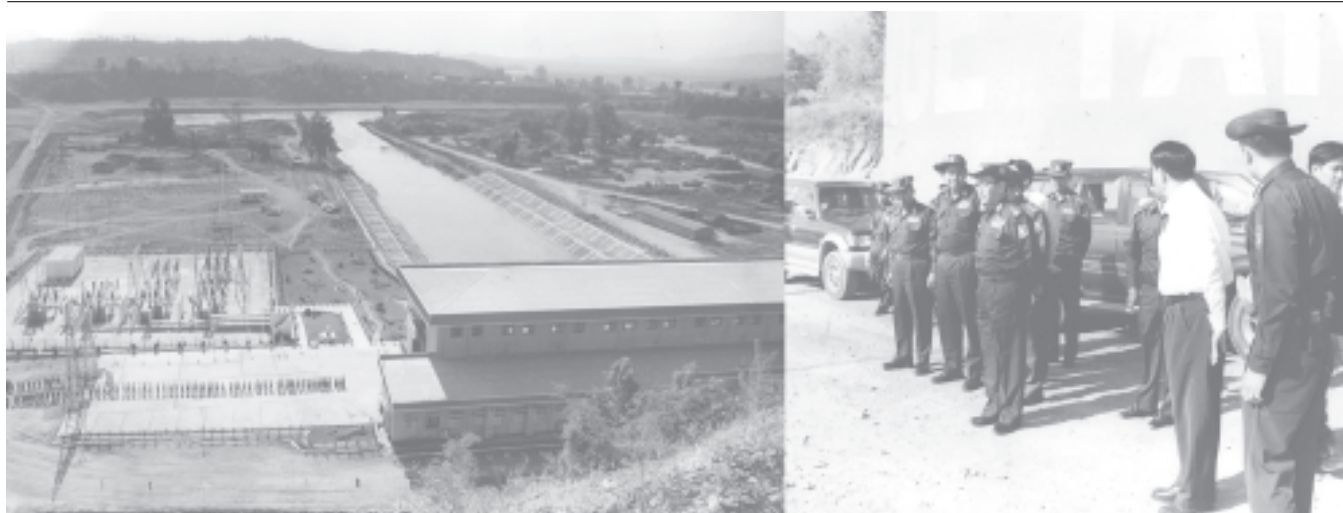
It has been placed on record with many concrete and profound evidences that Myanmar are people who have successively inherited and preserved the pride of their origin and lineage and safeguarded their freedom with heroic spirit. In the course of their struggles for regaining national independence without letting themselves get bogged down in the quagmire of slavery in the aftermath of lawless aggression of colonial forces, Myanmar on the strength of their love of lineage and nation had fought back against the colonialists politically and militarily in various ways. We should never forget that the proud strength and prowess of Myanmar who had forged strong unity and striven in unison throughout the course of the struggle for Independence, sacrificing lots of lives, blood and sweat, is glorious in Myanmar history.

Senior General Than Shwe

Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services

(Message sent on the occasion of the 51st Anniversary Independence Day)



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win inspects the hydel power plant of the Mone Creek Multipurpose Dam Project. — MNA

Government to generate 2,000 more megawatts during five-year plan Thanks to Mone Creek Multipurpose Dam, dry Pwintbyu plain can now increase irrigated areas

YANGON, 29 — Mone Creek Multipurpose Dam in Sedoktara Township jointly constructed by the engineers of the Irrigation Department under the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and Department of the Hydro-electric Power under

the Ministry of Electric Power was opened this morning at Mingalar Pandan, with an address by Chairman of the National Electric Power Development Project Work Committee Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win.

In his address Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win said that the opening of the Mone Creek Multipurpose Dam will benefit the whole nation in addition to Magway Division itself. A number of tributaries including Mone Creek, Salin Creek, Mann Creek and Yaw Creek drain a large amount of water annually into Ayeyawady River from the west bank. But the



Mone Creek Multipurpose Dam Project built in Sedoktara Township in the western sector of Magway Division. — MNA

(See page 10)

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

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 30 December, 2004

For constant development and modernization of traditional medicines

The State Peace and Development Council is building the Union of Myanmar into a peaceful and developed nation through the implementation of political, economic and social objectives. Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character and uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation are among the social objectives. In accordance with these two objectives, health infrastructures are being built and necessary steps taken to enable traditional medicine practitioners to do research on Myanmar traditional medical science and modern medical science and provide better and wider health care services for the people.

The opening ceremony of the new building of the University of Traditional Medicine was held in Mandalay on 26 December and it was attended by Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann. In his address on the occasion, General Thura Shwe Mann said, "Myanmar traditional medical science is a medical subject that has emerged through own cultures, traditions and national practices with a long history. With the care of potent Myanmar traditional medicines, Myanmar ancestors had been able to enjoy longevity. Hence, Myanmar traditional medicine has been an effective tool in the public health care services."

By laying down suitable policies on health, the State Peace and Development Council has been encouraging the development and modernization of Myanmar traditional medical science and scientific production of potent traditional medicines. Due to the encouragement of the government and the constant efforts of traditional medicine practitioners and producers of traditional medicines, the quality and standard of Myanmar traditional medicines has become higher. As a result, Myanmar traditional medical science has gained wider acceptance and complete trust of people.

In accordance with the guidance of the Head of State, the University of Traditional Medicine has now been opened. The university complete with modern teaching and learning aids will be capable of producing highly-qualified traditional medicine practitioners.

We would like to call on traditional medicine practitioners to strive for the constant development and modernization of traditional medicines through research. Only then will they be able to provide better and wider health care services for the people.

MMCWA donates milk powder to child nurseries

YANGON, 29 Dec — CEC members of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association donated 36 400-gramme Similac Brand milk powder tins each to the child nurseries in Htaukkyant and Shwegondaing under the Social Welfare Department today. The donation was aimed at developing of nutrition for orphans from birth to five years old in the centres. — MNA

ICT Exhibition to be staged in Mandalay

YANGON, 29 Dec — With the aim of achieving equitable development of Information and Communication Technology in all parts of the nation, ICT Exhibition organized by Computer Industry Association (Mandalay) and Myanmar Computer Scientists Association (Mandalay) will be held at Mandalay City Hall from 7 to 9 January starting from 9 am to 5 pm. — MNA

People's Desire

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

Upgrading of banking services coordinated



Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun addresses 65th meeting of banks supervisory committee and the Myanmar Banks Association. — MNA

YANGON, 29 Dec — The banks supervisory committee and the Myanmar Banks Association held the 65th meeting at the Central Bank of Myanmar here this morning. It was attended by

Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun, Deputy Minister Col Hla Thein Swe, Governor of the CBM U Kyaw Kyaw Maung, departmental heads, officials and representatives of private

banks.

On the occasion, the minister elaborated on collaborative efforts to enhance banking services in conformity with the prospects for the national economic progress. The

deputy minister and the governor presented progress of banking services. The representatives of respective banks added their advice and suggestions to the presentations. — MNA

Vietnamese goodwill delegation concludes visit

YANGON, 29 Dec — The Vietnamese goodwill delegation led by Vice-Chief of General

concerned, visited Shwedagon Pagoda yesterday morning. They paid homage

tural monument by the members of the pagoda board of trustees.

They also visited

egation left here by air for home this evening.

Before their departure, Commandant of the National Defence College Maj-Gen Moe Hein presented the documentary video tape and a photo album of the goodwill visit to Lieutenant-General Phung Khac Dang at the special lounge of the airport.

Next, the Vietnamese goodwill delegation was seen off at Yangon International Airport by Maj-Gen Moe Hein, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, Military Attaché of the Vietnamese Embassy to Myanmar Senior Colonel Le Van Thanh and embassy staff. — MNA



Vice-Chief of General Political Department Lt-Gen Phung Khac Dang of Vietnamese Army and party visit Defence Services Museum. — MNA

Political Department Lieutenant-General Phung Khac Dang of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, together with officials

and made cash donations to the funds of the pagoda and signed in the visitors' book. Next, they were conducted round the cul-

ture of the Defence Services Museum, the National Museum and the Myanmar Gems Emporium. The Vietnamese goodwill del-

Road construction inspected

YANGON, 29 Dec — Director-General Col Myo Myint of the Development Affairs Department under the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs, accompanied by officials, on 27 and 28 December inspected the construction of village-to-village roads by Township Development Committees in Bago Division (West).

When the director-general arrived at Waing Village in Gyobingauk Township, he heard reports on earth works and

inspected the construction site being carried out with heavy machinery. After inspecting the earth works in Kyanikan Village of Paungde Township, the di-

rector-general gave instructions to meet the set standard and to minimize loss and wastage. In 2004-2005, Bago Division (West) Development Af-

fairs Committee has constructed more than 90 miles of roads and 29 bridges in rural and urban areas in 2004-2005 financial year. — MNA



Director-General Col Myo Myint of Development Affairs Department inspects construction of earth road in Waing Village of Gyobingauk Township. — DAD

Vietnam to keep strong economic growth in 2005

HANOI, 29 Dec — The World Bank (WB) expects Vietnam's economic growth to remain strong next year, *Vietnam News Agency* reported on Monday.

"The next five years will be about laying the foundations of a modern economy for Vietnam," the report quoted Klaus Rohland, Director of the World Bank in Vietnam, as saying.

Success in this task will mostly depend on decisions and choices to be made in 2005.

Accessing the World Trade Organization (WTO) will ensure competition across most markets for goods and services, not just in terms of increased integration with the world economy, but also in terms of modernization, he added.

The WB official said 2004 has been a good year for Vietnam with gross domestic product (GDP) growth remaining strong and likely exceeding

last year's level of 7.2 per cent.

According to Vietnam's General Statistics Office on Monday, the country is estimated to post GDP growth of 7.69 per cent this year.

Rohland also highlighted five areas where the Vietnamese Government's role remains essential.

They include foundations for markets, infrastructure development, poverty reduction, social protection, and collective goods.

"Next year, economic growth is expected to top 7 per cent for East Asia and the Pacific, excluding Japan, while developing economies in the region are expected to expand by more than 8 per cent," he said.

MNA/Xinhua



Dr Charles McCreery, the geophysicist in charge of the National Weather Service Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre, monitors computer tracking systems watching for tsunami, or tidal wave, activity in the Pacific Ocean in Ewa Beach, Hawaii on 28 Dec 2004.—INTERNET

Epidemics threaten tsunami survivors in S Asia

GENEVA, 28 Dec — Typhoid, diarrhoea and hepatitis epidemics now pose the gravest threat to the tens of thousands who survived a devastating tsunami which tore across the Indian Ocean, international relief agencies said on Monday.

A senior UN humanitarian official said the United Nations faced an "unprecedented" challenge to get aid to victims left vulnerable by the wall of water which killed at least 22,000 people when it pounded coastlines from Sri Lanka to Indonesia, even taking lives as far away as Somalia. "The biggest threat to survivors is from the spread of infection through contamination of drinking water and putrefying bodies left by the receding waters," Jamie McGoldrick of the world body's OCHA agency told reporters.

In Geneva, spokeswoman Fadela Chaib of the World Health Organization (WHO) told *Reuters* that it was vital to get water purification tablets and anti-malarial first aid kits into the region, especially to the worst-hit countries.

"When clean water systems are destroyed, as they almost always are in disasters of this type, you have the immediate threat of water-borne diseases like diarrhoea, typhoid and hepatitis-E," she said.

Yvette Stevens, top official in Geneva for OCHA — the UN's Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs — said a disaster spread across many countries and islands was "unprecedented" and a major world effort to help was essential.—MNA/Reuters

Dhaka to take special traffic management during SAARC summit

DHAKA, 28 Dec — The Dhaka Metropolitan Police will put in place extra measures to control traffic movement for the three-day summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) slated to begin on 9 January next year.

The traffic department has decided to bring 100 traffic policemen from other districts for its 2200-man contingent to facilitate vehicle movement across the capital, according to the *New Age Sunday*.

The department officials feared that the traffic congestion might increase during the summit because of the movement of dignitaries attending the summit.

Additional traffic police would be on special duty to check illegal parking and occupation of footpath for smooth vehicle movement. Besides, traffic police will be on special duty around the SAARC summit venues to manage traffic.

Dhaka City, the capital of Bangladesh, is experiencing rapid population expansion and traffic congestion.

Although Dhaka City's area is less than 1 per cent of the country's total land area, it supports about 7.2 per cent of the total population of around 140 million.

Dhaka at present has about 10 million population. The city's urbanization rate is one of the highest of the world and it is projected that by the year 2010, Dhaka will be the sixth largest city of the world with 18 million population.

The intolerable traffic congestion of Dhaka City has become an everyday certainty and a nightmare for the city dwellers. It is very hard to tell about the causes of congestion in Dhaka as it does not follow any pattern.

MNA/Xinhua

Thai death toll in tsunami rises to 918

BANGKOK, 28 Dec — At least 918 people were killed and more than 7,400 injured by the tsunami on Sunday morning in southern Thailand, the Thai Interior Ministry said on Monday.

Earlier in the day, Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra said around 700 people were killed by tidal waves. Between 600 to 700 people were killed by strong waves hitting the country's southwest coast area, the Prime Minister said after

an emergency meeting held in the heavily-hit resort island of Phuket. "I have asked the Army to prepare 1,000 body bags," he told reporters. Thaksin, however, did not give specific casualties caused by the tsunami triggered out by

an earthquake in the sea close to northeastern Indonesia on Sunday morning. Local media also quoted rescue workers as saying that around 300 people probably died in the isolated resort island of Phi Phi.—MNA/Xinhua

Family Mart enters Chinese market

SHANGHAI, 29 Dec — Family Mart, one of the world's leading chain convenience store operators based in Japan, has opened its first chain outlet, Shanghai Family Mart Co Ltd in China on Monday, as an indication of its entry into Chinese market.

The Shanghai-based company is the sixth regional company that Family Mart has set up around the world. As planned, the company is expected to open 350 chain convenience stores in Shanghai by 2006.

"Domestic convenience stores still run at a low level, while Family Mart can compete on the Chinese market with its mature experience and technology in service and logistics," said Wei Yingxing, board chairman of Shanghai Family Mart Co Ltd. on Monday.

MNA/Xinhua

17 archaeological sites found south of Iraq

BAGHDAD, 28 Dec — Archaeologists in Iraqi found 17 ruined sites in the city of Nasiriyah, 370 kilometres south of Baghdad, which dated back to the Sumerian civilization, *Baghdad* newspaper reported Monday.

"These sites were found within the regions of Dawayah, and Maymona, between the cities of Nasiriyah and Umarah, south of Iraq," a source in the Iraqi archaeology department said. "These sites were discovered within 44 ruined sites that were lately discovered in the region of Soqq Al Shyookh in Nasiriyah," said the source, adding pointing out the number of the discovered sites reaches about 80. Meanwhile, the Iraq Museum, a department of the Iraqi general department of the ruins and culture, received an antiquity — a big jar dated to the pre-Islamic period — from a citizen who returned the jar to the museum after buying it from another Iraqi citizen who intended to sell it in the southern city of Najaf.—MNA/Xinhua



US Marines from 3rd Squad Bravo Company patrol during house-to-house searches in the city of Fallujah on 28 Dec, 2004.—INTERNET



Chemical tanks stand at the Tech Semiconductor Singapore factory on 27 Dec, 2004.— INTERNET

စက်မှုဥစ္စာ အေးစက်ကျော်လွှား

Vietnam welcomes more foreign arrivals in 2004

HANOI, 28 Dec— Vietnam is estimated to host over 2.9 million foreign visitors this year, a year-on-year rise of 20.5 per cent, the Vietnam National Administration of Tourism (VNAT) told *Xinhua* on Monday.

China, the United States, and Japan were Vietnam's biggest tourism markets in 2004, with the numbers of visitors rising by 12.3 per cent to 778,000, some 24.5 per cent to 272,000 and 27.5 per cent to 267,000, respectively, the administration said.

Among the 2.9 million international arrivals, the number of tourists increased the most — by 27.9

per cent to nearly 1.6 million, followed by overseas Vietnamese returning home to visit relatives by 19.2 per cent to 467,000, and business visitors by 11.4 per cent to nearly 522,000, it noted.

"We hope to welcome 3.1 million foreign visitors and record tourism revenues of some two billion US dollars next year," the VNAT said.

MNA/Xinhua

Eight more dead as cold wave intensifies in northern India

NEW DELHI, 28 Dec — Cold wave continued to sweep across plains of northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh, claiming eight more lives since Sunday night and taking the death toll in this season to 43 in the state, the *Press Trust of India* (PTI) reported Monday.

Mercury dipped to two degrees Celsius in Sultanpur, the lowest this season while the biting cold winds swept large areas, said PTI.

Four people died of cold in Pratapgarh, two in Mahoba and one each in Basti and Faizabad, said the report.

The minimum temperature plummeted to 4.5 degrees in Varanasi which was about five degrees below normal as thick fog paralyzed normal life by affecting the air, train and road traffic. — MNA/Xinhua

China opens hot line for public inquiries on South Asia tsunamis

BEIJING, 28 Dec— Chinese Foreign Ministry set up a hot line, 86-10-65963511, Monday to help the public learn information about their Chinese relatives and friends in South and Southeast Asian areas affected by earthquake and tsunamis.

One tourist from China's island province of Taiwan has been confirmed dead in tsunami-hit Thailand, according Foreign Ministry sources. No other casualty of Chinese citizen in the disaster-hit areas was reported.

The Foreign Ministry and Chinese embassies and consulates in the affected countries are taking immediate actions to extend assistance to Chinese citizens in those areas.— MNA/Xinhua

Car bomb kills one person, injures eight in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 29 Dec— A car bomb targeting the chief of staff of the US-backed Iraqi National Guard killed one person and injured eight on Tuesday, witnesses and a police source said.

General Mudher al-Mula, who was leaving his home on the edge of the Adhamiya District of Baghdad in a convoy when the bomb went off, apparently escaped unhurt.

Iraqi Defence Ministry officials were not immediately available for comment.

Witnesses said the car bomb appeared to have been parked close to the general's house in a long line of vehicles waiting overnight for petrol, a common feature of Baghdad's fuel crisis.

MNA/Reuters

China's west-east gas project operational this year

BEIJING, 28 Dec — China's massive project to transfer natural gas from the Tarim Basin of Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region all the way to the coastal metropolis of Shanghai in the east will go into commercial operation on December 30, according to the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC).

The new project is expected to produce 12 billion cubic metres of gas annually in 2007, with a targeted volume of 17 billion cubic metres in the future.

The construction of the gigantic pipeline, the longest in the country, started in July, 2002, with the aim to transfer the abundant natural gas resources from western China to the energy-starved but industry-intensive eastern regions.

The trunk pipes of this project, approximately 4,000 kilometres, originates from the Tarim Basin of the Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region to Baihe (White Crane) town of Shanghai, bypassing ten provinces and autonomous regions.

The project is more than an energy re-allocation scheme to the country, economists say, noting that it will be conducive to activating correlative industries and give an impetus to the growth of steel, cement, machine-building industries in the region along the pipelines.

It will boost economic development both in the under-developed west and the coastal east, they acknowledged. Of a total investment of 300 billion yuan (about 36 billion US dollars) in the pipeline construction, 34 billion yuan (some four billion US dollars) was given to the western areas, which has helped to create new supply and demand so as to offer more jobs to this relatively lagged-behind region.— MNA/Xinhua

Tsunami deaths mount to 6,800 in India

NEW DELHI, 28 Dec— Relief operations were launched on a massive scale in the areas hit by tsunami tidal waves as the toll rose rapidly to 6,800 in India as scores of bodies were recovered in Tamil Nadu and Andaman and Nicobar Islands, the *Press Trust of India* reported Monday.

Southern Indian State of Tamil Nadu reported a toll of 3,200 with the worst-hit Nagapattinam accounting for 1,700 deaths, followed by Kanniyakumari at 525, Cuddalore 400 and Chennai City 200.

Pondicherry a union territory in the south of India, reported a loss of 377 lives, including 265 in Karaikal, an enclave surrounded by Tamil Nadu.

The scale of tragedy in the far-flung Andaman and Nicobar Islands, located on the east coast of India, also came to

light Monday with 2,000 more deaths reported, taking the overall figure to over 3,000.

In Kerala State, located in south India, the toll was 138 and in southeastern Indian state of Andhra Pradesh 73.

The state governments and the centre launched Monday massive relief operations engaging defence forces and aircraft and ships to reach food, blankets, medicines and other material to people in the affected areas.

MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam aims population of 88 million by 2010

HANOI, 28 Dec— Vietnam aims to have a population from the current 82 million to 88 million till 2010 with each couple having two children at most, *Vietnam News Agency* reported on Monday.

The target also includes reducing the country's natural population growth rate to 1.1 per cent and the infant mortality rate to 25 per 1,000 births, lifting the number of people using modern birth control methods to 70 per cent, halving the number of abortions as compared with 1998 that recorded almost one million cases, and raising the human development index to the world's average standard of 0.75 point by then.

MNA/Xinhua



An Iraqi man throws a stone at a burning truck after a US convoy was caught in a road side bomb in the northern city of Mosul on 27 Dec, 2004.—INTERNET

China vows to improve transport ability in 2005

BEIJING, 27 Dec — Zhang Chunxian, Minister of Communications, said here Sunday that the ministry will improve transportation in 2005 to meet the increasing demands of China's booming economy.

Zhang made the announcement at the country's yearly national meeting for transportation. According to the ministry, passenger and freight transportation on highways and waterways are expected to reach 17.3 billion people and 14.9 billion tons in 2005, up 5 and 6.4 per cent, respectively, over 2004.

The freight and container throughput for ports will grow 500 million tons and 13 million TEU (twenty foot equivalent unit), respectively, to 4.6 billion tons and 75 million TEU.

The ministry will make efforts to guarantee transportation for coal, especially coal for power-generating, Zhang said, adding that priority will also be given to transportation for agricultural

products, life necessities and important materials for the national economy such as oil, minerals and food supplies.

Zhang urged all concerned departments to further improve transportation in the Three Gorges area to make it easy for passengers and vessels to pass through the dams. Meanwhile, Zhang said the ministry will strengthen regulations on overloading next year, aiming to limit overloaded vehicles to under 6 per cent.

The Ministry of Communications, along with eight other ministries, began to deal with overloaded vehicles on 20 June when 80 per cent of all vehicles were overloaded. Now there are 10 per cent overloaded vehicles found on highways. —MNA/Xinhua

UN teams head for Asian nations hit by quakes, tidal waves

UNITED NATIONS, 27 Dec— The United Nations has sent experts to help with rescue and relief work in Indonesia, India and other Asian countries stricken by powerful earthquakes and tidal waves, a UN spokesman said on Sunday.

"The Secretary-General was profoundly saddened to learn of the massive loss of life and destruction caused by a series of earthquakes and tidal waves in the western Pacific and Indian Oceans today," spokesman Fred Eckhard said in a statement.

An 8.9-magnitude underwater earthquake struck off the Indonesian island of Sumatra Sunday morning. The quake and its aftershocks triggered tsunamis which hit India, Sri Lanka, Malaysia and four other Asian countries. The death toll from the disasters has surpassed the mark of 10,000.

Annan "extends his sincere condolences to the people and governments of the countries affected as they cope with their catastrophic losses", Eckhard said.

"The United Nations stands ready to provide the assistance necessary to meet the needs created by these natural disasters," he added.

"United Nations disaster and coordination teams are being dispatched throughout the region to work with governments of affected countries in providing rescue and relief assistance."

MNA/Xinhua

HK tourist agency cancels tours to Thailand's Phuket

HONG KONG, 27 Dec— Hong Kong's Hong Thai Travel Services decided Sunday to cancel two days of tours to Phuket of Thailand, which was affected by a strong earthquake in northwest of Indonesia.

A spokesman from the Hong Kong Airport Authority said in an interview with Xinhua that the Orient Thai has decided to cancel four flights to and from Phuket, Thailand scheduled Sunday and Monday. —MNA/Xinhua

France confirms two nationals killed in Asian tsunamis

PARIS, 27 Dec — French authorities confirmed Sunday that two French nationals died in the tsunami that struck southern Asia earlier on Sunday.

A four-year-old girl was swept away by a huge wave crashing into the town of Tangalla in southern Sri Lanka, where her family was on vacation, and a man working for the Club Med resort chain was killed in the tsunami on the Thai island of Phuket, France 2 television channel quoted French Foreign Ministry as saying.

MNA/Xinhua



Uprooted trees cover a tire on a street after a tidal wave hit Kata beach in Phuket, Thailand, on 26 Dec, 2004.—INTERNET

Putin sends condolences to S Asian leaders over earthquake

MOSCOW, 27 Dec— Russian President Vladimir Putin on Sunday sent condolences to leaders of the Asian nations which were hit by tidal waves caused by a devastating earthquake off Indonesia's north-west coast.

Putin conveyed his deep condolences to leaders of India, Indonesia, Thailand, and Sri Lanka over the enormous loss of life and material damages in the catastrophe, the Kremlin said in a statement.

More than 4,000 Asian people have been reportedly killed by horrible tsunamis triggered by the devastating earthquake measured 8.9 on the Richter Scale, which jolted sea areas northwest of Indonesia's Sumatra Sunday morning.— MNA/Xinhua

Germany offers to help in S Asian quake

BERLIN, 27 Dec— Germany sent condolences to southern Asian countries which were hit by the biggest earthquake in 40 years Sunday and expressed its willingness to offer assistance.

German President Horst Koehler expressed his deepest sympathy on behalf of all German people in a message to the leaders of the southern Asian countries.

In a telegram to the foreign ministers of Sri Lanka, Indonesia, India, Thailand, Bangladesh, Malaysia and Maldives, German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer said his government was prepared to offer help in the catastrophe.

MNA/Xinhua

Two US soldiers killed by roadside bombs in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 27 Dec—Roadside bombs killed two US soldiers and wounded five in two separate blasts in Iraq, the US military said Monday.

An attack on a US military patrol in Samarra, about 100 km (60 miles) north of the capital, killed one soldier and wounded another overnight, it said in a statement.

A second soldier was killed and four wounded by another blast in Baghdad early Monday morning, it said.

The statements gave no further

details. Roadside bombs are a weapon of choice for guerillas fighting US forces in Iraq.

At least 1,041 US troops have been killed in action in Iraq since the beginning of last year's war to oust Saddam Hussein. Over the same period, nearly 10,000 have been wounded.

Internet



An Iraqi policeman watches people queuing at a checkpoint to enter the devastated city Fallujah on 25 Dec, 2004.—INTERNET

Sunni group pulls out of Iraq polls

BAGHDAD, 27 Dec— A leading Sunni Muslim party is withdrawing from Iraq's 30 January elections, saying persistent violence would prevent people from voting in the Sunni north and west.

"We are withdrawing," Muhsin Abd al-Hamid, head of the Iraqi Islamic Party, said on Monday.

"We are not calling for a boycott but we said we would take part only if certain conditions had been met and they have not."

His party had threatened to boycott the election unless it was postponed by up to six months to ensure that voters across the country would be able to vote.—Internet

Donate blood



Participants chanting slogans at the conclusion of Mon State USDA Meeting.— MNA

USDA Patron...

(from page 16)

approved one matter and put on record three matters including the seven objectives and nine future tasks to cement the national unity.

The USDA was established on 15 September 1993 with a view to serving the interest of the country and the entire people. In other words, the association has emerged as a strong national force.

Today is a time when the seven-point Road Map is being implemented. In doing so, the implementation of the Road Map will be carried out one phase after another. In this regard, cooperation of the people plays the most important role.

Nowadays, it is obvious that unprecedented peace and

tranquillity are flourishing in the entire nation. Apart from the agriculture, fish and meat, forest and industrial sectors, good infrastructures have been created in the education, health and technological sectors. Furthermore, development tasks of the border areas and rural areas are being carried out. The implementation of these tasks is meant to create a good condition for emergence of discipline-flourishing democratic nation.

Next, Mon State USDA Executive Daw Ei Ei San tabled a motion calling for implementation of the seven objectives of the USDA Annual General Meeting 2004 with might and main and Mon State USDA Executive Dr Khin Maung Thwin seconded the motion.

Mon State USDA

Executive U Win Bo discussed the plans to be carried out in Mon State.

Mawlamyine District USDA Joint-Secretary U Min Ye Tun, Thaton District USDA

Executive U Aung Thura and Platoon Commander of Mudon Township Red Cross Brigade U Aung Ye Naing made a discussion on the implementation of the



Representatives and outstanding students salute the State Flag.— MNA



POEM Let's march for the Salute

- * The nation free from harm
Peaceful and pleasant
For its development, beloved citizens
Do your best
Look around Myanmar nation
Beautiful scenery
Roads and bridges variegated
With budding flowers
When the dew uncovers the dawn
Our era's seen
- * With dams and irrigation
Ponds, lakes brimming clear
Be there drought, but there'll be water
All's been reinforced
Pagodas and edifices plenty
A glitter with gold
And religion shining out
To outshine others in the world
Do our best with the inputs
Forever asserting our strength
Noble is the mind
- * Brethren, come together
Our kin come together
Hands held unity forever
Our nation, our strength
That's what we rely on
To the Independence monument
We'll march without hesitation
- * Non-disintegration of the Union
Non-disintegration of national solidarity
And perpetuation of sovereignty
If only we base on Our Three Main National Causes
Our Golden Land will be harmless
There'll be peace, all-round development
With these noble thoughts
Let's all salute.

Soe Moe (Pathein) (Trs)



seven objectives and nine future tasks of the USDA Annual General Meeting (2004), and the plans to be carried out in Mon State respectively.

Mon State USDA Joint-Secretary Daw Yi Yi Myint, Reserved Executive Rector of Mawlamyine University U San Tint, member of Mon State Organization for Women's Affairs Daw Khin Kyu Hla, Joint-Secretary of Mon State MCWA Dr Ohn Pan Pwint, Head of Mon

State Fire Services Department U Thein Hlaing and Mawlamyine Township WVO Vice-Chairman Maj Tin Oo (Retd) presented prizes to outstanding students and youths.

Mon State USDA Executive U Thant Zin handed over K 10 million for townships in Mawlamyine District to Secretary of the District USDA Dr Toe Toe Aung; K 10 million for Ye Township to Secretary of the Township USDA U

Kyaw Thura and K 10 million for townships in Thaton District to Secretary of the District USDA U Kyaw Myint respectively.

Later, the meeting approved implementation of the seven objectives and nine future tasks laid down by the USDA Annual General Meeting 2004 and the plans to be carried out in Mon State before the conclusion of the meeting by chanting slogans.

MNA

HAILING THE 57TH ANNIVERSARY INDEPENDENCE DAY

MUSHROOMING INDUSTRIAL ZONES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY

PATHEIN INDUSTRIAL ZONE

Vehicles and farm equipments are manufactured at Ayeyar Car Assembling Workshop in Pathein Industrial zone.—MYANMA ALIN



INDUSTRIES IN HLINETHAYA INDUSTRIAL ZONE

Export items and import-substitute goods are produced in Hlinethaya Industrial Zone in Yangon Division.—MYANMA ALIN



Industrial zones emerged after 1988

Sr	State/ Division	Region	Quantity
1.	Yangon Division	Yangon (East) Industrial Zone Yangon (West) Industrial Zone Yangon (South) Industrial Zone Yangon (North) Industrial Zone	4
2.	Mandalay Division	Mandalay, Myingyan, Meiktila	3
3	Magway Division	Yenangyoung, Pakokku	2
4	Bago Division	Pyay, Bago	2
5	Ayeyawady Division	Patheingyi, Myaungmya, Hinthada	3
6	Sagaing Division	Monywa, Kalay	2
7	Mon State	Mawlamyine	1
8	Taninthayi Division	Myeik	1
9	Shan State	Taunggyi	1
		Total	19

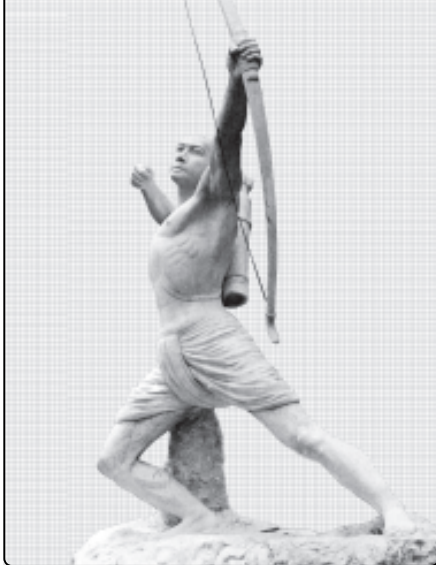
POWER-TILLERS PRODUCED FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Industrial zones are being established throughout the country for industrial development. Photo shows power-tillers manufactured in Ayethaya Industrial Zone, Taunggyi Township, Shan State (South).

MYANMA ALIN



**Cherish the Independence,
safeguard it at the risk of lives**



The evil acts of the colonialists ran high in Myanmar history. The colonialists applied various means to torture and exploit Myanmar races just to drive the administrative machinery smoothly. When it came to their interest, the colonialists never considered other's. They brutally tortured, oppressed and drove Myanmar workers to exploit the nation's riches as possible as they could. The colonialists unjustly occupied Myanmar and robbed off her riches for self-interest. The workers of the oil industry were not free from the many unjust exploitation the colonialist had committed in all the nation's production and services sectors. The Myanmar workers suffered from the bitter experiences under oppression and exploitation of the capitalists, the minions of the colonialists.

The colonialist companies were extracting as much oil as they could from Myanmar, manipulating over 97 per cent of the industry.

In addition, the colonialists' minions were enjoying the right to manipulate all the businesses in Myanmar at will. On the other hand,

Patriotic workers in the anti-colonialists struggle

Maung Maung Myint Swe

Myanmars were like the slaves, who had to obey the orders and face the inhuman acts of the colonialists.

All the profits from mineral and timber enterprises were channelled into the colonialists' pockets, and foreigners and foreign companies were the ones enjoying benefits, while Myanmar workers were facing a miserable life.

The colonialists applied various means to invade others' territories and loot the riches, and colonialists' methods included the acts to cause

dissension among the people of the occupied territories to facilitate their evil work of manipulation and exploitation.

When the colonialist BOC was making annual profits between K 90 million and K 101 million, the salaries of Myanmar workers were very low. It showed how much the colonialists were exploiting the workers, by spending the least amount for them in all aspects. The company permitted the white officials to enjoy a six-month leave with full pay every three years, but it did not allow Myanmar workers to enjoy even an annual casual leave of ten days.

First, the BOC granted ten holidays for



Thakin Po Hla Gyi, leader of the oilfield workers who fought against the colonialists.

All the profits from mineral and timber enterprises were channelled into the colonialists' pockets, and foreigners and foreign companies were the ones enjoying benefits, while Myanmar workers were facing a miserable life. The colonialists applied various means to invade others' territories and loot the riches, and colonialists' methods included the acts to cause dissension among the people of the occupied territories to facilitate their evil work of manipulation and exploitation.



Oilfield workers participating in anti-colonialists movement.

The colonialists unjustly occupied Myanmar and robbed off her riches for self-interest. The workers of the oil industry were not free from the many unjust exploitation the colonialist had committed in all the nation's production and services sectors. The Myanmar workers suffered from the bitter experiences under oppression and exploitation of the capitalists, the minions of the colonialists.

Myanmar workers, but later it amended the rule, and permitted only seven holidays for them. So, there was discontent among the workers. The workers made demands to permit them ten days of leave for religious and social affairs and another 30 days of leave with full pay every year. As the company rejected the demand and continued to deny their basic rights, the dissatisfaction among them grew, and it reached the boiling point to start the worker's strike in Chauk when the company dismissed a worker, Thakin Khin for taking extra one-day leave.

Because of the unjust acts of the colonialists and the foreigners of the company, there emerged the Year 1300 Workers' strike led by Thakin Po Hla Gyi. The strike gave extra strength to the anti-colonialists and national liberation struggles.

The workers of Steel Brothers Cotton Ginning Factory in Aunglan and Steel Brothers Company in Thonze, and Ayeyawady Flotilla,

(See page 9)

The Myanmar workers had to work from dawn to dusk every day under severe conditions. But the white officials of the companies had no mercy for them. They were thinking about making more and more profits, utilizing the cheap labour of the Myanmar workers.



Patriotic workers in the anti-colonialists struggle



The entire national people participating in anti-colonialist movement.

(from page 8)

who were suffering from the similar fate as their counterparts of the BOC, joined in the anti-colonialists struggle.

The Myanmar workers had to work from dawn to dusk every day under severe conditions. But the white officials of the companies had no mercy for them. They were thinking about making more and more profits, utilizing the cheap labour of the Myanmar workers.

The entire Myanmar people began to realize that the real culprit behind the inhuman exploitation was no other person than the colonialists. Hence, the Myanmar people launched the anti-colonialists struggle with unity and Union Spirit.

Based on Union Spirit, the entire people of the nation opposed the colonialists. The colonialists on their part were trying to drive in a wedge among the national people and to divide the plains and hill regions, till the nationalities of the hill regions were left in total backwardness. The worst was the introduction of drug addiction to the people of the hill regions. The

ultimate aim of the colonialists was to totally ruin the lives of the nationalities of the regions.

As the real image of the colonialists was unveiled gradually, the people's unity and Union Spirit became stronger and they launched the anti-colonialist struggle with greater velocity.

Victories were won in the struggle risking lives, blood and sweat of the people, and they have been recorded in history as milestones. Thanks to their unity, the national races were able to win victories over the colonialists and the Fascists. In accord with the fine traditions, the entire nationalities of Myanmar have been safeguarding the independence and sovereignty of the State with their united strength and dynamic Union Spirit.

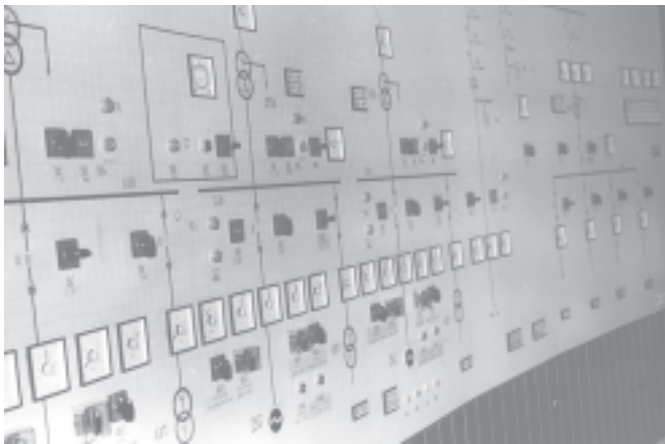
(Translation: TMT)

Myanma Alin: 28-12-2004

As the real image of the colonialists was unveiled gradually, the people's unity and Union Spirit became stronger and they launched the anti-colonialist struggle with greater velocity. Victories were won in the struggle risking lives, blood and sweat of the people, and they have been recorded in history as milestones. Thanks to their unity, the national races were able to win victories over the colonialists and the Fascists.



Oilfield workers participating in anti-colonialists movement.



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win clicks the mouse of the computer to start turbine generator of Mone Creek Hydropower Plant. — MNA

Government to generate...

(from page 1)

creeks also posed as barriers for the people of Minbu, Sagu, Salin, Pwintbyu, Ngaphe, Sedoktara, Seikpyu and Pakokku to extend mutual trade and relations with other regions. Because of the strong currents of the water-courses, sometimes, the local people of the west bank faced difficulties in travelling to the opposite bank.

Head of State Senior General Than Shwe has laid

Bridge and also the Anawrahta and Magway bridges spanning the mighty Ayeyawady, linking the west bank and east bank as if they were on a contiguous land-mass.

In addition, the Government after conducting feasible study of the Mone, Mann, Salin and Yaw creeks has built dams on them at necessary places to control and tap their waters for the regions and the nation. The Mann Creek Dam was inaugurated in 1998, and the Salin Creek Dam in 2001. A series of diversion weirs

the Mone Creek can be stored to irrigate crops the whole year round through Mezali Diversion Weir, and over 100,000 acres of crops will get adequate amount of water annually. As the Mezali Division Weir could control the Mone Creek only to a certain degree in the past, farmers had to rely on North Mone Creek Canal and South Mone Creek Canal that were irrigating the crops in turn. According to the records, the then irrigation capacity was only about 30,000 acres of land. But after the completion of the Mone Creek Multipurpose



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win and party pose for documentary photo together with local residents after the opening of Mone Creek Multipurpose Dam. — MNA



Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint, Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo and Minister Maj-Gen Tin Htut cut the ribbon to open Mone Creek Multipurpose Dam. — MNA

down workable development plans for progress of the west bank and made arrangements to build necessary infrastructures one after another swiftly.

The Government has built Yaw Creek Bridge, Mann Creek Bridge, Nwetame (Salin) Bridge, Mone Creek

have been built on the Yaw Creek in accord with the geographical condition.

The Government also built the Mone Creek Multipurpose Dam to harness its waters for meeting the human needs. Thanks to the dam, more waters from

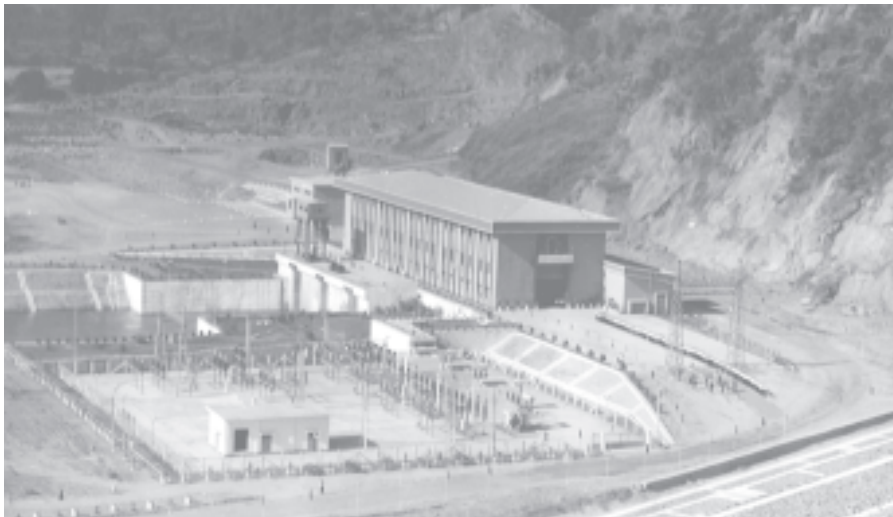
Dam, the irrigated areas in the region have increased more than three times.

Thanks to the Mone Creek Dam, the dry Pwintbyu plain can now increase its irrigated areas, and because of the Mann Creek Dam and Salin Dam, Salin and Minbu (Sagu) plains can put more acres of land under crops. Double-cropping will help increase the income of local farmers.

The erection of a hydroelectric power plant at the Mone Creek Dam is a great victory for the people in effectively utilizing the land and water resources of the western sector of Magway Division.

Because of the market-oriented economy, the agricultural sector has been enjoying production growth, and is in the process of changing to mechanized farming. At the same time, more private and State-owned factories emerge leading to the development of the industrial sector, extension of rural areas and rapid improvement of the living standard that need more electricity. Roughly, power consumption of the nation is growing at 15 per cent annually. Yangon alone consumes about 450 megawatts at present, up from about 130 megawatts 15 years ago. The Government has been implementing projects in accord with the guidance of the Head of State to generate 2,000 more megawatts of power during the five-year plan based on the nation's rich land and water resources.

(See page 11)



The Mone Creek Hydropower Plant. — MNA

Government to generate ...

(from page 10)

The Government with the collective participation of the ministries concerned founded the Leading Committee to Develop National Power Project and the work committee.

The total amount of water flowing in the rivers and creeks in the whole nation is over 876 million acre-feet. According to experts, about 40,000 megawatts of electricity can be generated from 268 hydel power stations.

The Mone Creek Multipurpose Dam Project is part of the National Grid, which covers the entire nation and serves the interests of the nation and the people. It can irrigate more than 100,000 acres of farmland, generate electricity, prevent the region from floods of the creek and contribute towards regional development measures for long-term. So, even the posterity will benefit from the project, he said.

The feasibility study on extended utilization of the current of the creek led to the Buywa Hydropower Plant

and there are still many nation-building work programmes to be accomplished in a similar way, he noted.

The State's seven-point Road Map adopted for flourishing of genuine democracy in the nation is to be put into reality step by step and through active and conscious participation of the entire people, he remarked.

The correct leadership of the State and enthusiastic participation of the local people have served as the engine for translating into reality the arid zone greening project to be part of the environmental conservation drive, he said.

In conclusion, the Prime Minister said that he wholeheartedly welcomed the Mone Creek Multipurpose Dam Project together with the people, calling for continued cooperation of the State, the people and service personnel based on mutual understanding and good volition in a bid to implementing the nation-building projects, while preserving such fine traditions.

Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo delivered a speech. He said Magway Division is important for production of major crops such as paddy,



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win addresses opening ceremony of Mone Creek Multipurpose Dam.— MNA



Project upstream the Mone Creek and Kyeeohn-Kyeewa Project downstream the Mone Creek that are under way now. On completion, the two projects will be able to generate 120 megawatts. Therefore, the projects along the creek will be able to supply sufficient water for agricultural purpose and generate nearly 200 megawatts, he said.

Seeking ways and means to fully utilize the invaluable terrestrial and aquatic resources of the nation, the government has built 169 irrigation facilities and 30 hydro electric power plants across the nation, he said.

In the process, it is taking innovative measures by combining the State's finances and the technologies and skills of the national engineers. Based on perseverance, innovative measures and sacrifices, it is doing its utmost for achieving the national goals such as development of the nation, reducing the development gap between one part and another, parallel progress of the regions, alleviation of poverty, fortifying of national unity, and flourishing of Union Spirit, he added.

The local people of Magway on their part are to respond to the noble goodwill and lofty goals of the State by working hard in respective sectors, he said.

The fruitful results of national progress are due to the harmonious and united efforts of the State and the people,

beans and pulses, groundnuts, sesamum, sun flower, cotton, sugarcane and maize. He said he believed people in the region would be pleased with the emergence of a multipurpose dam that could not only supply water but also generate electric power.



Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut speaking at opening ceremony of Mone Creek Multipurpose Dam.— MNA

He said the government is fulfilling requirements for progress of agriculture on which the majority people of the country rely, for extended cultivation and for the use of modern farm equipment and techniques with the aim of raising of socio-economic life of the farmers and national development. He urged the farmers to make efforts for reaching the targeted per acre yield of various crops. In his address, Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut said the energy sector including electric

power is essential for developments of all sectors. With the economic progress of the country, living standard of the people has improved and electric power consumption has also increased each year. Head of State Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance on implementation of



Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo speaking at opening ceremony of Mone Creek Multipurpose Dam.— MNA

long-term and short-term projects based on plentiful water resources in the country in generation of electric power essential for national development.

In accord with the guidance of the Head of State, the Ministry of Electric Power laid down 30-year electric power development strategy and it is simultaneously implementing 790-megawatt Yeywahydel power project, 280-megawatt Paunglaung project, 60-megawatt

(See page 15)

On completion, the two projects will be able to generate 120 megawatts. Therefore, the projects along the Mone Creek will be able to supply sufficient water for agricultural purpose and generate nearly 200 megawatts.



Lt-Gen Ye Myint unveils stone plaque of Mone Creek Multipurpose Dam.— MNA



China makes its first self-designed digital TV chip

SHANGHAI, 28 Dec—Elite Fudan University in Shanghai said on Monday that it has turned out China's first ever home-made digital TV chip in collaboration with two domestic companies.

The chip, known as "Zhongshi No 1", which integrates more than 70 storages, two million logic gates and 20 million transistors, has outperformed European and American products in terms of sensitivity and anti-jamming capacities at far lower costs.

The chip was made by Grace Semiconductor Manufacturing Corporation and Semiconductor

Manufacturing International Corporation, according to Zhou Dian, president of the School of Microelectronics of Fudan University, independent designer of the product.

Zhongshi No 1 was based on China's DMB-T standard and has outdone European and US standards for experimental broadcasts of digital TV, respectively known as DVB-T and ATSC, in terms of definition, noted Zhou.

He acknowledged that a dozen domestic electronics makers have integrated the new chip technology into their products, including Changhong, TCL, Skyworth and Haier. Cen-

tral China's Henan Province has applied the new technology to launch mobile TV programmes, and at least 10 other localities — including Beijing, Tianjin and Guangzhou — have reported success in trial operations. Analysts say mass production of the cost-effective chip is for sure to boost China's digital TV industry.

"Zhongshi No 1 is adaptable to international as well as domestic standards and is cost-effective compared with similar international products," said Wu Youzhou, an academician with the Chinese Academy of Engineering. — MNA/Xinhua

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Win Mu Tin
M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L.
for Mundipharma AG
P.O. Box 60, Yangon
Dated: 30 December 2004.

ပြည်တွင်းပြန်ပို့အားပေးပါ

ARRIVAL/CLAIMS DAY NOTICE M.V "MANDALAY" VOY NO. 143/N

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V "MANDALAY" Voy No. 143/N are hereby notified that the vessel has arrived at Yangon port on 29-12-2004 and will be berthing on about 30-12-2004 and cargoes will be discharged into the premises of Myanmar Port Authority where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the bye-laws and conditions of the port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:30 am and 12 noon to 4 pm upto Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from vessel.

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

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UAE ranks among world's best countries for investment

ABU DHABI, 28 Dec — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) was listed among the world's 25 most attractive countries for investment, Local Gulf News daily quoted a 2004 World Investment Report (WIR) as saying on Sunday.

The report, issued by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), said the competitiveness covered a total of 140 countries of the world.

The UAE, with a com-

petitiveness growth mark at 5.21, was placed top in the Arab world and the 16th worldwide.

The UAE topped the list with best scores in many indices, including technological advancement, public institutional administration, general economic stability, level of competitiveness among business sectors and local work atmosphere.

On the macroeconomic environment, the UAE was placed the 11th in the world-ranking list, according to the report.

MNA/Xinhua

European insurers may lose business due to deadly tsunami

ZURICH, 28 Dec — European insurers face new costs and travel firms could lose business after tsunami waves killed more than 22,000 in southern Asia this weekend, but the financial impact is likely to be less than that of other disasters this year.

The markets took a cautious stance, however, pushing down shares in many insurers, reinsurers and tour operators.

Germany's Munich Re, Switzerland's Zurich Financial and other insur-

ers said they could not yet assess the cost of Sunday's deadly waves, which brought havoc to shores from India to Thailand.

"So many things are unclear, it is just too early to tell. You need very complicated processes to estimate damages. Unlike the hurricanes, you can't just run a model," said Serge Troeber, a natural catastrophe expert at Swiss Re.

Shares in the world's top two reinsurers, Munich Re and Swiss Re, which insure other insurers, both

ended down more than 1.6 per cent.

But shares in Germany's Hannover Re recouped most of their losses after the company said it would stick to its earnings forecast for this year, despite damage caused by the tsunami waves. The shares fell 0.1 per cent.

A Hannover Re spokeswoman said tsunami-related damage claims were expected to be in the low double-digit millions of euros, well below claims of about 300

million euros (400 million US dollars) from four major hurricanes that hit the United States.

Swiss Re's Troeber also said his company hoped that its total claims would be less than those from the hurricanes, which the company put at 640 million US dollars. US property-casualty insurers have little exposure to southern Asia's emerging markets and so are not likely to feel any significant financial impact, analysts said. — MNA/Reuters

25,000 Sri Lankan troops deliver aid to victims

COLOMBO, 28 Dec — Sri Lanka has dispatched some 25,000 soldiers and 10 helicopters Monday to coastal areas, which were lashed by Sunday's massive tidal waves triggered by a powerful earthquake in Indonesia, to deliver aid and rescue teams as the

death toll has climbed to 4,813 and a million others displaced in the country.

The helicopters were dropping medicine and rescue teams to areas not accessible by land, while soldiers were to help the local people in their rescue work.

MNA/Xinhua



Beaufort Hunt members and hounds gather for their annual Boxing Day meet at Badminton, Gloucestershire in southern England, on 27 Dec, 2004.

INTERNET

Arroyo urges preparation after tsunami disasters

MANILA, 29 Dec — Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo called on the public on Tuesday to prepare for any natural disaster emergency amidst reports of a catastrophe that hit several Asian countries this week.

"As we continue to reach out to help in whatever way we can, we should also remember that this tragedy could also happen in our own shores, ours being the longest shoreline in the world," Arroyo said in a state-

ment, referring to the massive tidal waves which hit eight Asian nations on Sunday and reportedly killed over 26,000 people.

"We pray that it will never happen to our country, but we must be prepared," she said.

Likewise, Arroyo cited the need to modernize the country's forecasting system and link this up with international warning networks to avert a similar disaster.

"We must modernize our forecasting systems

and link these up with international warning networks," she said.

"We must know the geophysical hazards around us and strengthen the capacity of our local government units and communities for mitigating loss of lives and property," she added.

At a Press conference, the Philippine weather agency on Tuesday said they will closely monitor the weather changes and try to upgrade the forecasting ability. — MNA/Xinhua

Nigeria seeks investment to develop gas industry

ABUJA, 28 Dec — Nigeria has lined up a number of incentives for prospective foreign investors to develop the country's gas industry, Alhaji Ja'afaru Paki, special assistant to Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo on Petroleum and Energy Matters, said here Monday.

The government's door "is open to foreign investors who wish to invest in the gas sector," he told reporters at a news

briefing in the capital Abuja, adding that "the national gas policy document is enough incentive for any interested investors."

He said the gas policy contained more favourable treatments given to any potential investors, including guaranteeing total returns on investment.

"The gas policy will enable the government and the investor to derive maximum benefits

in the interest of all," he said.

According to the special assistant, gas projects under Production Sharing Contract were meant to assist the government in realizing its cardinal objectives.

The objectives, he explained, included increasing oil reserve and productivity, eliminating gas flaring by 2008 and enhancing local content development among others. — MNA/Xinhua

West African gas project to take off December 2006

LAGOS, 28 Dec — Stakeholders of the West African Gas Pipeline Company Ltd (WAGPC) have finally agreed that the attainment of delivery of gas through four West African countries will begin in December 2006.

Funso Kupolokun, group managing director of state-owned Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation, was quoted by local newspaper *This Day* as saying that this decision marked a giant stride in the realization of the West African Gas Pipeline, a project to which great human and material resources had been committed for over a decade.

According to Kupolokun, shareholders have taken a final investment decision for the implementation of the sub-regional project after negotiations for two weeks in Nigeria's capital Abuja. — MNA/Xinhua

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Dozens of gift shops destroyed by the tidal waves on Phi Phi Island in southern Thailand on 28 Dec, 2004.—INTERNET

Pakistani leaders send messages of sympathy to three S Asian nations

ISLAMABAD, 28 Dec— Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf and Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz on Sunday sent messages of sympathy to their counterparts of India, Sri Lanka and Maldives to express shock and grief over the heavy loss of lives and property of these three countries caused by tidal wave and earthquake.

"I have been deeply grieved by the loss of precious lives and property caused by tidal waves following a severe earthquake. Our people share the anguish of the victims' families in these testing times," Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz said in a message to his Indian counterpart Manmohan Singh.

A powerful earthquake rocked parts of Southeast Asia Sunday morning and triggered tidal waves and flash floods, causing a tsunami which hit the southern Indian coast, killing at least 1,000

people, most of them in Tamil Nadu in the southern tip of India.

"I am shocked to learn about the tragic loss of lives and property caused by tidal waves following a severe earthquake that struck Sri Lanka this morning. The devastating tidal wave and earthquake have not only caused loss of precious lives but have rendered large number of people shelterless," President Musharraf said in a message to his Sri Lankan counterpart Chandrika Kumaratunga.— MNA/Xinhua

Seven HK tourists injured by tsunamis of Phuket

HONG KONG, 28 Dec—At least seven people were injured by the quake-triggered tsunamis in Phuket, a famous tourist resort in southern Thailand, Hong Kong media reported on Monday morning.

Hong Kong television stations reported that three of the seven injured have been discharged from a Phuket hospital after treatment while the rest of the four are in stable conditions.

In a separate development, a Hong Kong couple have been stranded in another island in southern Thailand. They are safe and are waiting for rescue forces as they dared not to get out of the island by boat. By 10.00 pm Sunday, Hong Kong's Immigration Department has received 219 inquiries and 109 requests for assistance relating to the tsunamis triggered by massive

quakes.

HKSAR Government has pledged to closely follow the cases and render every possible assistance to Hong Kong residents when needed.

Hong Kong media reported that over 1,200 Hong Kong tourists are in Phuket and they were feared to have been affected by the quake-triggered waves in Phuket.

A powerful earthquake jolted many parts of Sumatra, Aceh in Indonesia Sunday morning. The epicentre of the quake was located in Molabo, Aceh, the country's westernmost province.

MNA/Xinhua

Iranians mark 1st anniversary of Bam earthquake

BAM (Iran), 27 Dec—Mourning Iranians have flocked to the southeastern city of Bam in recent days to mark the first anniversary of the devastating earthquake which killed tens of thousands and left the ancient Silk Road city in ruins.

Bam, a date palm oasis in Iran's southern deserts built around an ancient citadel, was flattened by an earthquake measuring 6.8 on the Richter Scale before dawn on 26 December last year. More than 31,000 people were killed.

Scores of bereaved relatives, clad in black, arrived from neighbouring towns, heading straight to the city's cemetery to pay their respects to the dead.

"I now live in Kerman, I have come back after a

year to be with my loved ones for a day," said middle-aged man Ebrahim Faramarzpour. "I have lost 28 family members." Men, women in all-enveloping chadors, the young and the old spent the day sitting amid tombs decorated with flowers and black candles, praying for the dead. Readings from the Koran echoed from loud-speakers through the cemetery and mixed with the cries of mourners.

MNA/Reuters

Mild tremors jolt Philippines as tsunami spares the country

MANILA, 28 Dec—Mild tremors jolt the northern and southern Philippines after the killer tsunami which destroyed some Asian coasts on Sunday has spared the country due to geographical location.

Two mild earthquakes hit Bataan in the northern Luzon Island and Davao in the southern Mindanao Island early Monday, said Philippine seismology officials.

A quake hit Bataan at 4.08 am local time (20.00 pm GMT Sunday), with the epicentre believed to be in Olongapo City north of Bataan City. It was estimated that it had the magnitude of 4.7 of Richter Scale.

Romy Tabanlar, science research specialist of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS), said the quake was tectonic in origin, and triggered possibly by a movement in the Manila Trench.

A similar quake hit Davao City at 4.50 am (20:50 pm GMT Sunday) and was strongly felt at its epicentre located in Mati, Davao Oriental.

PHIVOLCS said the

possible source of the quake, also of tectonic origin, may be a movement in the Philippine Trench. The institute estimated the quake had a magnitude of 5.0 of Richter Scale.

Officials said the earthquakes were not connected with the massive underwater earthquake that caused tsunamis in southern Asia on Sunday.

Experts said the Philippines was spared by tsunami on Sunday be-

cause the peninsula consisting of southern tip of Thailand, western Malaysia and western Indonesia had absorbed the shock wave. But they warned the Philippines to be vigilant against possible incoming tsunamis as the country was vulnerable to such oceanic devastation due to numerous ocean-land trenches nearby.

MNA/Xinhua

New Zealand woman dead of tsunami in Thailand

WELLINGTON, 28 Dec— One New Zealander has been confirmed dead following a massive earthquake and tsunami that has devastated southeast Asia, Foreign Affairs Minister Phil Goff announced on Monday.

The unnamed married woman, who was travelling with her family, died in Thailand's southern resort of Phuket.

"At this point we have no other known New Zea-

land casualties or missing people who are of particular concern," Goff said in a statement. "However, we cannot rule out that there may be other casualties," he said. A Bangkok-

based New Zealand Police liaison officer was on his way to Phuket to help the dead woman's family and any other New Zealanders needing assistance.—MNA/Xinhua

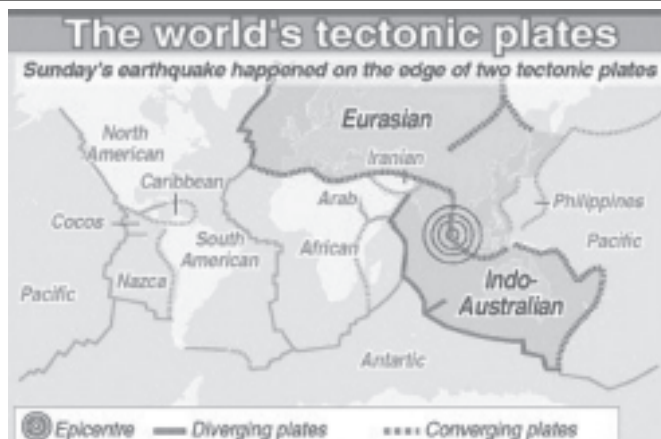
Six Australians are missing in tsunami waves

SYDNEY, 28 Dec—Six Australians are missing and 177 have needed assistance after a huge earthquake unleashed devastating tsunami waves that killed thousands across Asia, officials said on Monday.

"At this stage we understand... six Australians are of concern, but these numbers are likely to change around hour by hour as we get information," Foreign Minister Alexander Downer told reporters in Adelaide.

No Australians had been confirmed dead, officials said. Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade spokesman Justin Lee said 4,100 Australians had been in areas hit by the quake and tsunami waves, which killed more than 12,600 people in coastal areas of Asia around the Indian Ocean.

MNA/Reuters



A seismograph read-out shows the magnitude of the quake that rocked Indonesia and unleashed deadly tidal waves on Asia, on 28 Dec, 2004.— INTERNET

SPORTS

Chelsea extend lead in Premier League

LONDON, 29 Dec— Chelsea needed late goals from Dutchman Arjen Robben and England's Joe Cole to earn a 2-0 win at Portsmouth and extend their lead in the Premier League to eight points on Tuesday.

However, they failed to shake off a resurgent Manchester United who later beat Aston Villa 1-0 to register their seventh win in eight league games and move up to third in the table.

Chelsea lead with 49 points, champion Arsenal have 41 before facing Newcastle United on Wednesday and United are third on 40 points. Goal difference separates Alex Ferguson's men from an Everton side who lost 2-0 at Charlton Athletic.

Up at the top, Robben broke the deadlock for Chelsea in the 79th minute of a tricky match at Fratton Park against a Portsmouth

side beaten only once in their previous six games.

"They made it very difficult for us," Mourinho told Sky Sports News. "They're playing well, they're getting results, the players are good and the organization is good."

"But in the second half I think we discovered the positions we had to use to break the balance in their defensive system."

"By the end of the game, I think we deserved to win.... and I just told my players that it was a really big victory for us."

MNA/Reuters

French coach says dispute with Pires over

PARIS, 29 Dec— French coach Raymond Domenech says his dispute with Robert Pires is over and the Arsenal midfielder would be welcome back in his squad.

Pires began the row in October when he slammed Domenech's strategy as unclear and bitterly complained after he was replaced at the interval of the 2-0 victory over Cyprus in a World Cup qualifying match.

Pires, France's most capped player of the squad with 79 appearances, said that he felt uneasy with Domenech and accused the coach of treating the players like schoolboys. Domenech responded by leaving Pires out of France's last match of the year against Poland in Paris in November.

"I don't have to forgive Robert for anything. If I did, it would mean that I have been hurt by his comments," Domenech said in an interview in sports daily L'Equipe published on Tuesday.

"I don't make up my mind about someone from what he says but from what he does," Domenech said. "And there is no reason for Pires not to make his comeback."

"When you are in charge of a national team you can't rule out someone for irrelevant excuses. I'm not a

resentful character. I can't do this."

Domenech said he has not blacklisted any players, including striker Nicolas Anelka who has not played for France since he snubbed a late call-up from former coach Jacques Santini in November 2002.

"I'm looking for the best players I can have on my side. It is obvious that those who belong to top clubs, those who take part in the Champions League, have an advantage when it comes to me setting up a list for an international," he said.

In an assessment of his first six months at the head of France squad, Domenech said he was neither happy nor disappointed by the team's performances.

The French are on an unbeaten run of six matches but they have only won two, against the Faroe Islands and Cyprus. They were eliminated by Greece in the quarter-finals of the European Championship in Portugal in June under his predecessor Jacques Santini.

MNA/Reuters

Berlusconi steps down as Milan's president

MILAN, 29 Dec— Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi has stepped down as president of AC Milan to comply with a new law on conflicts of interest, the Serie A club said on Tuesday.

Berlusconi has been Milan's president since 1986, cheering them on to European Cup glory on four occasions, most recently in 2003, and seven domestic league titles.

But he also criticized current coach Carlo Ancelotti's tactics, forcing changes from the stadium box and from in front of his television.

"Of course I'm sad. I'm

very sad," Berlusconi told reporters in Rome. Asked to rank his sadness on a scale from 1-10, Berlusconi replied: "Eleven".

"In any case, in the years I've been president, I've won more than anybody else in the world — in international championships, that is," he added.

A new law designed to resolve the clash

between Berlusconi's political power and his sweeping business empire was passed in July and was widely expected to force the billionaire businessman out of the Milan president's seat.

Club captain Paolo Maldini told Gazzetta dello Sport: "It will have been a very painful decision for Berlusconi even if stepping down as president does not mean

abandoning the team completely. I am sure he will always be close to us."

"For Berlusconi, Milan is not a company to make money but an affair of the heart."

But opposition politician Sandro Battisti from the centre-left Margherita party said: "Berlusconi's resignation is a farce at the end of a comedy and the clearest proof that the conflict of interest law is a failure and can have no real effect on the premier's personal interests which remain firmly in his hands."

In a statement, the club said the presidency would remain vacant for the time being.

An Italian newspaper earlier reported that Berlusconi would hand the presidency on to his son Piersilvio, the deputy chairman of Berlusconi's media empire Mediaset.

Italian champions Milan are second in Serie A, four points behind Juventus.

MNA/Reuters



Bolton manager Sam Allardyce (R) said he is facing up to his greatest challenge in management after Blackburn's well-deserved 1-0 win pushed the Wanderers further into the Premier League wilderness.—INTERNET

Premier League match reports

LONDON, 29 Dec— Match reports from Tuesday's Premier League matches:

Bolton Wanderers 0 Blackburn Rovers 1

Bolton slumped to a sixth consecutive league defeat as Mark Hughes's Blackburn continued their move away from the relegation zone with a morale-boosting win. Scottish striker Paul Dickov volleyed Blackburn's winner after only six minutes and his team mates held on to the points despite plenty of pressure from Sam Allardyce's men.

Charlton Athletic 2 Everton 0

Everton looked to have earned a point until the match was completely turned on its head in the space of just three minutes at the very end.

Moroccan defender Talal El Karkouri headed home in the 82nd minute, Everton's Scottish forward Duncan Ferguson was red-carded two minutes later for elbowing and Iceland defender Hermann Hreidarsson added Charlton's second a minute after that.

Fulham 2 Birmingham City 3

Birmingham continued their sparkling festive run with a fourth straight win that firmly establishes them in mid-table.

Emile Heskey's third goal in three games, a left-foot screamer after 25 minutes, put the visitors ahead and they were just taking control when French midfielder Sylvain Legwinski levelled for Fulham in the 34th minute. Darren Carter restored City's lead just before the break and Welsh midfielder Robbie Savage volleyed a spectacular third. Too late, Tomasz Radzinski got a second for Fulham in stoppage time.

Liverpool 1 Southampton 0

It was not Liverpool's most convincing performance, but a fine strike by forward Florent Sinama-Pongolle earned them a third consecutive league win.

The Frenchman latched on to a defence-splitting pass from Spanish playmaker Xabi Alonso and fired in a low first-time shot in the 44th minute.

Liverpool could have added more after the break, with Norwegian defender John Arne Riise slamming a shot against the bar and Spanish midfielder Luis Garcia seeing his header turned on to the post by Finnish keeper Antti Niemi.

Manchester City 1 West Bromwich Albion 1

Kevin Keegan's City should have done better at home to a promoted side who played for over 70 minutes with 10 men.

West Brom's Danish defender Thomas Gaardsoe was red-carded after 17 minutes for felling a goalbound Robbie Fowler and French striker Nicolas Anelka finally broke the deadlock with a superbly-struck free kick on 32 minutes.—MNA/Reuters



Dado Prso of Rangers (L) fights for the ball with Motherwell's Stephen Craigan during their Scottish Premier League soccer match at Ibrox Stadium in Glasgow, on 27 Dec, 2004.—INTERNET

Government to generate...

(from page 11)

Kunchaung project, 30-megawatt Khabaung project, 40-megawatt Phyuhaung project, 75-megawatt Shwegyin project, 25-megawatt Yenwe project and 54-megawatt Kengtawng project under five-year short-term plan. Shweli project being undertake in Shan State (North) can generate 400 megawatts. The 120 megawatts coal-fired power station is being built in Tikyit. The Mone Creek hydel power station is the 43th one built by the Ministry of Electric Power.

Chairman of Magway Division Peace and Development Council Col Phone Maw Shwe said dams in Magway Division aimed at irrigating in the region. But Mone Creek Dam is built not only for water supply but also for generating electric power. Irrigated areas and acreage of summer paddy will increase in the division once known as an oil bowl. There will be rice sufficiency in the division due to the government's assistance with goodwill and extended cultivation of the farmers.

Next, a local spoke words of thanks.

Also present on the occasion were Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Central Command Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint, ministers, deputy ministers, Magway Division PDC Chairman Col Phone Maw Shwe, officials of the SPDC Office, departmental heads, members of Magway Division PDC, chairmen of Minbu District, Sedoktara and Salin Township PDCs and members, officials of the Irrigation Department, Chairman of CITIC Technology Co Ltd of the People's Republic of China Mr Sun Xigo Wan and officials, departmental officials at Division, District and

Mone Creek Dam is an earthen type. Its main dam is 4320 feet long and embankment is 200 ft high. The dam has a water storage capacity of 674,400 acre ft and will irrigate 108,000 acres.

Township levels of Magway Division, members of Minbu District, Sedoktara and Salin Township Union Solidarity and Development Associations, NGOs, teachers, students and local people. At the auspicious time, Lt-Gen Ye Myint unveiled the stone inscription of the Mone Creek Multipurpose Dam. Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint, Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo and Minister Maj-Gen Tin Htut formally opened the dam.

After the prime minister and party had a documentary photo taken, they inspected the main dam and spillway. Next, they proceeded to Mone Creek hydel power station and the prime minister pressed a button to put the turbine generator into service. Maj-Gen Tin Htut and officials

Progress to be made in cultivation of rubber ...

(from page 16)

Perennial Crops Enterprise U Myint Soe submitted reports on cultivation of rubber plantations. Next, local rubber growers reported on requirements of the works.

Managing Director Col Kyi Win of MPCE presented reports on functions of the enterprise, arrangements for distribution of rubber saplings and technology to be provided to the local growers. The commander also briefed Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than on the plan for growing of 100,000 acres of rubber in Bago Division within three years.

In his address, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than stressed the need to extend cultivation of suitable crops out of 10 main crops in Shwegyin Township. Shwegyin region is favourable for cultivation of rubber. So, local growers and departmental personnel are to grow rubber in the region. As the State as well as Bago Division plan to extend rubber plantations, progress is to be made in cultivation of rubber in Shwegyin region in accord with the plan. And, out of three new crops, pepper is a suitable crop for the region.

He also pointed out that fish and poultry farming tasks are to be carried out. In building a modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation, it is necessary for ensuring prevalence of law and order, enhancement of economy and development of human resources. Therefore, departmental personnel and locals in Shwegyin Township are to participate in implementation of the regional development tasks.

In the afternoon, they proceeded to Thanatpin through Bago-Thanatpin Road. At the model plot of summer paddy at the entrance of the township, Lt-Gen



Col Phone Maw Shwe addresses the opening of Mone Creek Multipurpose Dam in Magway Division. —MNA

concerned reported on producing electricity using three turbines which generate a total of 75 megawatts. The prime minister presented a fruit basket to Chairman of CITIC Technology Co Ltd from China Mr Sun Xigo Wan and inspected producing electricity.

Next, Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win and Lt-Gen Ye Myint sprinkled scented water on the stone plaque of Mone Creek hydel power project. The Project was successfully implemented by the Construction Group-8 of the Irrigation Department and No 1 Construction of Hydro-electric Power Department.

The dam is located two miles north of Minbu District, Magway Division and is constructed on Mone Creek. The dam project was implemented to supply sufficient irrigation water, to boost summer paddy cultivation up to over 70,000 acres in the region, to prevent flood in the region and to generate 330 kWh per year. Mone Creek Dam is an earthen type. Its main dam is 4320 feet long and embankment is 200 ft high. The dam has a water storage capacity of 674,400 acre ft and will irrigate 108,000 acres.

Mone Creek hydel power station is 258 ft long, 128 ft wide and 110 ft high. Three turbine generators are installed at the station. The station will generate 75 megawatts. At the briefing hall, Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo reported to the prime minister on successfully completion of Mone Creek Multipurpose Dam, and Buywa Dam Project and Kyiohn-Kyiwa Dam Project which are under way. Maj-Gen Tin Htut reported on electricity to be produced from Buywa and Kyiohn-Kyiwa projects and future construction tasks.

After hearing the reports, Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win said that cooperative efforts should be made by the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and Ministry of Electric Power for the completion of the hydel power projects which are under construction. Only then, electricity which is necessary for the development of the State will increase. He also urged officials to effectively use the irrigation water. The prime minister and party arrived back here today. — MNA

Khin Maung Than heard reports on cultivation of summer paddy presented by officials and inspected water supply system for agricultural purpose.

Thanatpin Township has completed to put over 21,000 acres of land under summer paddy and over 80,000 acres under pulses and beans. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party inspected extended construction of Bago-Thanlyin Road between mile posts 18/2 and 18/3.

On arrival at Kawa Township, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than met local authorities. He heard reports related to the township and gave necessary instructions to officials. Kawa Township has cultivated 2,305 acres of summer paddy and 82,438 acres of pulses and beans.

Next, they arrived at the site chosen on Kawa bank to construct of Bago River crossing bridge on Indagaw-Htongyi-Kawa-Ohnne Road to link Kawa Township and Htongyi Village. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than heard reports on matters related to the construction of the bridge presented by Assistant Engineer U Win Min Htut of Bridge Construction Project Special Group-1. Deputy

Thanatpin Township has completed to put over 21,000 acres of land under summer paddy and over 80,000 acres under pulses and beans.

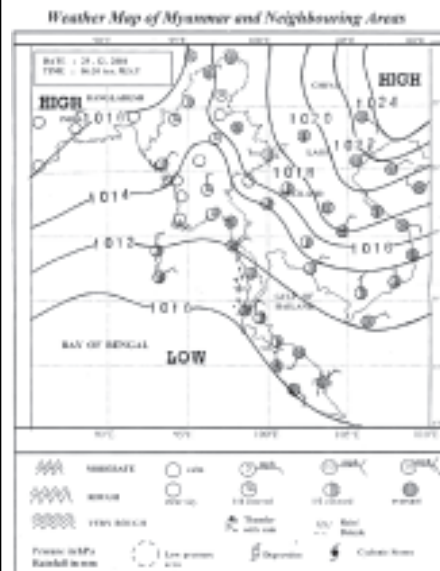
Chief Engineer U Kyaw Lwin and the commander gave supplementary reports.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspected the site chosen to construct the bridge. The lower structure of the bridge is of reinforced concrete bored pile and the upper one will be bailey type. The bridge will be 508 feet long and 13 feet wide, and it can withstand 20-ton loads.

After inspecting the construction site, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party went back to Bago. — MNA

Gold entrepreneurs association's meeting to be held at Summit Park View

YANGON, 29 Dec — The second annual plenary meeting of the Myanmar gold entrepreneurs association will be held at 1 pm on 1st January at Summit Park View Hotel in Dagon Township instead of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry in Kyauktada Township. All members of the association are invited to attend the meeting without fail. — MNA



WEATHER

Wednesday, 29 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 Kachin, Kayah States, Mandalay, Bago and Taninthayi Divisions, (6°C) below normal in Chin State and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Loilin (0°C), Pinlaung and Namsam (3°C), Putao, Mindat, Hakha and Pinyin Oo Lwin (4°C) each.

Maximum temperature on 28-12-2004 was 93°F. Minimum temperature on 29-12-2004 was 55°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 29-12-2004 was 73%. Total sunshine hours on 28-12-2004 was (8.3) hours approx. Rainfalls on 29-12-2004 were nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2004 were 112.28 inches at Yangon Airport, 106.77 inches at Kaba-Aye and 109.68 inches at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 5 mph from Northwest at (11:10) hours MST on 28-12-2004.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 30-12-2004: Weather will be partly cloudy in Rakhine State and Taninthayi Division and generally fair in the remaining states and divisions.

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

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

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 30-12-2004: Fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 30-12-2004: Fair weather.

Earthquake Report

(Issued at 08:00 hours MST on today)

An earthquake of slight intensity (3.0) Richter Scale with its epicenter inside of Myanmar about (11) miles South of Kaba-Aye seismological observatory was recorded at (03) hrs (32) min (27) sec MST on 29th December 2004.

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



Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspects the site chosen for construction of Bago River Bridge (Kawa) in Kawa Township, Bago Division. — MNA

Progress to be made in cultivation of rubber in Shwegyin region

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than tours Shwegyin, Kawa Townships

YANGON, 29 Dec — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence met with departmental personnel and rubber growers at Myawady Hall of the local battalion in Shwegyin on 27 December morning.

Present were Chairman of Bago Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Southern Command Maj-Gen Ko Ko, Col Zaw Win Myint of Shwegyin Station and officials.

Chairman of Shwegyin Township Peace and

Development Council U Htwe Myint reported on facts about the township and its progress.

Sittoung Rubber Farm Manager U Khin Maung Ngwe and Bago Division Manager of Myanmar (See page 15)

USDA Patron Senior General Than Shwe highlights safeguarding national solidarity to further strengthen it

Mon State USDA meets on implementation of objectives, future tasks and plans



First, they saluted the State Flag. USDA members sang the song titled 'Eternal Union' to hail the meeting.

Secretary of Mon State USDA, presiding over the meeting, gave a

speech, saying that the USDA Annual General Meeting 2004 was held in Hmawby Township of Yangon Division from 13 to 17 November. At the meeting, Patron of the association Senior Gen-

eral Than Shwe has highlighted safeguarding the national solidarity to further strengthen it. Therefore, the association has adopted two resolutions,

(See page 6)

INSIDE

All the profits from mineral and timber enterprises were channelled into the colonialists' pockets, and foreigners and foreign companies were the ones enjoying benefits, while Myanmar were facing a miserable life.

(Page 8)

MAUNG MAUNG MYINT SWE

YANGON, 29 Dec — Mon State Union Solidarity and Development Association held the meeting on implementation of the seven objectives and nine future tasks laid down by the USDA Annual General Meeting 2004 and the plans to be carried out in Mon State, at the Mon State Hall in Mawlamyine on 26 December morning.

Present on the occasion were members of USDA, townselders, members of War Veterans Organization, MWAF and MCWA, nurses, members of Red Cross and Auxiliary Fire Brigades and outstanding youths.



Mon State USDA holds discussions on implementation of the seven objectives and nine future tasks adopted by the AGM (2004) and plans in Mon State. — MNA