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Love, friendship and unity are a must

Our nation is the Union where various national groups live together and each and every region is also like a small union where different nationalities reside. As we have been living together so long that we are inseparable, love and friendship and unity are a must for all of us.

Senior General Than Shwe
Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council
Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services

(From guidance given to trainees of the Primary Teachership Course No 35)



Some border areas achieving sustainable development Anti-drug drive covers regional progress and improvement of locals' economy, living standard

YANGON, 30 Dec — Central Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races held its meeting No 2/2004 at the meeting hall of the Commander-in-Chief (Army)'s Office this afternoon with an address by Chairman of the Central Committee for DBANR Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe.

Senior General Than Shwe said the lofty aims of the Central Committee are a common knowledge for all.

The Government has held negotiations with armed groups to pave the way for them to return to the legal fold, as it has the genuine wish to strive for national development and peace and stability in cooperation with all the nationalities.

(See page 4)



Senior General Than Shwe addresses Development of Border Areas and National Races Central Committee Meeting No 2/2004.— MNA

Excerpts from Senior General's address

- * Government has held negotiations with armed groups to pave the way for them to return to the legal fold, as it has the genuine wish to strive for national development and peace and stability in cooperation with all the nationalities.
- * A large number of good foundations in various sectors including transport, health, education and economic sectors have been built for improvement of the social standard of the local people.
- * The Government's lofty aims in launching the border areas development drive is to develop their health, education, economy and social foundations in a proper equitably compared with the rest of the nation and to narrow the gap between the two.
- * Priority should be given to the regions where the pace of progress of education, health, transport and economy is still slow.
- * Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs is to work hard in harmony with other related ministries to realize the goal.



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

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 31 December, 2004

Expose destructionists and bring them to justice

The Information Committee of the State Peace and Development Council held a press conference at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Information on 28 December.

At the conference, Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan explained the acts of unscrupulous persons that left innocent students and people dead or wounded and activities of destructive elements within and without who mastermind machinations.

The motive of these destructive elements is to destabilize the nation and to cause panic among the public and, in doing so, they make use of foreign broadcasting stations and Internet Websites and spread rumours and provocative letters.

Moreover, they are now synchronizing their provocative acts with destructive activities of some insurgent groups.

Some insurgent groups are in cahoots with destructive elements in the nation to instigate people from all walks of life including monks while a certain group of insurgents in the border area are giving some youths training in the use of explosives.

And it is reported that these destructionists are hatching up a scheme to destroy infrastructures for national development. Their main targets are roads and bridges, airports and irrigation facilities.

Under the circumstances the authorities concerned have to beef up security for the safety of government buildings as well as that of public lives and property.

Thanks to these security measures, people can live and work in peace and some destructive acts could be nipped in the bud and prevented.

But there were some cases in which some innocent students and people were killed or wounded. Steps are being taken to expose those involved and take action against them.

We would like to call upon the entire people to conscientiously lend themselves to the measures being taken by the government to expose the destructionists and bring them to justice.

Work Meeting of Yankin Township WJA meets

YANGON, 30 Dec — The annual meeting of Yankin Township Writers and Journalists Association was held at Yankin Township Peace and Development Council Office on 26 December, attended by CEC Member of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association U Khin Swe (Shwe Soon Nyo), Yankin Township Peace and Development Council Chairman U Soe Myint Win, and guests.

The chairman of Yankin Township WJA, the CEC member of MWJA and the chairman

of Yankin Township PDC made speeches and discussions were held.

MNA



Old students of YTU pay respects to retired faculty members.—(H)

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

11th Annual Plenary Meeting of MFPTMA held

YANGON, 30 Dec—The 11th Annual Plenary Meeting of the Myanmar Forest Products and Timber Merchants Association took place at the International Business Centre in Hline Township yesterday.

Present on the occasion were Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung, heads of the Forest Department and Myanma Timber Enterprise under the Ministry of Forestry, the president of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and CEC members, the chairman of MFPTMA and CEC members, and members and guests.

Chairman of the MFPTMA U Aung Lwin extended greetings and Minister Brig-Gen Thein Aung made an opening speech. Afterwards, President of the UMFCFI U Win Myint made a speech. Next, General Secretary of MFPTMA U Aye Lwin read out the reports submitted to the meeting and financial statements and sought the approval of those present.

General Secretary of UMFCFI U Sein Win Hlaing read the names of 24 MFPTMA members elected including Chairman U Aung Lwin and General Secretary U Aye Lwin for 2005-2006.

Next, the meeting ended with concluding remarks by the chairman of UMFCFI. — MNA

Director-General Col Myo Myint of the Development Affairs Department inspects newly-opened Koethaung-Aungsanpyithaya Road in Pyay Township on 28-12-2004.—DAD



New road opened in Pyay

YANGON, 30 Dec — As a gesture of hailing the 57th Anniversary Independence Day, Koethaung-Aungsanpyithaya Road was opened in Pyay Township, Bago Division (West), on 28 December, attended by Director-General Col Myo Myint of the Development Affairs Department under the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs. On the occasion, Executive officer U San Maw Khin of Pyay Township Development Affairs Committee reported on the construction works and a local people expressed thanks.

Afterwards, Director U Soe Lwin of Bago Division (West) Development Affairs Committee and Pyay District Peace and Development Council Chairman Lt-Col Tun Aye formally opened the road. The tar road is 4,900 feet long and 12 feet wide at a cost of K 7.779 million. As a result of the completion of this road, it can provide better transport for the people living in Koethaung and Aungsanpyithaya wards.

MNA

Respect-paying ceremony of YTU held

YANGON, 30 Dec — The first respect-paying ceremony in conjunction with the get-together of the old students of Yangon Technological University, organized by Myanmar Engineering Society took

place at Myanmar Convention Centre, here, this morning.

At the ceremony, the old students paid respects to the retired faculty members and presented cash and kind to them.

The retired teachers gave advice to the old students.

In the evening, a dinner was hosted in their honour at Dusit Inya Lake Hotel.

MNA



A Shanghai coal dock. China's state economic planners have set an 8.0 percent ceiling on coal price rises for electric power generation in 2005 as energy demand continues to outpace supply.—INTERNET

Shanxi pipes 25b kwh of electricity to north, east China

TAIYUAN, 30 Dec — China's leading coal producing Shanxi Province has piped 25 billion kilowatt-hours (kwh) of electricity to the other parts of the country this year, the provincial electric power company said Wednesday.

The country's leading power supplier, Shanxi has been generating electricity to fuel up north China and some eastern provinces, said Niu Renliang, vice-governor of the province.

According to Niu, at least a quarter of all the Chinese capital's electricity comes from Shanxi, that means one out of every four lamps in Beijing is lit with electricity generated by the province.

The province has installed and put into operation seven new generators this year, to generate 1.3 million kwh of electricity for itself and an additional 1.1 million kwh for China's landmark west-to-east electricity transmission project.

Of all the six power plants designed in the

northern section of the landmark project, four are under construction in Shanxi with a total generation capacity of 4.6 million kwh, according to Niu.

He said the province has also stepped up infrastructure construction and completed four electricity transmission lines to Beijing, Hebei Province, Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region and Jiangsu Province.

Hydropower, thermal power and nuclear power are three main types of electricity now available in China, with thermal power continuing to dominate the country's power industrial development.

China's economic boom has driven up power demand and brought about a severe power shortage in 2004 that forced 27 out

of the 31 provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions to exercise brownouts.

With more power generation facilities being installed and electricity transmitted from the energy-rich west to the hungry east, energy officials predict the power shortage would be eased by 2006.

MNA/Xinhua

NASA builds redesigned space shuttle tank

MIAMI, 29 Dec — NASA has finished building a redesigned space shuttle fuel tank that was reconfigured to eliminate the debris problem that doomed the shuttle *Columbia* and its seven astronauts, agency officials said on Tuesday.

Project managers called the step a major step in returning the US space programme to manned flight after the shuttles were grounded when *Columbia* broke apart over Texas on 1 February, 2003.

The first reconfigured tank is to be shipped by Friday from a NASA facility near New Orleans to the Kennedy Space Center in Florida as the space agency prepares for shuttle *Discovery's* launch in May or early June.

MNA/Reuters

Vietnam Airlines to open more int'l routes in 2005

HANOI, 29 Dec — Vietnam Airlines, the country's national flag carrier, plans to launch new routes to Japan, Germany, the United States, India, Indonesia and Russia next year, according to local newspaper *Transport* on Tuesday.

The carrier is expected to open a direct route to the German city of Frankfurt and another to the western region of the United States in late 2005 or early 2006. It will also inaugurate a domestic flight between Hanoi capital and Buon Ma Thuot City in central highlands Dac Lac Province next year.

Vietnam Airlines has so far this year transported 5 million passengers and 88,600 tons of cargoes, reaping revenues of nearly 17.4 trillion Vietnamese dong (VND) (1.1 billion US dollars). Its seat occupancy stands at 65.4 per cent in 2004.

The carrier, which now conducts international flights to 25 cities, including Paris, Los Angeles, Sydney, Bangkok and Guangzhou, targets to serve 5.7 million passengers and over 94,800 tons of goods, and make revenues of 19 trillion Vietnamese dong (1.2 billion dollars) next year.

By 2005, Vietnam Airlines will possess and lease 40 planes, including eight *Boeing 777s*, four *Boeing 767s*, ten *A320s*, seven *A321s*, nine *ATR 72s* and two *Fokker 70s*, of which 18 will be owned by the carrier. It plans to increase its fleet to 75 aircraft, hoping to serve 10 million passengers and 190,000 tons of cargoes by 2010.—MNA/Xinhua

Flight that was taking soldiers home from Iraq hit by ground fire

MILWAUKEE, 29 Dec — A plane operated by an Air Force Reserve wing based in Milwaukee was struck by enemy ground fire several weeks ago shortly after picking up 57 soldiers heading home after their tour of duty in Iraq, crew members say.

"I noticed a lot of fire coming out of the No 1 engine—the motor pretty much exploded," said Master Sgt James Grigsby, 41, of Brodhead, told the Milwaukee Journal *Sentinel* in an interview published Wednesday.

The members of the 440th Airlift Wing based at Mitchell International Airport are part of a group of 180 people deployed from the 440th that rotates in and out of the

Southwest Asia Central Command area of operations.

The ground fire punched a large hole in one of the engines of the *C-130*, and severed fuel lines.

The crew took the plane to a small nearby airfield that had been used by the Iraqi air force which had been heavily damaged and was being repaired.

Internet

Explosives-rigged house kills 30 during Iraq police raid

BAGHDAD, 29 Dec — Thirty people were killed when a house rigged with explosives blew up during a police raid on guerillas, in the latest calamity to befall Iraqi security forces a month ahead of national elections.

The blast followed the killing of 43 Iraqis Tuesday, many of them police and national guard, as guerillas flexed their muscle against Iraqi security forces who are expected to protect polling stations on election day.

Police raided a home in Baghdad's squalid western Ghazaliya district late on Tuesday, and were still inside when a massive blast levelled the house, an interior ministry officer said.

Officials said police fell into a trap set by a Sudanese who drew them towards the house by firing at neighbours.

However, an eyewitness said the Sudanese had actually threatened to blow up the house if the police entered.

Interior ministry spokesman Adnan Abdul Rahman said, "our experts believe that, given the damage, the

house was booby-trapped and the person who set it up tried to attract police to ensure the maximum possible number of deaths in their ranks.

"It was a trap and its author had stepped up attacks against residents with the aim of drawing in the police," Abdul Rahman said, adding that women and children were among the casualties.

But neighbour Mohammed Ali Hassan Awad, 21, said the Sudanese man "climbed to the roof and threatened to blow up the house if they entered", suggesting the Iraqi police were aware of the danger.

Thirty people died, six of them police, the ministry said. Another 25 were wounded, including four policemen, and four police were listed as missing.

Internet



Medics take care of injured Iraqi National Guard officers caught in a road side bomb and explosion southeast of Baquba, 60 kms northeast of Baghdad on 29 Dec, 2004.—INTERNET

Some border areas achieving...

(from page 1)

The Government is striving to develop the border areas, free the national races of the areas from general backwardness, and improve their living standard, while building mutual trust among all the nationalities in its drive for emergence of a consolidated Union where amity prevails among the national people.

The government founded the Central Committee, and also the work committee responsible for materializing the policies and programmes laid by their superior body. Thanks to the committees and their accomplishments, border areas development drive is gaining ground on its aims, and love and understanding among the national races are further strengthened.

Besides, peace and stability is prevailing in the border areas that are achieving solid foundations for regional development. A large number of good foundations in various sectors including transport, health, education and economic sectors have been built for improvement of the social standard of the local people.

At the same time, the Government has been launching the anti-drug drive to root out the practice of cultivating poppy for opium and the business of producing narcotic drugs, the colonialists' troublesome evil legacy in border areas, in conjunction with the border area development drive.

As the anti-drug drive involves the tasks of ensuring regional progress and improvement of locals' economy and living standard, it is achieving success due to greater participation of the nationalities depending on the degree of its accomplishments in the regional development undertakings.

The Government's lofty aims in launching the border areas development drive is to develop their health, education, economy and social foundations in a proportionate ratio with the rest of the nation and to

Therefore, the Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs is to work hard in harmony with other related ministries to realize the goal.

In doing so, they are to keep the right track with righteous attitude. Concerted efforts are to be made to ensure that tomorrow's success of border area development tasks is far greater than today's.

Also present on the occasion were Vice-Chairman of the Central Committee for DBANR Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, the Central Committee member for DBANR member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann, member of the Central Committee for DBANR Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win, Secretary of the Central Committee Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, members of the Central Committee Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, members of SPDC Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, Lt-Gen Maung Bo, Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and Lt-Gen Kyaw Win, Joint-Secretary of the Central Committee Minister for Progress of Border Areas

Seventy-two basic education high schools, 61 BEMs and 657 BEPSs have been built in the far-flung areas and now 7,381 high school students, 32,036 middle school students and 108,621 primary school students are pursuing education this academic year. The number of the students has surged 70 times, compared to that in 1989.

and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt, ministers, deputy ministers, the Director-General of the SPDC Office and heads of department.

The Secretary-1 in his speech said that now the border areas development undertakings are in full swing in a short time thanks to the supervision of the Work Committee and combined efforts of subcommittees and regional work committees and local brethren adhering to the policies adopted by the meetings of the Central Committee.

In line with the guidance of the chairman of the Central Committee, efforts are being made with added momentum for the building of economic and social infrastructures, and basic productive forces for progress of border areas that lagged behind in development, while implementing the plans for elimination of narcotic drugs. As a result, some border areas have enjoyed fruitful results better than expected in social and economic sectors. And the poppy production is now on the significant decrease, he said.

From 1989 to date in border areas, the government has constructed 3,093 miles of earth roads, 1,861 miles of gravel roads and 326 miles of tar roads, repaired 3,162 miles of roads, built 47 large, 696 small and 16 suspension bridges.

It has built small and medium hydropower plants in eight border towns, installed 256 generators in 190 villages. The border areas have been facilitated with 47 post offices, 42 telegraph offices and 80 auto exchanges.

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Similarly, there have been constructed 98 TV retransmission stations, 57 hospitals, 35 rural health care centres, 80 dispensaries, 64 sub-rural health care centres, 31 agricultural offices and 117 agricultural farms. There have been 46 dams constructed or under construction, 17 dam projects under way, five canals and 11 tractors stations.

It has established 19 livestock farms, 41 livestock and veterinary centres, and distributed 111 pedigree cattle and horses to local people, he said.

So far, the government has established seven



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein reports on accomplishments of border areas and national races.—MNA

forest nurseries, four forest reserves, and four planning forest reserves and 12 sawmills to ensure supply of forest products for local people.

From 1989 to date, the border areas development fund has spent K 30,856 million and respective ministries, K 29,422 million on the mining sector to explore mineral ores, and to identify job opportunities for the national race people.

The 10-year project for transforming slash and burn system to highland cultivation system has been implemented since 2003-2004 for certainty of the life of hilly regions dwellers. Now, altogether 11,659 out of 111,900 targeted acres have been reclaimed, he said.

In line with the guidance of the Head of State, 26 nationalities youths development training centres and 18 vocational training centres for women have been opened in border areas, and two Nationalities



Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung submits reports on conservation of forests.—MNA

There have been 46 dams constructed or under construction, 17 dam projects under way, five canals and 11 tractors stations.

Youths Resources Development Degree Colleges in Yangon and Mandalay.

The two colleges have produced 256 graduates, and a total of 552 students are learning arts and science and AGTI lectures at these two educational facilities. In order to deter young women in the border areas from going to the neighbouring nation for earning money in case they may fall into victims, 18 vocational training centres for women have established and so far 13,415 young women have completed respective courses, he said. Border areas development projects are putting into operation in conformity with the five objectives laid down by the Central Committee chairman. 79.5 per cent of the funds for border area development went into drug eradication projects, he pointed out.

According to the figures collected in the nation, the Myanmar-US joint-declaration and the statement of the UNODC, the poppy cultivation is on the decrease. And the announcement of the UNODC issued on 11-10-2004, the total acres of poppy plantations is 44,200 hectares, decreased by 29 per cent,

(See page 5)



Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo reports on management matters for border areas development.—MNA

narrow the gap between the two.

Hence, the border areas are developing with added momentum, and some of them have achieved sustainable development at present. However, it is still necessary to make momentous efforts in the development tasks of border areas to ensure that the whole country enjoys equitable development.

Priority should be given to the regions where the pace of progress of education, health, transport and economy is still slow. The development of the whole country depends on that of border areas. Only then will there be consolidation among the entire na-

From 1980 to date in border areas, the government has constructed 3,093 miles of earth roads, 1,861 miles of gravel roads and 326 miles of tar roads, repaired 3,162 miles of roads, built 47 large, 696 small and 16 suspension bridges.

tional races. This being the case, emphasis should be placed on the successful realization of equal development in border areas and among national races, rather than on commercial gains.

With the open season at the corner, all-out efforts are to be exerted on what to be done and what should be done.



Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut submits reports on improvement of small-scale hydel power projects in border areas.— MNA



Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein reports on development of livestock breeding tasks.— MNA



Minister for PBANRDA Col Thein Nyunt presents reports on implementation of the minutes of the previous meeting.— MNA

Some border areas achieving...

(from page 4)

compared to that in 2002, and 73 per cent, compared to that in 1996, he said.

From 2001 to 2004, the government has provided the farmers who had given up poppy cultivation with 19,300 bags of rice, cash assistance, 5,000 viss of salt and K 196.5 million worth saplings and seeds of poppy-substitute crops. Besides, starting from August 2004, a total of 4,650 bags of rice is provided monthly for projected regions, in which poppy-cultivation eradication measures are being taken, he said.

Steps are being taken effectively to prevent and control illegal smuggling of raw materials and precursor chemicals from neighbouring nations via borders. Plans are well under way for designating such border towns as Tachilek, Myawady and Kawthoung as drug-

From 2001 to 2004, the government has provided the farmers who had given up poppy cultivation with 19,300 bags of rice, cash assistance, 5,000 viss of salt and K 196.5 million worth saplings and seeds of poppy-substitute crops. Besides, starting from August 2004, a total of 4,650 bags of rice is provided monthly for projected regions, in which poppy-cultivation eradication measures are being taken, he said.

free zones. The Wa Alternative Development Project (WADP) is being implemented jointly by the UNODC and the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control with the assistance of US\$ 11.623 million in Mongpauk

Township, Wa Region (South) from 1998 until 2005.

From September to December 2003, the World Food Programme provided 760 tons of rice for the farmers who had given up poppy cultivation. As the second phase, the WFP sent 9,855 tons of rice from April 2004 to March 2005 to Kutkai, Kaungkha, Mongkoe, Phaungsai, Tamonye, and Mongpan in addition to Kokang Region and Wa Region. In cooperation with the UNDP, the HDI Phase IV provided US\$ 5.5 million for the CDRT Project to be implemented from December 2002 to February 2005.

Measures are being taken for the fields of education, health, food sufficiency, higher income, fresh water supply, environmental conservation, prevention against deforestation and AIDS prevention and control in Myitkyina, Waingmaw, Tanai, Haka, Falam, Tiddim, Thantlang, Paletwa, Kyauktaw, MraukU, Minbya, Buthidaung, and Maungdaw townships. The nation was provided with the assistance of 5.4 US\$ million in 2004, and the plans are under way to cover 15 more townships.

The Japan International Cooperation Agency rendered ¥ 1,000 million worth agricultural products to Myanmar in 1995, ¥ 800 million worth agricultural products in 1998. Beginning from 1997, it also provided technologies for the poppy-substitute buck wheat cultivation. In conclusion, he pledged that the Work Committee will continue to implement the directives concerning the adopted policies.

Next, Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt reported on tasks carried out for the implementation of the resolutions of the central committee and tasks being carried out.

In his reports, he said highland farms are being reclaimed with the aim of raising the living standard of farmers. With the establishment of education and health



Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Ohn Myint reports on reclamation of highland cultivation. — MNA

infrastructures, the ministry is carrying out development tasks in conjunction with related ministries.

Under the ten-year plan for reclamation of highland farms from 2003-2004 to 2012-2013, the ministry will reclaim a total of 111,900 acres in cooperation with farmers. Now, 11659 acres in total have been reclaimed.

Moreover, the ministry is also carrying out road construction and expansion works in cooperation with private social organizations and NGOs in the country.

Likewise, the ministry in line with the guidance of the Head of State has increased the number of the nationalities youth development schools. As a result, the number has now stood at 6.

The ministry is also making plans to enable qualified students to attend the B.Tech course at Mandalay University of Technology.

Next, Deputy Minister U Ohn Myint presented supplementary reports on systematic measures for reclamation of highland farms. Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung reported on measures to be taken against deforestation triggered by the 'slash and burn' method. Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein reported on the development of livestock breeding tasks being carried out at border areas.

Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut reported on the development of small-scale hydel power projects being implemented at border areas.

After hearing the reports, Senior General Than Shwe gave concluding guidance, pointing out the continuity of development tasks at border areas to be undertaken with added momentum.

The Senior General also said as the social advancement of local people depends on the adequate supply of their food, clothing and shelter needs, it is necessary to undertake simultaneously agriculture, livestock, transport, education and health in their regions. Efforts are to be made to create and develop human resources in border areas for their long-term prosperity so that they can enjoy the fruitful results one generation after another. In doing so, arrangements are to be made to conduct courses on arts and crafts and open vocational training schools, which will be of great help for development of the society.

The advent of human resources capable of promoting the society is essential since these are the only instrument that can promise the sustainable development of the human society in the long run.

Afterwards, the meeting was brought to a conclusion. — MNA

Assistance provided for development of Cocogyun Township

YANGON, 30 Dec—Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Rear-Admiral Soe Thein, accompanied by Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo, Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe, Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint, senior military officers and officials, held a meeting with local authorities and departmental officials at Cocogyun Township this morning.

The commanding officer of the local station and the

chairman of Township PDC reported on the conditions of the region, saying that there was trifling though the region was slightly damaged, it saw no casualties after the earthquake that jolted on 26 December.

The Commander-in-Chief (Navy) inspected Cocogyun Dam and fulfilled the requirements.

They visited the Jina Marazein Pagoda, a replica of the Shwedagon Pagoda, and the Sasana Pala Dhamma Rakkhita Dhammayon and offered alms to Township Sangha Nayaka Committee Chairman Sayadaw U Kovidacara.

(See page 15)



Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Rear-Admiral Soe Thein explains development for Cocogyun Township.— MNA



Upholding of Our Three Main National Causes as national policy discussed at Shan State (South) USDA Meeting

YANGON, 30 Dec — Shan State (South) Union Solidarity and Development Association held the

First, the participants at the meeting saluted the State Flag. USDA member students sang the songs in

flourishing democratic nation. And, the seven objectives of the USDA Annual General Meeting

that the Government firmly believes that better foundations for national solidarity came together



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

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 Shan State(South), at the city hall in Taunggyi, on 26 December morning. Present on the occasion were USDA members, townselders, members of War Veterans Organization, MWA, MCWA, Red Cross and Auxiliary Fire Brigades, members of social organizations and outstanding youths.

opening the meeting, Shan State (South) USDA Secretary U Nyan Lin, presiding over the meeting, said that the USDA discharging national duties has emerged as a strong national force while organizing new generation youths.

He added that the association, upholding Our Three Main National Causes as national policy, must be a patriotic force with nationalist spirit in building a peaceful, modern, developed and discipline-

focused on unity of the entire people, successful implementation of the seven-point future policy programme, enhancement of socio-economic sector with added momentum and guarding against the destructive elements with the strength and unity of the people.

In addition, the people and the USDA must have a similar goal in accord with the guidance given at the USDA AGM by Patron of the association Senior General Than Shwe, saying

with development. The Government has laid down and practised Our Three Main National Causes in the interest of the State and the entire people. The Government firmly believes that national solidarity is foundation of the tasks for

POEM

Be ever alert

- * In ancient times, when we were subjugated
They took us to battle, and won
They took into custody, our monarch
Enslaved the people, and as such
The enslavement, was very apparent.
- * These days, when subjugation is intended
They take a blurred, different form
Fomenting disunity, among the people
Scheming to get them disunited
To disintegrate the Union, totally
Then interfering, they'll be saviours
With those trained, to do as bid
Adopted sons, to grab power
With governance, as prescribed
To push into, mire of slavehood
With people, not realizing immediately
Unknowingly, commit to slavehood.
- * Not to realize, being enslaved unknowingly
For that not to happen, brethren blood brothers
To know who's who, among us
What kind of people, with various means
Mingle and mess up, divide us
Keep hands held, firmly
With our own design, our life
Let's build it beautifully.

Meru (Trs)

Hailing the 57th Anniversary Independence Day



Participants chanting slogans at the conclusion of Shan State (South) USDA Meeting in Taunggyi. — MNA

development of the nation and its people, peace and modernization and building a democratic State. And then, the strength of the national people plays the most important role in development of the State.

In conclusion, he noted that plans concerning the seven objectives and nine future tasks adopted at the AGM are to be drawn and implemented.

Next, Shan State (South) USDA Executive U Kyaw Soe Hlaing tabled a motion calling for implementation of the seven objectives of the USDA AGM 2004 with might and main, and Shan State (South) USDA and Shan Executive U Khun Than Htoo seconded the motion.

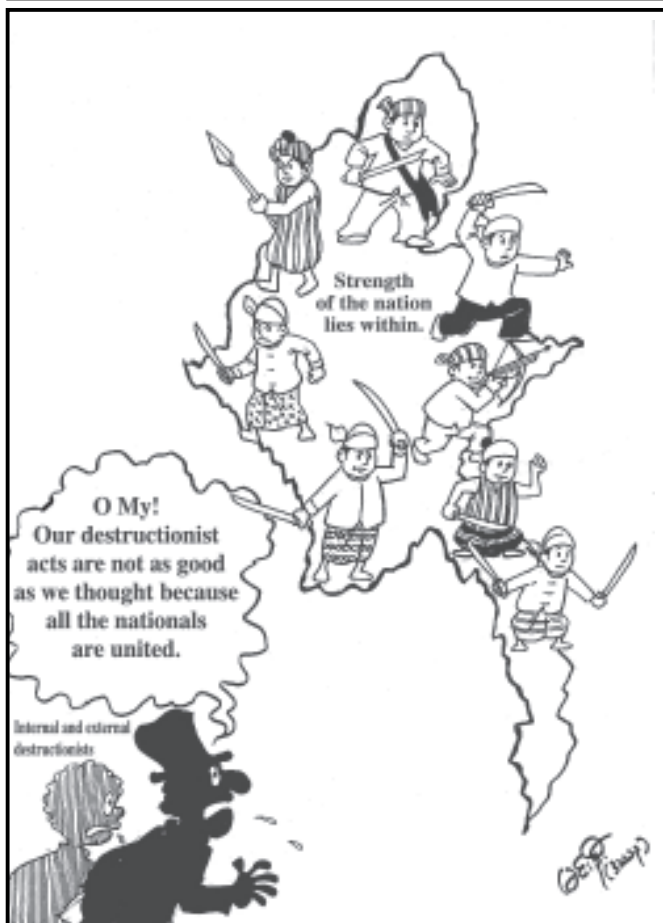
Shan State (South) USDA Executive U Sai Thiha submitted the plans to be carried out in Shan

State (South). Taunggyi District USDA Executive Daw Khin Thanda Oo,

Loilem District USDA Joint-Secretary U Yi Thant (See page 15)



Executive U Khin Than Htoo accepts K 1 million for Shan State (South) USDA.—MNA



Development in the rail transportation sector in the time of the State Peace and Development Council

Hailing the 57th Anniversary Independence Day

Newly built Thilawa station and a passenger train in Thanlyin Township, Yangon Division.



The above photo shows a train passing through Punchaung Bridge built by Myanma Railways on Shwenyaung-Taunggyi-Punchaung-Namsan railroad in Shan State (South).



Subject	Railroad section	
	1988	2004
Rail track	2793.86	3922.45
Mileage	1976.35	3012.89
Station	487	775
Bridge	5650	9130

Subject	Transportation of passenger/goods (in million)	
	1988-89	2003-2004
Passenger	36.689	56.667
Passenger/mile	1870.125	2678.988
Goods(ton)	1.269	2.877
Goods/mile	196.579	599.480

Parami overpass built by Myanma Railways was commissioned into service on 16 September, 2004. The facility is 48 feet wide and 1175 feet long.



The evil of losing independence and the virtue of regaining it

BEWARE OF THE TRICKS OF COLONIALISTS

The First Anglo-Myanmar War broke out in 1824. It was an aggressive war of the British. Myanmar national races bravely fought against the British. At the end of the war, the colonialists seized Rakhine and Taninthayi regions.

Similarly, Myanmar

stiff resistance put up by the leaders of the national races in their writings.

With anti-colonialist sentiment and nationalistic fervour, Shan, Kayah, and Wa patriotic nationals from Chin hills, Kachin hills and Shan plateau, as well as Rakhine, Kayin, Mon and Bamar national races fought against the colonialists without being organized and instructed. It was a fine characteristic of Myanmar.

There are sayings

yearned for the British. But their expectations from the British proved to be wrong.

Normally, disunity in the court and inequality of firepower did not mean the fall of the country's servitude under the British rule. When industrial productive forces were thriving in western Europe, capitalists gained power in bourgeois revolution by undermining monarchy and feudalism. The power can be said democratic power be-

With anti-colonialist sentiment and nationalistic fervour, Shan, Kayah, and Wa patriotic nationals from Chin hills, Kachin hills and Shan plateau, as well as Rakhine, Kayin, Mon and Bamar national races fought against the colonialists without being organized and instructed. It was a fine characteristic of Myanmar.

There are sayings which go 'Blood is thicker than water' and 'Be always ready in times of emergency'. And this overwhelming sense has instilled into those who live in the far-flung hilly and plain regions. That means they have patriotic spirit.

resisted the British aggressive war in 1852 but had to relinquish the Lower Myanmar to the British colonialists. In 1885, the colonialists again intruded Myanmar but they had to encounter the strong resistance of all the national people of Myanmar including hilly and plain regions.

The third war the British waged on Myanmar was also an aggressive one by using their firepower and manpower. In the whole three wars, leaders of all national races in Myanmar bravely fought against the British with unyielding spirit. It was a milestone in history. Even the British colonialists had to appreciate and mention the

which go 'Blood is thicker than water' and 'Be always ready in times of emergency'. And this overwhelming sense has instilled into those who live in the far-flung hilly and plain regions. That means they have patriotic spirit.

Launching armed resistance against the imperialists with patriotic spirit is serving our national cause.

Myanmar lost her independence on account of the British superior weapons. But, Myanmar showed great courage to the British. It was also partly due to disunity within the court. It can also be taken into account the fact that some elements within the court,

Tekkatho Myat Thu



Leaders of Chin national race who waged war against the British colonialists with unyielding spirit.



French and British merchants, messengers of the colonialists, waiting on the king at the court in the late Konbaung Era.

cause it was gained through voting system. Capitalist parliamentary system was beautifully dubbed parliamentary democratic system. Capitalists won democratic parliamentary elections by means of wealth.

About half a dozen of European countries where capitalist industry

was booming invaded and colonized other countries like pirates by using their superior firepower and military might with the intention of getting raw materials, fuel energy and labour for industrial production and seeking market for their finished (See page 9)

Normally, disunity in the court and inequality of firepower did not mean the fall of the country's servitude under the British rule. When industrial productive forces were thriving in western Europe, capitalists gained power in bourgeois revolution by undermining monarchy and feudalism. The power can be said democratic power because it was gained through voting system. Capitalist parliamentary system was beautifully dubbed parliamentary democratic system. Capitalists won democratic parliamentary elections by means of wealth.

The evil of losing independence and the virtue of regaining it

In the whole struggle for independence, Myanmar exercised national politics with national spirit. With the shared political stance they became united. After independence, Myanmar again experienced the imminent loss of national unity due to party political and sectarian divides in the nation which were caused by the instigations of elements inside and outside the nation. That was why national unity or national consolidation collapsed.



The Union Flag hoisted up on 4 January 1948, at 6.30 pm, Independence Day ceremony of the Union of Myanmar was held at the Governor's Residence.

(from page 8)
products. It is not only Myanmar that had to fall under subjugation because of her low-tech weaponry and disunity. But the territorial property and natural resources of the nations of more than three quarters of the earth were also exploited by those European capitalist countries in their invasion.

Long before Myanmar was under colonial rule in 1885, the British had coveted Myanmar's rich natural resources such as precious stones, crops and paddy, teak and prospects of oil. After annexation of Myanmar, Britain started opening Bombay Burma Co, Burma Corporation, Steel Brother Co and Bulinger Pool Co to ex-

ploit Myanmar's teak, mineral resources, oil and crops and paddy.

As their acts were unbearable, Myanmar national races put up strong resistance against the British from 1885 to the 1900s. Myanmar formed YMBA in 1906 and GCBA (Later known as Doe Bama Asiayon) in 1920 and fought for national independence. BIA, BDA, Bama Tatmadaw, Pha-ta-pala and Pha-hsa-pala (AFPFL), with the strength of unity, essayed to regain Myanmar's total independence.

As a result, Myanmar regained her independence and sovereignty on 4 January, 1948. And Myanmar was in a position to enjoy her rich natu-

ral resources again. Myanmar was able to establish a sovereign nation after Panglong Conference had been held in February, 1947.

In the whole struggle for independence, Myanmar exercised national politics with national spirit. With the shared political stance they became united. After independence, Myanmar again experi-

enced the imminent loss of national unity due to party political and sectarian divides in the nation which were caused by the instigations of elements inside and outside the nation. That was why national unity or national consolidation collapsed.

With the breakdown

of national unity, there emerged armed groups engaged in fighting, and the people had to face the life-threatening situation in the country. Despite regaining independence, the people could not enjoy it because of uncertainty and instability. The ill legacy of the colonialists left the Myanmar people in the mire of hardships. Myanmar was on the verge of losing her independence when she encountered political upheavals — 1948-49 internal insurgency, the split of the ruling AFPFL government in 1958 in the ensuing unrest, breakdown of unity following the proposed Federal Union in the early 1962 and one of the western super powers' intrusion into the territorial waters of the country during the 1988 unrest with the five warships including an aircraft carrier.

Hand in hand with the people, the Tatmadaw, the strong national force, had to protect the country during these political upheavals. It is only the Tatmadaw and people who always safeguard the State and its sovereignty. This national force as such is striving to transform the nation into a



Daipha Duwa was among the leaders of Kachin nationals who fought against colonialists.

peaceful, modern and developed one. That means efforts are being made to be able to value the virtues of independence by

removing the evils of losing it.

(Translation: ST)

Myanma Alin, Kyemon:

30-12-04

Hand in hand with the people, the Tatmadaw, the strong national force, had to protect the country during these political upheavals. It is only the Tatmadaw and people who always safeguard the State and its sovereignty. This national force as such is striving to transform the nation into a peaceful, modern and developed one.



A ship of colonialists seen arriving at Inwa harbour during third Anglo-Myanmar war.



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win hears reports on matters concerning Chauk-Lanywa oilfield by Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi.—MNA

Development of energy ...

(from page 16)

Aung Than Htut, Brig-Gen Htay Aung of Magway Station, Chairman of Magway Division Peace and Development Council Col Phone Maw Shwe, senior military officers and departmental officials.

Brig-Gen Thein Tun submitted reports on requirements of cotton and cotton cultivation areas.

Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win heard reports on collection of quality raw material of cotton and gave necessary instructions.

running and strength of staff.

After hearing the reports, Lt-Gen Soe Win instructed them to supervise the tasks of the factory with goodwill for thorough implementation of the aims of the project, lay down the plan on cultivation of cotton so as

uplifting living standard, creating job opportunities and improving technological use of modern machinery, the Pwintbyu Textile Factory project is being implemented.

The factory is scheduled to operate production works in February 2005.

paddy and other crops from Ayeyawady River. Water of Ayeyawady River will be supplied to the areas, at least 62 feet in height and 35 feet in depth, through the 8 feet by 8 feet main canal measuring 48,500 feet long and 4 feet by 4 feet 12 tributary canals meas-

structions.

The Prime Minister inspected water pumping tasks.

The plan is under way to irrigate 2,000 acres of summer paddy and 2,000 acres of cotton with the use of water facilities of Tanyaung River Water Pumping



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win inspects tasks of Tanyaung river water pumping project in Salin Township.—MNA

They flew by helicopter to Pwintbyu Textile Factory (Project) of Myanmar Textile Industries of the Ministry of Industry-1 being implemented on Lekaing-Pwintbyu Road near Kanthagyi Village, two miles from Pwintbyu.

The Prime Minister and party inspected the test-running of three cotton ginning machines, samples of raw materials and finished goods of the factory. Next, the Prime Minister inspected the test-running of other machines, raw materials for respective machines and sample products. Deputy Minister for Industry-1 Brig-Gen Thein Tun and officials conducted them round the factory. Afterwards, they looked into weaving machines without looms.

Managing Director U Oo Thein Maung of Myanmar Textile Industries reported on the chart of Pwintbyu Textile Factory (Project), buildings of the factory and greening tasks in its compound. Deputy Minister

In the briefing hall, the Deputy Minister presented reports on the aims of implementing the project, construction matters and its progress, completion of installing machines, production and requirements of raw materials.

The Managing Director reported on arrangements of the Ministry of Industry-1 for regionwise growing of long staple cotton, supply of power, natural gas and water for the factory, test-

to collect raw materials and try to become a the factory which can manufacture import-substitute products.

Next, the Prime Minister presented the fruit basket to officials of Tianjin Machinery Import & Export Corporation of the People's Republic of China.

With the aims of ensuring supply of domestic demands and manufacturing of import-substitute products, developing the region and

Afterwards, they proceeded to Tanyaung River Water Pumping Project of Water Resource Utilization Department being implemented near Lethagon Village of Tanyaung Village-tract in Salin Township.

In the briefing hall, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo reported to the Prime Minister that the project is being implemented to be able to irrigate 15,000 acres of

uring 85,000 feet long.

Director-General U Win Shwe of WRUD submitted reports on progress in implementing the project.

Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint briefed the Prime Minister on arrangements for building the feeder canal. Chairman of Magway Division Peace and Development Council Col Phone Maw Shwe reported on agricultural tasks of the region, and Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave necessary in-

Project coming summer.

The Prime Minister and party flew to Chauk-Lanywa Oilfield of Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise via Chauk.

In the briefing hall near Well No 1154, the Prime Minister heard reports on the area of Chauk-Lanywa oilfield measuring about 10 miles in length and about one mile in breadth, facts about the oilfield, the monthly statement for average daily production (See page 11)

Myanmar Motion Picture Award Winners ...

(from page 16)

chairman and executives of MMPA, academy award winners and guests.

First, Chairman MMPA U Sein Tin explained on the purpose of holding the ceremony. Next, Chairman U Sein Tin, Vice-Chairman-1 U Kyee Myint and Vice-Chairman-2 Pagyi U Soe Moe presented souvenirs to 11 outstanding film

technicians. Afterwards, best actor award winner Kyaw Hein and best supporting actress award winner Cho Phone expressed thanks.

After the ceremony, dinner was hosted to Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein and party and guests.

MNA



Myanmar Motion Picture Asiayon Vice-Chairman-2 Pagyi U Soe Moe presents gifts to Academy Award winner Tun Eindra Bo.—MNA

Development of energy sector urged...

(from page 10)
of crude oil and natural gas in 2004-2005 financial year, drilling of Oil Well No 1154 and nationwide production of oil and gas presented by Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi.

The Prime Minister gave instructions on development of the energy sector.

Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi conducted the Prime Minister and party round the drilling site of Oil Well No 1154. The drilling of the well was started on 15 September 2004. So far, it has been drilled 6,043 feet in depth.

On arrival at the Natural Gas Filling Station in Chauk, Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi reported to the Prime Minister that about 1,500 ve-



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win inspects machines of Pwintbyu Textile Factory (Project).—MNA

have been opened. A total of eight CNG filling stations are being built in Ahlon, Kyaikkaloh,

opened beginning 2005 one after another. And, arrangements are being made for building more 11 CNG filling stations.

and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo and Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein who accompanied



Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo inspects functions of Ngathayauk river water pumping project in NyaungU District.—MNA

hicles have been prepared to NGVs in Paleik, Chauk, Yenangyoung and Yangon. Now, six CNG filling stations

Bayintnaung, Thakayta, Dagon Myothit, Danyingon and North Okkalapa Township, and the stations will be

He continued his reports on installation of CNG engines being carried out by MOGE and private companies.

The Prime Minister gave necessary instructions. Next, they arrived at Bagan-NyaungU from Chauk.

On 29 December, they attended the opening ceremony of Mone Creek Multipurpose Dam in Sedoktara Township. After the ceremony, the Prime Minister and party arrived back in Bagan-NyaungU.

At the guest house, Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win inspected lining plaque made of natural pozolan and cement to be placed at the tributary canals of the river water pumping projects.

Next, the Prime Minister and party arrived back here in the afternoon.

On 28 December, Minister for Agriculture

the Prime Minister inspected Kyawzi River Water Pumping Project near Kyawzi Village in Taungtha Township.

The Director-General of WRUD and officials reported on the projects. Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo inspected tasks of the project. Kyawzi River Water Pumping Project will benefit 8,000 acres of land.

The ministers proceeded to Ngathayauk River Water Pumping Project near Ohnhnechaung Village in NyaungU Township.

Officials reported on progress of project tasks. Ngathayauk River Water Pumping Project will benefit 8,700 acres of land.

Similarly, the ministers inspected Thugaungti River Water Pumping Project which will benefit 6,000 acres of land, in Thugaungti region of NyaungU Township.

MNA

Objectives of 57th Anniversary Independence Day

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

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win looks into sale of fuel at stations

YANGON, 30 Dec — Chairman of the Supervisory Committee for Utilization of Power and Fuel, Member of the State Peace and Development Council, and Chief of Armed Forces Training Lt-Gen Kyaw Win inspected the sale of petrol and diesel at the stations of the Myanma Petroleum Products Enterprise and efficient use of electricity at the offices this afternoon.

In his inspection tour, he was accompanied by Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, Vice Chief of Armed Forces Training Maj-Gen Win Myint, Deputy Minister for Transport Col Nyan Tun Aung, Vice Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Col Maung Pa and officials.

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and party went to the station No 0228 in Tamwe Township and No 0232 in Yankin Township and looked into the sale of fuel and gave instruction to officials.

They also went to the Ministry of Mines, the Ministry of Forestry in Yankin Township and Ministry of Industry-2 on KabaAye Pagoda Road and inspected the efficient use of electricity there.

MNA

Cash and kind provided to victims of tidal waves in Kawthoung

YANGON, 30 Dec — Chairman of Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Coastal Region Command Maj-Gen Ohn Myint, accompanied by Brig-Gen Khin Zaw Win of the local station and departmental officials, met local people at Basic Education Primary School in Awgyi Village of Kawthoung Township on 30 December.

The commander explained arrangements on relief and resettlement to be carried out for victims of tidal waves triggered by a strong earthquake jolted on 26 December.

Next, on behalf of the wellwishers, the commander presented cash and kind to the officials of the respective villages. The donations of the wellwishers, ministries and local authorities amounted to K 60 million, various kinds of clothes and foodstuff including 180 bags of rice worth K 1.54 million.

Chairman of Kawthoung District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Tin Soe reported on relief matters, and Brig-Gen Khin Zaw Win of the local station and Executive Director of Myanmar Red Cross Society Col Aung Than gave supplementary reports.

In Chaungwa Village, the commander and party cordially greeted those who were hit by the tidal waves and presented relief items to them. Next, the commander and party inspected damages at the places hit by tidal waves. — MNA



Oil Well No 1154 seen at Chauk-Lanywa oilfield.

MNA

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P.O. Box 60, Yangon
 Dated: 31 December 2004

Laos, Vietnam cooperate to survey mineral salt

HANOI, 29 Dec — The Vietnam Chemical Corporation and the Lao Planning and Investment Committee have signed an agreement in the Lao capital of Vientiane to explore mineral salt in Laos, sources from Vientiane said on Tuesday.

They agreed to carry out the survey in 30 months and make the feasibility study within a year.

The project is at an estimated cost of 2 million US dollars, and to survey mineral salt on a 10 square kilometre area in Khammouane Province in the central part of Laos, the sources said.

Important mineral salt include iron salt, magnesium salt and calcium salt. It is taken up in soluble form. When it dissolves in water it separates into particles called ions. Mineral salt does not usually contain the element carbon and are therefore inorganic.

MNA/Xinhua

MYANMAR ASSOCIATES LIMITED No.41, Nawaday Street, Dagon Township, Yangon.

Phone No. (0951) 243669, (0951) 541495

The (28) Apartments and Assets of the Myanmar Associates Ltd will be sold in one Lot by Sealed Tender Bids. Interested Persons are kindly invited to visit us, inspect for detailed terms and conditions of the Tender and make bids for the following :-

- | | | |
|-----|---|---|
| 1.0 | Place for Inspection | No.41, Nawaday Street, Yawmingyi Quarter, Dagon Township, Yangon. |
| 2.0 | Period for Inspection | During Office Hours from January 11, 2005 to January 19, 2005 |
| 3.0 | Tender Forms, Terms and Conditions | Are available at the above address on payment of K. 1,000/- per set during office hours at 09:30 am to 4:30 pm from January 11, 2005 to January 19, 2005. |
| 4.0 | Tender Starting Date/Time | January 12, 2005 at 9:30 hours |
| 5.0 | Tender Closing Date/Time | January 20, 2005 at 10:00 hours |
| 6.0 | Tender Opening Date/Time | January 20, 2005 at 11:00 hours |
| 7.0 | Public Declaration of Results Date and Time | January 20, 2005 at 13:00 hours |

**CHAIRMAN
 DISPOSAL COMMITTEE**

Heroin hidden in oranges seized on train from Kunming

Xi'AN, 29 Dec — A young man was caught after police found 362 grammes of heroin that he hid in oranges on a train from Kunming to Xi'an, the public security department of Xi'an railway administration announced on Monday.

Police said they found 27-year-old Xi Bo was uneasy when they were conducting a routine safety examination around 7 am on 18 December in a sleeper cabinet of a train from Kunming, capital of southwestern Yunnan Province, to Xi'an, capital of northwestern Shaanxi Province. Later, they found 46 little heroine "sticks" in four big oranges in the young man's baggage.

Xie, a drug addict from southwestern Sichuan Province, told the police that a drug dealer in

Yunnan asked him to give the heroin to a man in Chengdu, provincial capital of Sichuan. Further investigation to the case is still underway, according to the department.

Yunnan, a province with over 4,000 kilometres of border line, easily falls victim to drug dealing and has been designated by Chinese authorities as a target area for cracking down on the influx of drugs.

MNA/Xinhua

China lacks 40b cubic metres of water every year

BEIJING, 29 Dec — China's Minister of Water Resources on Monday said China would have an average annual water shortage of 40 billion cubic metres, if it stopped over-tapping groundwater.

Wang made the remarks in a report on water

resources economization, protection and utilization to China's top legislature, the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC).

More than 400 of the 669 Chinese cities are facing water shortages, and an average of 20 million

hectares of farmland are hit by drought every year, Wang said.

Water pollution is also severe in the country, he said, as just 38.1 per cent

of its river water is drinkable. In 2003, the country discharged 68 billion tons of sewage, double its amount from 1980.

MNA/Xinhua

Asia's first "China Culture Centre" inaugurated in Seoul

SEOUL, 29 Dec — The first China Culture Centre (CCC) in Asia was inaugurated here on Tuesday, which will provide South Koreans with Chinese language teaching service and information about China and Chinese culture.

The CCC in Seoul, the sixth of its kind in the world set by the Chinese Government, will also introduce China to South Koreans through holding exhibitions, seminars and other activities, said visiting Chinese Vice Cultural Minister Meng Xiaosi who inaugurated the Seoul CCC together with South Korean National Assembly Vice Speaker Park Hee-tae, Culture and Tourism Minister Chung Dong-chae and other Chinese and South Korean officials.

"The setting up of CCC in Seoul is an important outcome of cultural exchanges and cooperation between China and South Korea," Meng said in her inauguration speech, "It will become a stage, which curtains never fall, for people, especially youth, of both countries to contact and

know more about each other."

Chung told dozens of guests who presented at the inauguration ceremony that he believed the Seoul CCC will be a bridge for bilateral relations and the friendship between South Korean and Chinese people.

The six-floor CCC building, located near the building of South Korean Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, has a library, several classrooms and rooms for exhibitions and function activities. Telephone inquiries flooded in since the CCC's setting up was announced in February, asking when it would be opened to public and the services would begin.

"More and more South Koreans are eager to study Chinese and learn more about China," Chinese Ambassador Li Bin told Xinhua Monday in an interview, "It is not only because that Chinese and South Korean cultures are very close, for the long history of bilateral cultural exchanges and geographic closeness, but the full-scale development of bilateral relations in recent

years."

He said China became South Korea's top investment and travel destination, as well as the biggest trade partner this year. Chinese language and culture studies are also getting popular in South Korea. It is called "a blow of Chinese Wind" in South Korea, in parallel with the Chinese saying "the flow of South Korean Stream" which shows the influence of South Korean culture in China.

"The setting up of CCC in Seoul meets the needs of many South Koreans to study Chinese and learn Chinese culture," Li said, "It is also helpful for Chinese culture to be introduced to other countries in the world, including South Korea."

China has set up two CCCs in Mauritius and Benin in 1980s and another three in France, Egypt and Malta during the past three years. Around 100,000 people attended activities held by CCCs in these five countries in 2004, according to a Press release from Chinese Culture Ministry.

MNA/Xinhua

Russia to stop giving US astronauts free rides into orbit

MOSCOW, 29 Dec — Russia's cash-strapped space agency said on Tuesday it would stop giving US astronauts free rides into orbit in the future.

Russia has single-handedly serviced the *International Space Station*, a 95-billion-US-dollar orbiting laboratory, for almost two years since the United States grounded its Shuttles after the fatal *Columbia* accident.

It has made no secret of the financial pinch it has felt from having to launch joint US-Russian manned missions and

cargo ships to the *Station*, saying its space budget is a mere fraction of NASA's resources.

Space agency chief Anatoly Perminov will go to the United States early next year with a proposal, a Roskosmos spokesman said.

"From 2006, we will put US astronauts into orbit only on a commercial basis," *ITAR-TASS* news agency quoted Perminov as saying.

NASA officials were not available for comment. Roskosmos said it had not received any response to the proposal yet.

The United States has often funded Russian cosmonauts' trips to the *Station* on its Shuttles and since the *Columbia* tragedy Russia has done the same for US astronauts.

Under the new proposal, the United States would write off debts of man-hours that Russia owes for work carried out on the station in exchange for Russia launching its astronauts.

When the *Station* was built, participants from 16 nations agreed money and expertise they would put into the project. Russia still owes some of its

agreed input, some of which would be written off if the United States agrees to the plan.

It was the latest in a string of money-saving plans devised by Russia to alleviate its financial woes.

It has launched two space tourists, who enjoyed around 10 days in space for their 20 million US dollars tickets, and has plans to send up more amateurs. Perminov, quoted by *ITAR-TASS*, said two foreigner space tourists could be launched in 2006.

MNA/Reuters



Members of Circus Oz perform their balancing act under the 'Big Top' during a preview of their show in Sydney on 30 Dec, 2004. The circus, known for its unusual and dangerous acts, will be performing over the next few months in capital cities and small country towns after a sell-out tour of England.—INTERNET

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2004 a banner year against drugs and crime

MANILA, 30 Dec — The Philippine national police has named 2004 a banner year in the country's anti-drugs and crime campaign, local media reported on Wednesday.

Philippine National Police (PNP) Chief Director-General Edgar Aglipay said in his year-end report that the PNP's anti-drug campaign led to the arrest of 23,194 financiers, pushers and users and the filing in court of 16,385 cases.

A total of 15 shabu laboratories and warehouses were also dismantled, he said.

According to the police, the total value of seized drugs for this year alone increased by 215 per cent from 3.7 billion pesos (66.07 million US dollars) from January to November 2003 to 11.7 billion pesos (208.93 million dollars) during the same period this year.

Police Deputy Director-General Ricardo F de Leon, commander of the

PNP anti-illegal Drugs Special Operations Task Force (AIDSOTF), also vowed to relentlessly continue the anti-drug campaign with integration of all anti-drug operations nationwide to facilitate better coordination and timely exchange of information.

"We are also looking at our own backyard, to cleanse our ranks of drug users, coddlers and protectors," de Leon stressed.

The PNP chief noted that kidnapping-for-ransom incidents, bank vehicle robberies, car theft and petty street crimes also registered a remarkable decrease this year. He also called attention to the arrest of 119 of the country's most wanted persons.

MNA/Xinhua

China to continue boosting agriculture in 2005

BEIJING, 30 Dec — China's central authorities pledged to continue agriculture-friendly policies, to stabilize upward trends in grain production and to increase farmers' income in 2005 at a central working conference on agriculture in Beijing over the last two days and attended by Vice-Premier Hui Liangyu.

At the meeting, participants discussed the draft of a resolution on agricultural issues by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and the State Council.

The meeting concluded that in 2004, China maintained positive trends in economic and social development and made remarkable progress in agricultural and rural development.

This year, China experienced increased grain production, a relatively fast growth in

farmers' income and big strides in rural reforms.

China should analyze and recognize its rural situation in an overall and accurate way, as there are both achievements and problems. The year 2005 is of great importance for the country to accomplish the tasks for the 10th Five-Year Plan (2001-2005) for National Economy and

Social Progress, according to the participants.

In the new year, the government should further reduce agricultural taxes, increase financial subsidies to farmers, invest more money in rural infrastructure and increase financial assistance to main grain-production counties," the participants agreed. — MNA/Xinhua

New gunship successful in first flight in Jiangxi Province

NANCHANG, 28 Dec — The armed-type Zhi-11, a new type of China-made gunship, made its first flight successfully in Jingdezhen City, Jiangxi Province, East China, Monday, marking a latest progress for China's efforts to upgrade its gunship products.

The first flight was conducted at the Lumeng Airport, which is located in Jingdezhen, where the Changhe Aircraft Industry Group, a major gunship manufacturer in the country, is located.

The armed-type Zhi-11 is a light-type gunship and it has been independently developed by Chinese on the basis of the Zhi-11 series of helicopter, according to company sources.

The Zhi-11 family, which passed official ap-

praisal in December 2000 and entered into batch production since then, has been well sold at home and abroad. Early this year, the company began studying the armed type of Zhi-11 helicopter.

Wang Bin, chairman of the board and general manager, addressed the first-test-flight ceremony, pledging that his company will continue the efforts to improve the internal and outer quality of their products.

MNA/Xinhua



A Chinese vendor measures out textile at the Alice Tailor Shop in Beijing, China, on 29 Dec, 2004. — INTERNET

E China province sees export increase in mobile phones

HANGZHOU, 28 Dec — East China's Zhejiang Province exported 7.969 million mobile phones during the first 11 months of this year, an increase of 65.3 per cent over the same period of last year, according to local Customs sources. The figures released by Hangzhou Customs show that the mobile phone exports were valued at 680 million US dollars, up 76.8 per cent over the same period of last year.

Foreign-funded businesses contribute 68.7 per cent to the exports, totalling 470 million US dollars in value. State-owned companies contribute 29.9 per cent worth 200 million US dollars. The province's imports of mobile phones stood at 345,000 units valued at 33.55 million US dollars, down 88 per cent and 89.4 per cent respectively over the same period of last year. — MNA/Xinhua

SAARC summit not be affected by earthquake

DHAKA, 28 Dec — There is no possibility of deferring the upcoming South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) summit scheduled for January 9-11, 2005, despite Sunday's earthquake that left a colossal loss of life and property in some member countries. According to the private news agency United News of Bangladesh, the SAARC summit will be held on schedule, since Bangladeshi Government has not received any request from any affected country like Sri Lanka or Maldives to defer the dates, said Foreign Secretary Shamsher Mobin Chowdhury on Monday. Chowdhury further said preparations are in full swing to host the summit on schedule, adding high commissioners representing SAARC countries here have expressed their satisfaction over the preparations. — MNA/Xinhua

Singapore's manufacturing output up 13.2 % in November

SINGAPORE, 28 Dec — Singapore's manufacturing output rose 13.2 per cent in November as compared with the same period of last year.

According to the figures released by the Economic Development Board (EDB) on Monday, for the first eleven months of this year, Singapore's total manufacturing output registered an increase of 13 per cent over last

year.

The biomedical manufacturing cluster enjoyed a strong rebound after its three-month contraction to increase 58.1 per cent in November. The electronics cluster grew 3.1 per cent in November and the

transport engineering cluster rose 31.9 per cent in the same month. The chemicals cluster reported an increase of 15.7 per cent while the precision engineering cluster rose slightly by 0.4 per cent.

MNA/Xinhua

China willing to strengthen military ties with India

BEIJING, 29 Dec — China on Monday expressed willingness to further strengthen bilateral military ties with New Delhi in line with the development of Sino-Indian relations in other fields.

Welcoming Indian Chief of Army Staff General N C Vij, Deputy Chief of Staff of Chinese People's Liberation Army, General Xiong Guangkai, described his visit as "a big event for the militaries of our two countries" and said China was willing to make concerted efforts to promote cooperation between the two armies. The two sides exchanged views on the international

and regional situation, bilateral relations and armies, Xinhua news agency reported. Xiong said Chinese and Indian armies, with constant development in bilateral ties, had further strengthened their relations, and the Chinese side would continue to enhance relations with the Indian Army in line with the consensus reached by leaders of the two countries.

MNA/PTI



A young Lao girl takes a ride in a vegetable cart in one of Vientiane's many morning markets, recently. — INTERNET

SPORTS

Romario considering possible return to Vasco da Gama

RIO DE JANEIRO, 30 Dec — Former Brazil striker Romario said on Wednesday he was considering a possible return to his first club Vasco da Gama despite a newspaper report that he had decided to retire.

"I want to make it quite clear that I'm not going to stop playing," Romario told reporters. "All I said was that I didn't really feel like playing. I've got an offer from Vasco and I'll see what I'm going to do."

Romario, 38, was sacked by Fluminense in October.

The Rio de Janeiro newspaper O Globo ran a report on Tuesday briefly quoting Romario as saying that he had decided to end his career. Fluminense fired Romario after a season during which he struggled for match fitness and repeatedly clashed with his coaches.

MNA/Reuters



Olympic swimming champion Laure Manaudou has been named as France's sports personality of the year by L'Equipe newspaper.

INTERNET

Olympiakos maintain top spot in Greek 1st Division

ATHENS, 30 Dec — Despite the absence on holiday of Brazilian midfielder Rivaldo, Olympiakos Piraeus eased to a 3-0 win against Kerkira on Wednesday to maintain top spot in the Greek First Division.

Olympiakos, who have 30 points after 13 matches, hold a one-point lead over champions Panathinaikos, who came from behind to beat PAOK Salonica 2-1 at home.

AEK Athens, 3-2 winners at Ionikos, are third with 27 points.

With Rivaldo enjoying an extended Christmas break at home in Brazil, Olympiakos were rarely troubled by struggling Kerkira.

The hosts took the lead after just 14 minutes when Giorgos Anotolakis scrambled the ball home from close range.

Grigoris Georgatos added a second in the 29th minute with a superb long-range volley and Giovanni provided the third in the second half with his eighth goal of the season, driving home from the edge of the area. Panathinaikos, however, suffered an early shock when Paraskevis Andralas put PAOK ahead in the 34th minute.

Yannis Goumas equalized for the champions four minutes later but it looked as though they would have

to share the points until Cyprus striker Michael Konstantinou scored the winner four minutes from time.

AEK benefitted from some controversial refereeing as they edged out Ionikos, who twice came back from a goal down. Alessandro Soares put AEK ahead with his eighth goal of the season. After Ionikos had levelled through Macor, Soares

then won a debatable penalty when he clearly dived in the penalty area.

Konstantinos Katsoouranis scored from the spot, only for Macor to equalize with his second.

But AEK sealed the win 20 minutes from time when the referee ignored his assistant, who was flagging for offside, as Christos Kontis' free-kick took a deflection into the net. — MNA/Reuters

Shevchenko voted top player in former Soviet Union

MOSCOW, 30 Dec — Andriy Shevchenko, named European Player of the Year this month, has been voted the top player in the former Soviet Union in a poll conducted by Russian daily Sport-Express.

The newspaper said on Wednesday that the Ukraine and AC Milan striker was the unanimous choice among sports journalists in the 15 countries of the former Soviet Union. Shevchenko was also shortlisted for the World Player of the Year award by world governing body FIFA this month.

The 28-year-old was the top scorer in Serie A last season helping Milan to the Italian title in 2004 and the Champions League crown the previous year.

He also put his national side on the brink of reaching their first major finals the 2006 World Cup in Germany.

Unbeaten Ukraine lead European Group Two with 11 points from five matches after crushing 2002 World Cup semifinalists Turkey 3-0 in Istanbul last month.

MNA/Reuters

Vieira gives Arsenal 1-0 win at Newcastle

LONDON, 30 Dec — English Premier League champions Arsenal won 1-0 at Newcastle United on Wednesday through a superbly struck volley by skipper Patrick Vieira to keep the pressure on leaders Chelsea.

Chelsea won 2-0 at Portsmouth on Tuesday to go eight points clear with 49 points from 20 matches. Arsenal reduced the gap to five points taking their tally to 44 points from 20 games.

Manchester United, who won 1-0 at Aston Villa on Tuesday are third on 40 points with Everton, 2-0 losers at Charlton, also on 40 points in fourth place. Arsenal wrapped up their third successive league win with Vieira scoring in stoppage time at the end of the first half after reacting first to a loose, bouncing ball.

His 20-metre volley which took a slight deflection, gave goalkeeper Shay Given no chance in the United goal and despite some spirited attacks, Newcastle failed to score and have now gone six games without a league win.

"It was a fantastic team performance" Vieira told Sky Sports News. "If we keep playing like that and get results like that we will be there or thereabouts at the end of the season."

On Tuesday Chelsea required late goals from Dutchman Arjen Robben and Joe Cole to earn a 2-0 win at

Portsmouth while resurgent Manchester United beat Aston Villa 1-0 to register their seventh win in eight league games and move to third.

Middlesbrough beat Norwich City 2-0 with goals from Cameroon striker Joseph-Desire Job to stay fifth on 35 points, one ahead of Liverpool, who edged Southampton 1-0 with a winner from French forward Florent Sinama-Pongolle.

Everton suffered their first league defeat for nearly two months in a pulsating final eight minutes at Charlton, conceding two goals and having Scottish striker Duncan Ferguson sent off.

Birmingham City won 3-2 at Fulham and Blackburn Rovers moved further away from the drop zone with a 1-0 win at struggling Bolton Wanderers, who have now lost six on the trot.

Tottenham Hotspur were denied a sixth consecutive league win by Andrew Johnson in a 1-1 draw with Crystal Palace, while an 85th-minute own goal by Manchester City defender Richard Dunne cost them a 1-1 draw with 10-man West Bromwich Albion. — MNA/Reuters

Rooney charged with improper conduct

LONDON, 30 Dec — Manchester United striker Wayne Rooney was charged with violent conduct on Wednesday following his clash with Bolton Wanderers defender Tal Ben Haim during Sunday's Premier League match at Old Trafford.

The English Football Association said on its official website that Israeli Ben Haim had also been charged with improper conduct over the incident. Television pictures showed 19-year-old England international Rooney pushing his hand into Ben Haim's face in the

first half of United's 2-0 win although the incident was missed by the referee.

United manager Alex Ferguson later criticized Ben Haim, claiming he over-reacted by falling to the ground in apparent agony after then incident.

Under the FA's new disciplinary system Rooney has until 1700 GMT on Thursday to respond to the charge.

MNA/Reuters

Dynamo Moscow midfielder voted top player in nationwide poll

MINSK, 30 Dec — Dynamo Moscow midfielder Maxim Romashchenko has been voted Belarus' top player in a nationwide poll of the country's soccer experts conducted by the sports daily Pressbol. The 28-year-old was the national team's top scorer this year with four goals in Belarus' three 2006 World Cup qualifiers.

His goals, including a double in a 4-3 away defeat by Italy in October, helped put the former Soviet state in contention to qualify for their first major finals. VfB Stuttgart midfielder Alexander Gleb, who won the award for the last two years, finished second while Lokomotiv Moscow defender Sergei Gurenko, the 1999 winner, was third.

MNA/Reuters



Central Connecticut State's DeMario Anderson (11) goes up for a dunk against Charlotte players, including Martin Ili, second from bottom, and Mitchell Baldwin (20), during the first half of the championship match of the Cable Car Classic in Santa Clara, Calif, on 29 Dec, 2004. — INTERNET



Upholding of Our Three Main ...

(from page 6)
and Langkhio District USDA Joint-Secretary U Sai Kyaw Htay participated in the discussions.

Daw Win Win Nu, Chairperson of Shan State (South) Supervisory Committee for MCWA wife of Commander of Eastern Command Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint, Chairperson of Shan State (South) Women's Affairs Committee Daw Mya Mya Lwin and Secretary of Shan State (South) Supervisory Committee

for War Veterans Organization Thura U Tin Hla presented prizes to outstanding youths.

Next, K 1 million was handed over to the funds of Shan State (South) USDA.

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 Shan State (South).

MNA



USDA members saluting Union Flag at Shan State (South) USDA Meeting in Taunggyi.—MNA

Assistance provided for ...

(from page 5)

They also inspected Township hospital and the basic education high school and provided medicines and medical equipment for the hospital and teaching and learning aids to the school.

Member of the Panel of Patrons of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Maj-Gen Myint Swe, USDA Secretary-General Maj-Gen Htay Oo and CEC Member Maj-Gen Thein Swe met local USDA members



Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Rear-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe and ministers inspect Cocogyun Township Hospital.—MNA



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, USDA Secretary-General Maj-Gen Htay Oo and CEC member Maj-Gen Thein Swe meet executives and members of Cocogyun Township USDA.—MNA

and elaborated on regional development undertakings. Maj-Gen Myint Swe presented 70 bags of cement and K 150,000 for installation of a satellite disc antenna.

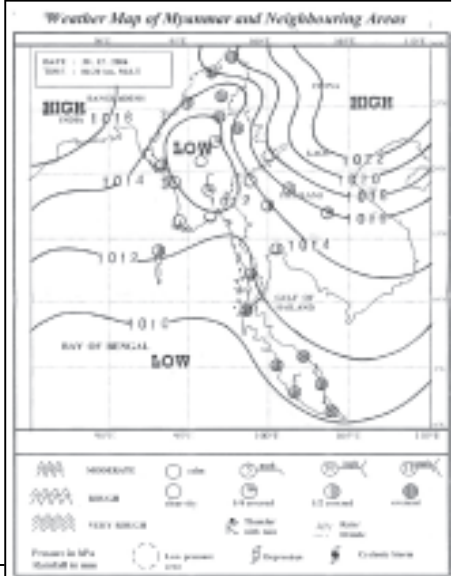
The Commander-in-Chief (Navy), the Yangon Command Commander and the Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation briefed those present on the plans for regional progress and carrying out the five rural development tasks in line with the guidance of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe. —MNA

Control of Money Laundering Law & Rules Book appears

YANGON, 30 Dec — Book on "The Control of Money Laundering Law and Rules" published by the Office of the Attorney-General came out this month.

The copies cost K 800 each and are available at the book shop of the Office of the Attorney General, Inwa Book Shop and book shop of News and Periodicals Enterprise.

MNA



WEATHER

Thursday, 30 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 (5°C) to (6°C) below normal in Chin and Eastern Shan States, Magway and Bago Divisions, (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Kachin State, upper Sagaing and Mandalay, Taninthayi Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were (0°C) in Loilin, (3°C) in Panlon, (4°C) each in Putao and PynOoLwin.

Maximum temperature on 29-12-2004 was 92°F. Minimum temperature on 30-12-2004 was 58°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 30-12-2004 was 82%. Total sunshine hours on 29-12-2004 was (8.3) hours approx. Rainfalls on 30-12-2004 were nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2004 were 112.28 inches at Yangon Airport, 106.77 inches at Kaba-Aye and 109.68 inches at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 5 mph from West at (15:30) hours MST on 29-12-2004.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 31-12-2004: Weather will be partly cloudy in Kachin State, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. **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 31-12-2004:** Fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 31-12-2004: Fair weather.

Earthquake Report

(Issued at 10:00 hours MST on today)

An earthquake of moderate intensity (5.1) Richter Scale with its epicenter inside of Myanmar about (179) miles North of Kaba-Aye seismological observatory was recorded at (07) hrs (40) min (22) sec MST on 30th December 2004. MNA

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

Development of energy sector urged

Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win tours Magway Division

YANGON, 30 Dec — Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win together with member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint, ministers, deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and departmental heads, arrived at Magway on 28 December morning.

The Prime Minister and party were welcomed at Magway Airport by Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint, Commander of No 88 Light Infantry Division Brig-Gen

(See page 10)



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win inspects drilling of Oil Well No 1154 in Chauk-Lanywa oilfield.— MNA

Myanmar Motion Picture Award

Winners honoured

YANGON, 30 Dec — Families of Myanmar Motion Picture Asiayon held a ceremony to honour Myanmar Motion Picture Award Winners for 2003 at its building on Wingaba Street, Bahan Township, this evening.

Present on the occasion were Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon

Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, ministers, the Yangon Mayor, deputy ministers, senior military officers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads of the Ministry of Information, members of the panel of judges of Myanmar Motion Picture Promotion and Scrutinizing Board, officials of the Film and Video censor boards, the

(See page 10)



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein attends dinner in honour of Academy Award winners for 2003.— MNA

Reminder about possible earthquake

YANGON, 30 Dec — It has been reported in the newspapers since 27 December that no country in the world can predict the earthquakes.

However, in response to a foreign media which aired recently that Indian Government had warned its people in the coastal regions to take precautionary measures against possible dangers of tidal waves triggered by the earthquake, Myanmar people stayed in the fields like football grounds, leaving their homes, considering the possible after-shocks of the earthquakes.

Respective experts have therefore advised the people that staying at home is safer.

MNA

INSIDE

In the whole struggle for independence, Myanmar exercised national politics with national spirit. With the shared political stance they became united.

After independence, Myanmar again experienced the disruption of national unity due to party political and sectarian divides in the nation which were caused by the instigations of elements inside and outside the nation. That was why national unity or national consolidation collapsed.

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TEKKATHO MYAT THU