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Sunday, 7 December, 2003

New generation youths take great interest in and are filled with the aspiration to learn ICT Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt addresses coord meeting on development of MICT

YANGON, 6 Dec — A coordination meeting on development of Myanmar Information and Communication Technology was held at the building of MICT Park in Hline Township this morning, with an address by Chairman of Myanmar Computer Science Development Council Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt.

Present at the meeting were ministers, the chief justice, the attorney-general, deputy ministers, the chairman and members of the e-National Task Force, members of board of directors of Myanmar Information and Communication Technology Development Corporation (MICTDC), officials of Myanmar Computer Federation, officials

Myanmar's attendance at ASOCIO Summit, winning of ASOCIO ICT Award-2003, electronic communication law (draft) and arrangements to hold the IT Week to be held in January 2004. Vice-Chairman of the e-National Task Force U Aung Myint reported on attendance of Myanmar delegation at the 19th ASOCIO Summit and General Assembly held in Vietnam from 27 to 30 November 2003. Member of the e-National Task Force Col Tin Oo reported on presentation of ASOCIO ICT awards (2003) to Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and the MCF at the summit and acceptance of the awards.

Member of board of directors of MICTDC U

technology. Leaders and officials of Standardization committee, the Infrastructure Committee, Education Committee, Liberalization Committee, E-Measurement Committee and Legal Infrastructure Committee reported on the tasks being carried out and future tasks. Attorney General U Aye Maung explained the electronic communication law (draft), and those attending the meeting took part in the discussions and gave advice. Member of the board of directors of MICTDC U Pyone Maung Maung reported on arrangements for holding of IT Week (2004) and Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw gave a supplementary report.

In his address the

cation technology. Information from one region can reach another part of the world in seconds as information and communication technology have developed greatly, he said.

He said the Union of Myanmar is carrying out plans to possess advanced information and communication technology in order not to lag behind in development in ever-changing world. He said ASEAN member nations are making efforts with the aim of development of all sectors including science and technology in 2020. He spoke of the need for Myanmar to undertake the tasks harmoniously.

Therefore computer-based modern teaching methods were launched in

Four political objectives

- * Stability of the State, community peace and tranquility, 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



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt addresses coordination meeting on development of Myanmar Information and Communication Technology. — MNA

of the State Peace and Development Council Office and departmental heads.

Chairman of the e-National Task Force Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw reported on

Thein Oo also gave a report on set-up of a public company and selling of shareholders and formation of respective subcommittees for the development of Myanmar information and communication

Prime Minister said nowadays the globalization process is going on in the nations of the world with the greater development and changes of science and technology and due to information and communi-

the basic education sector for development of information and communication technology. Now there are multimedia teaching centres in almost all basic education high schools, the majority of middle schools and some primary schools, he said.

In higher education sector learning centres, resource centres and e-library were installed in colleges and universities and computer network system linking the universities and colleges was also established.

Myanmar Information and Communication Technology Parks essential for IT development have been established in Yangon and Mandalay in a short time due to the encouragement

of the government and efforts of computer scientists, computer industrialists and enthusiasts.

As the development of ICT and its infrastructures, new generation youths take great interest in and are filled with aspiration to learn ICT. It is thus found that even children can operate electronic devices well, he added.

He said Myanmar youths are intelligent gen-

erally and it is a significant fact that ICT has developed among the new generation youths on account of the government's encouragement and development of that field.

If momentum of ICT development in Myanmar could increase all the more, Myanmar will soon be able to keep pace with those in ASEAN which are advancing in ICT.

(See page 8)



ASOCIO Personality Award and ASOCIO Organization Award 2003.—MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 7 December, 2003

Safeguard the nation which is on the right track of future policy programme

After taking responsibilities of the State, the Tatmadaw, hand in hand with the people, is marching towards a peaceful, modern and developed nation. During the time of the Tatmadaw government, it has endeavoured not only for restoring peace and stability but also for building infrastructures for the development of social economic life all over the country including the border regions.

Being able to construct economic infrastructures essential for the State must be attributed to the concerted efforts of the Tatmadaw, the people and the State to enhance the economic strength of the country year after year.

Tatmadaw is the people's armed forces that always upholds Our Three Main National Causes and sacrifices numerous lives for the country. The Tatmadaw is always safeguarding the non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty. In retrospect, sovereignty of the State was frequently threatened. The Tatmadaw has a fine tradition of staunchly safeguarding the State against such threats and interferences.

As regards the perpetuation of the sovereignty of the State and interference in and threat to the internal affairs of the State, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye delivered an address at the graduation ceremony of the 1st Intake of Military Institute of Nursing and Paramedical Science. He said nowadays, basic infrastructures necessary for national development can be seen vividly. But, elements with negative view within and without the country turn a blind eye to these developments. Although they know the rapid development of economic forces in the country, they belittle it. The government, the people and the Tatmadaw, ignoring those who make disturbances, will have to strive for gaining economic development for the State.

At present, some foreign countries and groups that pay more heed to the interests of an individual than that of over 53 million people of Myanmar meddle in the internal affairs of the State and criticize these efforts with negative attitude. Realizing that they are interfering in the internal affairs of other country only in the interests of theirs, entire national people are to continue their march unitedly along the future path of the State.

Therefore we would like to urge the entire national people to unitedly repulse those who are disturbing the people with their baseless accusations, in order to safeguard the nation which is on her right track of the future policy programme.

Korean performance programmes continue

YANGON, 6 Dec — The Korean cultural troupe continued its performance programmes for the second day at Myoma Kyaung Street, Dagon Township this evening.

Present among the spectators were Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung and wife, Deputy Minister for Culture Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung, heads of departments, Korean Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Lee Kyunig-Woo and embassy staff, families of embassy staff in Yangon.

MNA



Lt-Gen Maung Bo presents K 500,000 for final rites of Thamanya Sayadaw to Commander Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung. (News page 16) — MNA



Lt-Gen Maung Bo presents offertories to a Sayadaw at the final rites ceremony of Thamanya Sayadaw. (News page 16) — MNA

Industry-1 Ministry holds sports activities

YANGON, 6 Dec — Staff of the Ministry of Industry-1 assembled at the ministry and collectively took a walk as sport activities in the first week of December this morning.

Next, events of traditional sport Htoke-See-Toe, table tennis, W-Ball and Sepak Takraw were held. These sports activities will be held on every Saturday in December. — MNA

Commander, mayor inspect sanitation tasks in Yangon Division

YANGON, 6 Dec — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin this morning inspected sanitation tasks, the dredging of drains to ensure proper flow of water and construction of retaining walls for prevention of bank erosion on

Hinthla Road in South Okkalapa Township.

With a view to keeping the municipal area of Yangon Division clean and pleasant and to ensuring the proper flow of water, similar sanitation tasks and the dredging of drains were also carried out by YCDC workers, Tatmadawmen, members of the Myanmar Police Force, NGOs and local people with the use of heavy machinery in Shwepyitha, Hlinethaya,

Hline, Mingala Taungnyunt, Tamway, Bahan, Kyauktada and Kamayut townships.

The commander and the mayor supervised the places where sanitation tasks and dredging of canals and drains were carried out, and gave necessary instructions to officials.

The sanitation works being carried out in these townships took place at the same time this morning.

MNA



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe inspects dredging of drain along Bayintnaung Road in Shwepyitha Township.

YANGON COMMAND

443 US service members killed since beginning of military operations in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 6 Dec—443 US service members have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq, according to the Department of Defence. Of those, 306 died as a result of hostile action and 137 died of non-hostile causes, the department said.

The British military has reported 52 deaths; Italy, 17; Spain, eight; Denmark, Ukraine and Poland have reported one each.

On or since May 1, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 305 US soldiers have died 191 as a result of hostile action and 114 of non-hostile causes, according to the Defence Department's figures.

Since the start of military operations, 2,161 US service members have been injured as a result of hostile action, according to the Defence Department's figures. Non-

hostile injured numbered 355.

The latest deaths reported by US Central Command: A 22nd Signal Brigade soldier was killed Friday morning in a convoy bombing in Baghdad.

The latest identification reported by the Department of Defence:

Army Chief Warrant Officer Clarence E. Boone, 50, Fort Worth, Texas; died Tuesday in Kuwait City, Kuwait, as a result of a non-combat related injury; assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 4th Infantry Division, based at Fort Hood, Texas.

Internet

French official sees no quick Iraq debt reduction

WASHINGTON, 6 Dec—A senior French official said on Thursday that he does not see an easy way to quickly reduce some of Iraq's huge 200 billion US dollars in outstanding debt because the US-occupied land is not a sovereign country.

While many parties, including the United States, have called for forgiving Iraqi debt to give reconstruction a boost, the plan has also been caught up in politics surrounding the US-led invasion of Iraq earlier this year.

The French official, Foreign Ministry Spokesman Herve Ladsous, said members of the US-appointed Iraqi Governing Council may visit Paris in mid-December and that the issue of debt forgiveness would be discussed.

Ladsous, at a breakfast meeting with reporters, said the Paris Club of creditor nations that works out debt payment and forgiveness issues with indebted states has "never signed a rescheduling deal with an entity that was not an independent and sovereign state."

"For the time being, I cannot see a solution on this, which is an issue of principle," he said. For the Paris Club to be able to act to forgive or reduce Iraq's staggering financial obligations, it would require some kind of "formal" action on Iraqi sovereignty, he said.

"To our mind, ideally, that would have been recognition (of Iraq) by the international community through a (United Nations) Security Council resolution, and I cannot see anything very short of that," he said.

Ladsous reaffirmed that "when the time comes" and a debt rescheduling can be considered, France, Iraq's third largest creditor, "will be ready to be very generous."

With 200 billion US dollars in obligations threatening to undermine Iraq's chance's of economic recovery, the US-installed government in Baghdad is making international efforts to reduce that debt.

A senior Iraqi delegation will meet World Bank and International Monetary Fund officials in Jordan next week to discuss a mechanism for reducing an estimated 100-120 billion US dollars of debt, excluding around 100 billion US dollars in war reparations.

MNA/Reuters



Haidar Aziz, 11, injured in the leg in an explosion in a crowded shopping centre in south Baghdad, leaves the al-Kindi hospital after receiving treatment.—INTERNET

Vietnam Airlines to buy 5 aircraft

HANOI, 6 Dec—The Vietnam Airlines, the national flag carrier, has signed a contract to buy five Airbus A321s.

Under the contract, Vietnam will receive first three

next July, the remaining two will be delivered in October 2004 and May 2005, Vietnam News Agency here quoted Tony Phillips, Airbus information director for the Asia-Pacific Region, as

saying. The Airbus maker will offer free training for Vietnamese pilots. The Vietnam Airlines, which started using the aircraft in 1991, has a fleet of 12 Airbus leased from Air France.—MNA/Xinhua



F1 Champion Michael Schumacher, FIFA president Joseph Blatter, Brazil's soccer legend Pele and Franz Beckenbauer, president of the Organising committee hold the world cup during the preliminary draw for the 2006 FIFA World Cup in Germany in Frankfurt, Germany, on 5 Dec, 2003.—INTERNET

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US soldier killed in Baghdad explosion

BAGHDAD, 6 Dec—An explosion near a Baghdad mosque has left at least four Iraqis and one US soldier dead.

The blast ripped through a crowded shopping street near al-Samarrai mosque in southern Baghdad on Friday, medical and military sources said.

Witnesses said one or two US troops were also wounded in the blast.

Karim Abd Allah Muslim, head of the emergency room at the al-Kindi hospital, said: "About 10am this morning we received three dead, who have not been identified and 13 wounded.

"Two or three of them are seriously wounded. The rest are slight injuries." A woman was among the dead and three women were also wounded. Two children were lightly injured."

Witnesses said the blast happened as a US convoy was passing and reported seeing at least one US soldier covered in blood and as many as three hurt before the convoy drove away.

Sweet seller Ahmed Ali, 30, said he saw two American vehicles pass by his shop.

"I saw one American soldier badly wounded and covered in blood.—Internet

ASEAN sets up online Heritage Network

BANGKOK, 6 Dec—The 10 members of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) are establishing an online culture network to teach the world about the region's cultural diversity and to boost regional tourism, a senior official from the Thai Ministry of Culture said here.

Kla Somtrakul, deputy permanent secretary for culture, said that the Heritage Network ASEAN had stemmed from the realization of the region's enormous cultural diversity, and the desire to see it disseminated to the world via the Internet.

Expressing the hope that the web site would teach the

world about the region's cultural diversity and give a boost to tourism, he said that it would also serve to strengthen the intra-regional relations.

"Such information has never previously been collected together in this manner. But now this project has been established, I believe that it will be hugely beneficial in the dissemination of the region's culture to the rest of the world," he said.

With Singapore at the helm and Australia managing the web site, workers on the project have been collecting information since 2001.

MNA/Xinhua

Rocket explodes near US Embassy in Afghan capital

KABUL, 6 Dec—A rocket exploded on Thursday evening near the US Embassy here in the Afghan capital city, witnesses said. The huge blast was heard all over the city.

"It might be a rocket which exploded in the vicinity of the US Embassy and the ISAF headquarters," said Mohammad Salangi, an Afghan military officer from a local Army garrison near the embassy.

The explosion occurred in an agricultural land about 400 metres east of the US Embassy, a Kabul police official said, adding that police had found rocket shrapnel in the field.

The headquarters of the peacekeeping International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) and the Presidential Palace are also located in the area.

"It was an attempt of terrorist attack to sabotage the upcoming constitutional Loya

Jirga," said Matiullah, the police official.

He added that there were no reports of casualties in the explosion and police were investigating the incident.—MNA/Xinhua

Web management benefits Chinese people

BEIJING, 6 Dec—Internet management benefits the Chinese people, and the Chinese Government is trying to find a way to administer the Internet to promote social development. Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesman Liu Jianchao made the remarks here in answer to a question Liu said China has 70 million Internet users, and this number is increasing. He added that though China attaches importance to the positive role the Internet has played in national economic development, there is also some unhealthy information on the Web.—MNA/Xinhua

Iraqi police station attacked, five wounded

BAGHDAD, 6 Dec — Five Iraqis were wounded when guerillas fired guns and rocket-propelled grenades (RPGs) at a local police station in western Iraq on Thursday, Iraqi police said.

A group of unknown armed men in a passing vehicle fired machine guns and RPGs at a police station in the restive town of Ramadi, wounding two policemen and three civilians, said the policemen who witnessed the attack. The attack took place when police officers were collecting their salaries at the station, they added. Ramadi, 100 kilometres west of Baghdad, is situated within the so-called Sunni Triangle north and west of the capital where attacks against US troops and their collaborators were most frequent. — MNA/Xinhua

Ugandan govt media criticizes US nuclear policy

KAMPALA, 6 Dec — The Ugandan Government newspaper, the *New Vision*, Thursday criticized the US Government's nuclear policy, calling to block the US new nuclear bombs plan.

In its commentary entitled "Block new nuclear bombs," the paper said that "(US) President (George W) Bush has approved a bill that provides funding for research into new nuclear bombs. The American military wants to develop a new generation of smaller tactical nuclear bombs."

"The American military wants to develop a 'bunker-buster' that can be delivered at low altitude and blast through the rock, steel and concrete of underground enemy bunkers. It is also developing neutron bombs that deliver a killer blast of radiation but do not destroy property and infrastructure," it said.

It pointed out that "nuclear bombs are an abomination that the world hoped would never be seen again after the devastation they wreaked at Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945. It is reprehensible that the United States is seeking ways to make it easier and more effective to use nuclear weapons on the battle-fields".

It said that "similarly the United States is continuing to develop new germ warfare weapons and has abrogated its commitment to treaties limiting the development of biological weapons".

"What is most alarming however is the willingness of the United States to go to war with any other country it suspects to be developing nuclear or biological weapons capabilities," it said, adding that "this is gross hypocrisy. On the one hand the USA tries to block countries from having nuclear and biological weapons. On the other it continues to develop its own capabilities."

"The United Nations Security Council should reject any future American motion to crack down on countries with alleged nuclear or biological weapons until the United States itself has suspended its programmes for the development of new generations of nuclear and biological weapons," it urged.

MNA/Xinhua

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Iraqi Governing Council losing support

BAGHDAD, 6 Dec — Iraq's 24-member, 6-month-old Governing Council is rapidly losing credibility and the support of Iraqi citizens, analysts told USA Today Thursday.

The Governing Council is in a serious crisis, and they will never get out of it, says Wisal Najib Al-Azawi, dean of political science at Mesopotamia University in Baghdad. The people now feel that this council is imposed by the Americans.

The US-appointed council has little power, but it was supposed to be the first step in the creation of a democratic government by next July.

Anthony Cordesman of the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington says the council has become a liability for the coalition: "It is clear that the current Governing Council is not fit to be a provisional government."

Internet

Iraq war fails to reduce terror threats

LOS ANGELES, 6 Dec — A growing majority of Americans believe that the US-led war against Iraq has not reduced the threat of terrorism, while support for the United Nations to take a leading role in Iraq's reconstruction increased, according to a poll released Wednesday.

The survey of 712 people, conducted on November 21-30 under the Programme on International Policy Attitudes at the University of Maryland, showed 70 per cent of the respondents disagreed that "the threat of terrorism has been significantly reduced by the war," up from 47 per cent in a Gallup poll in April.

Meanwhile, 56 per cent disagreed that "the war in Iraq will result in greater

peace and stability in the Middle East", up from 32 per cent in April.

According to the poll, 60 per cent Americans are impatient with the slow process of creating an Iraqi government. Four in five respondents think Iraqis should be able to choose their own government, even if it is unfriendly to the United States.

An increasing number of Americans gave their support to the United Nations

for playing a greater role in Iraq. About 71 per cent said the UN should "take the lead to work with Iraqis to write a new Constitution and build a new democratic government," up from 50 per cent in April.

"Impatience with the process of Iraq reconstruction seems to be creating increasingly robust support for putting the operation under the UN," said Steven Kull, director of the programme. — MNA/Xinhua



Italian soldiers of the 'Sassari Brigade' patrolling the roads of a village near the Southern Iraqi town of Nasiriyah, on 4 Dec, 2003. —INTERNET

Euro-Mediterranean ministers end Naples conference

NAPLES (Italy), 6 Dec — Foreign ministers from 37 countries on Wednesday wrapped up the Euro-Mediterranean Conference in Naples highlighting that Europe and southern Mediterranean countries share a "common destiny".

The overriding idea at the two-day conference, delegates agreed, was that peace and economic development could only be achieved through close dialogue, which is able to act as an antidote to lack of tolerance and terrorism.

"We share a common destiny and we will not let prejudice or terrorism discourage us," said Italian Foreign Minister Franco Frattini.

The meeting was aimed at relaunching the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership accord of 1995, known as the Barcelona Process, focusing on a series of results and a renewed commitment aimed at bringing different cultures closer.

The talks were attended by all the foreign ministers of the enlarged European Union as well as representatives of the other Barcelona Process countries (Israel, the Palestinian National Authority, Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, Jordan, Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Malta, Cyprus and Turkey).

The most important results achieved by delegates include the creation of a new Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly, which was approved Wednesday. This will be a permanent advisory forum, with 240 representatives from 37 Mediterranean countries.

The decision to set up a Euro-Mediterranean Foundation marked another significant step forward. The organization's seat has yet to be decided but Rome is one of the candidates together with Alexandria.

MNA/Xinhua

China calls for int'l efforts to guarantee food security

ROME, 6 Dec — Chinese Vice-Minister of Agriculture Zhang Baowen Wednesday called on the international community to make joint efforts to tackle the world's food security problem.

Zhang is heading the Chinese delegation at a two-week conference of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) which opened November 29 in Rome.

The official said that since the World Food Summit and United Nations Millennium Declaration, all governments have fulfilled their promises by earnestly implementing the Rome Declaration on World Food

Security and its action plan. As a result, the general situation of food security has, to a certain extent, been improved. However, Zhang said, unresolved problems persist to threaten world food security. The realization of such a basic human right as access to food requires concerted efforts of the international community and all governments in the world, he added. — MNA/Xinhua



Actors Liv Tyler, left, and Andy Serkis pose as they arrive for the world premiere of 'Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King,' on 3 Dec, 2003, in Los Angeles. INTERNET



Uganda to import timber to meet soaring shortages

KAMPALA, 6 Dec — Uganda is to import large consignments of timber to meet its soaring timber shortages, reported *The New Vision* newspaper on Thursday.

Minister of Water, Lands and Environment Kahinda Otafiire was quoted as saying that tree planting had been neglected in the last three decades and forest destruction had led to soil erosion.

Launching the Uganda Saw Millers and Commercial Tree Planters Association, the minister said Uganda was headed to a timber crisis if urgent measures were not taken.

He said the government would also encourage timber exports. Otafiire called for waiving of taxes on timber imports to encourage timber trade. — MNA/Xinhua

IRAQ UNDER US OCCUPATION



An Iraqi man stands with his hands in the air while soldiers of the US Army's 4th Infantry Division (Task Force Ironhorse), check his car during a night patrol in Saddam Hussein hometown of Tikrit, north of Baghdad, early Friday, on 5 Dec, 2003. — INTERNET



British soldiers secure the area after a blast in Basra, southern Iraq Friday 5 Dec, 2003. Reportedly nobody was injured in the blast. — INTERNET



US troops patrol through a flooded street after heavy rain in Baghdad on 6 December, 2003.
INTERNET



US soldiers inspect a crater in the ground caused by an improvised explosive device (IED) attack on a US military convoy in Baghdad. — INTERNET



US soldiers block a highway after a roadside bomb attack in Baghdad on 5 Dec, 2003. — INTERNET



A US tank secures the area after a fire destroyed an armoured transport vehicle in Mishada, 30 kilometres (19 miles) north of Baghdad, Friday 5 Dec, 2003. The US military said the fire that engulfed the vehicle was accidental.
INTERNET



US troops extinguish an armoured vehicle ignited by a landmine in Baghdad on 6 December. — INTERNET

Skin lesions afflict troops in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 6 Dec—Nearly 150 US soldiers in Iraq have been diagnosed with a parasitic skin disease, and hundreds more could unknowingly be infected, doctors will report Friday.

Doctors fear that soldiers returning from the front might consult doctors in the USA who have never seen the disease. Complicating matters: It has an incubation period of six months, on average, so a person infected in September may not show symptoms until March. Also, the best drug to treat it is not licensed in the USA.

Leishmaniasis (LEASH-man-EYE-uhsis), which soldiers call the “Baghdad Boil,” is carried by biting sand flies and doesn’t spread from person to person. It causes skin lesions that if untreated may take months, even years, to heal and can be disfiguring, doctors say.

So far, 148 soldiers have confirmed cases, but hundreds more are expected, says entomologist and Army Lt. Col. Russell Coleman, who spent 10 months in Iraq with the 520th Theatre Army Medical Laboratory. Coleman was to report the outbreak Friday to the American Society of Tropical Medicine and

Hygiene, which is meeting in Philadelphia.

Sand flies are active during warm weather, and soon after US troops arrived in Iraq in late March, “we started seeing soldiers basically eaten alive,” Coleman says. “They’d get a hundred, in some cases 1,000, bites in a single night.”

Insect repellants and bed nets are standard issue, Coleman says, but many units failed to pack them when they were deployed.

The sand flies have vanished with the cooler weather in Iraq. But because of a long incubation period, lesions may not appear for six months or longer after infection occurs. Coleman and Army Lt. Col. Peter Weina, a leishmaniasis expert still in Iraq, predicted in April that there would be 400 cases, based on the number of bites seen and tests that show about one out of 70 sand flies carries the bug.

Internet

Spanish Navy on alert to keep away ageing tanker

MADRID, 6 Dec—Spain said on Wednesday it was prepared to deploy its Navy to stop an ageing, single-hulled tanker from entering its waters, a year after a similar tanker on the same route sank and caused vast ecological damage.

A US oil firm has chartered the Russian-flagged *Geroi Sevastopolya* to carry heavy fuel oil to Singapore, passing around Spain’s coast at an unspecified time in December.

The *Sevastopolya*, however, will not be permitted within Spain’s 200 nautical mile Exclusive Economic Zone, Spain said.

“The Spanish Navy has been alerted... to prepare appropriate operations and, if necessary, to position a ship to wait for the *Geroi Sevastopolya* as it approaches Spanish waters,” Spain’s Development Ministry said in a statement.

Spain also said it had alerted the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the European Commission and authorities from neighbouring countries about the *Sevastopolya*, whose impending journey around Spain was first reported by *Reuters* on Monday.

Shipping brokers told *Reuters* that California-based Westport Petroleum, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Japan’s Mitsui & Co, had chartered the Russian-flagged and Russian-owned tanker to carry the cargo to Singapore.

The tanker is 24 years old, almost as old as the ill-fated *Prestige*, and carrying the same type of cargo that devastated the Spanish coastline and caused billions of euros in damage.

The 26-year-old *Prestige* broke up off Spain’s craggy Galician coast in November last year when it was carrying 77,000 tons of fuel oil.

Westport is acting within the law as the European Union-wide single-hulled tanker ban, which came into force in October, only applies to vessels loading in EU ports. The *Sevastopolya* loaded in Latvia, which is not covered by the ban.

The European Commission said on Tuesday it would ask Latvia to ban single-hulled oil tankers from its ports, in response to the news that the *Sevastopolya* would load there.

In response to the *Reuters* report on Monday, a Development Ministry spokesman said only that Spain would enforce a year-old law that prevents any old, single-hulled tanker carrying heavy fuel from entering its Exclusive Economic Zone.

MNA/Reuters

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US delays Iraq reconstruction tenders

WASHINGTON, 6 Dec—The US Defence Department has postponed the scheduled release of details of \$US18.6 billion in Iraq reconstruction contracts “while high-level policy decisions are made”.

The Pentagon office managing contracts for the US-led Coalition Provisional Authority said it expected to issue final bid requests “some time” next week.

The contracts—including telecommunications, power supply, school, airport and oil-industry projects—will go to companies from the US, Iraq, Australia and other countries that participated in the US-led war that ousted President Saddam Hussein.

The office in charge is experiencing “a

day-for-day slip in schedule for release of the ... solicitations while high-level policy decisions are made,” a statement on a US Federal business opportunities website said.

The US Government has pledged maximum transparency in the competition for at least 25 new contracts for the next phase of Iraqi reconstruction.

Winners are to be announced by February 3, 2004.

Internet

Iran says US “bullying” threatens world peace

TEHRAN, 6 Dec — Iran slammed here US threats to block the transfer of nuclear and missile technology to Teheran, saying remarks by US Undersecretary of State John Bolton this week amount to “bullying” that threatens world peace.

Speaking at a security conference in Massachusetts, Bolton warned on Tuesday that the United States will act decisively to impede transfers of nuclear and missile technology to Iran and any further violations of Teheran’s nuclear obligations will go before the UN Security Council.

“Such remarks show that the Americans believe they can achieve their goals by bullying. This threatens world peace and should be confronted,” Iran’s official IRNA news agency quoted Foreign Ministry Spokes-

man Hamid Reza Asefi as saying.

The United Nations’ watchdog International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) last week condemned Iran for concealing sensitive nuclear research for 18 years, and said it would consider “all options of its disposal” if Iran breaches its non-proliferation obligations in the future.

Washington, which insists Iran has nuclear arms ambitions, wanted the IAEA to report Iran’s case to the UN Security Council for possible economic and political sanctions but the agency’s 35-member board backed away from the US demand.

“The Americans are looking for pretexts to weaken the international organization,”

Asefi said.

Under heightened international pressure, Iran agreed last month to allow snap inspections of its nuclear sites and suspend uranium enrichment, which can be used to make fuel for nuclear reactors or bomb-grade material.

Bolton said the US believes Iran’s nuclear activities, including enriching uranium with centrifuges and lasers and reprocessing plutonium, can only be an attempt to develop nuclear weapons, something Teheran flatly denies. “Such rude and undiplomatic remarks are proof of America’s repeated failure with its one-sided policies,” Asefi said.

MNA/Reuters

OPEC agrees no change, meet Feb 10

VIENNA, 6 Dec—OPEC oil producers agreed on Thursday to keep oil supplies steady for the winter but move aggressively to shore up high world crude prices early next year, a delegate said.

The Organization of the Petroleum-Exporting Countries agreed to keep output limits unchanged at 24.5 million barrels a day and meet again on February 10 in Algiers, he said.

Ministers continued a closed session to decide the group’s next secretary-general. The group is expected to cut production at the February meeting as demand starts to ease after the northern winter and to make room for the recovery in postwar Iraqi exports.

Leading OPEC power Saudi Arabia this week made it clear it is pursuing a higher oil price target to offset purchasing power lost to the decline of the US dollar against other major currencies. Saudi Arabian Oil Minister Ali al-Naimi said the dollar’s slump justified current high crude prices.

MNA/Reuters



Hong Kong movie star Jackie Chan, one of the judges for the Miss World 2003 Finals, take part in a dress rehearsal inside the Beauty Crown Cultural Center in Sanya in China’s tropical island of Hainan, on 5 Dec, 2003. China will host the beauty contest on Saturday, putting the world’s most populous country officially on the beauty pageant map. —INTERNET

Bagan witnesses flying of flags

Ketu Nila

(Continued from 3-12-2003)

In his discussion at the Summit Meeting on Economic Cooperation Strategy among the four countries — Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand — Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt said, "I feel great pleasure to see the four countries making a firm determination to promote economic cooperation among us. The results are very fruitful, as we all have made the discussions in a frank and cordial manner, and the discussions have produced excellent ideas and proposals. It is important for all of us to materialize the ideas and proposals."

The economies of the four countries will rise if the Plan of Action and future programmes of the economic strategy laid down by the Summit, can be practically implemented. Moreover, the peoples of the regional countries will enjoy a peaceful and prosperous socio-economic environment. And if we study the future programmes of the economic cooperation strategy, we can see that they are based on the objective situation of the land resources, water resources and human resources of the region.

The economic cooperation strategy covers the five sectors — trade and investment sector; agricultural and industrial cooperation sector; transport linkages; tourism cooperation; and human resources development. The five sectors include the 46 work programmes to be implemented by the four countries; and 243 bilateral work programmes by the two countries concerned. Of the bilateral work programmes, 58 are to be implemented by Myanmar and Thailand; 27 by Myanmar and Laos; 23 by Myanmar and Cambodia; 50 by Thailand and Laos; 65 by Thailand and Cambodia; and 21 by Laos and Cambodia.

Prior to the Summit, the senior officials meeting of the four countries was held on 15 July 2003 in Vientiane, Laos. The ministerial meeting was held in Bangkok, Thailand, on 1 August 2003. Meanwhile, the work group meetings were also held in Cambodia and Thailand to draw to a draft of the Plan of Action, that would lead to issuing the Bagan Declaration and the Joint Statement.

The second SOM and the ministers meetings were held at Sedona Hotel in Yangon on 10 November, and the Bagan Declaration and the Plan of Action were discussed and drafted. The drafts were presented to the Summit for approval through the ministerial

meeting.

In this way, the Summit Meeting on Economic Cooperation strategy among the four countries — Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand — discussed and laid down the Bagan Declaration and the Statement to realize the main objectives — to increase competitiveness and generate greater growth along borders; to facilitate relocation of agricultural and manufacturing industries to areas with comparative advantage; to create employment opportunities and reduce income disparity among the four countries; to enhance peace, stability and shared prosperity for all in a sustainable manner. In other words, the Summit has firmly erected a milestone of relations in the ASEAN family spirit.

Moreover, the Bagan Declaration of the Summit Meeting on Economic Cooperation strategy among the four countries — Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand is based on the three main objectives of the ASEAN that were laid down in 1967 and the principles of Southeast Asia friendship and cooperation. In this regard, we firmly believe that the Bagan Declaration will serve as a force supporting and helping the political and economic stability, prosperity and development of the whole Southeast Asia region.

Thus, we feel as if the flying of the national flags of the four countries marking the success by issuing the Bagan Declaration in Bagan region has showed the strength and pride of the Myanmar people. As Bagan is the origin and native of the Myanmar people, the successful holding of the Summit Meeting on Economic Cooperation Strategy among the four countries — Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand — has highlighted the consolidated force of the unity of Myanmar.

A poem of late literati, Saya Zawgyi, states the sincere mind, national pride, self-reliant spirit, courage, and ability of the ancient Myanmar of Bagan era, and the unity, the economic prosperity and the flourishing of the religion of the era. Now, the successful holding of the Summit Meeting on Economic Cooperation Strategy among the four countries — Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand — can be marked as the success of the entire Myanmar people.

(Concluded)

(Translation: TMT)

Kyemon+Myanma Alin: 1 December 2003.

Vietnam's textile, garment export up

HANOI, 6 Dec — Vietnam has exported 3.37 billion US dollars' worth of garment and textile so far this year, up by 38.3 per cent over the same period last year, said the Trade Ministry on Friday.

The top three and garment sector posted billion dollars in 2002, up per cent over the year before. an export turnover of 2.7 by 700 million dollars or 36

MNA/Xinhua

importers of Vietnam-made products are the United States with a value of two billion dollars, the European Union (EU) 570 million dollars, and Japan 500 million dollars, said the ministry.

In a bid to boost export to Vietnam's biggest market, local garment businesses have coordinated with their US partners to form a new closed-circuit production model. US firms will sell raw cotton to Vietnamese manufacturers who will then export garments to the United States.

Vietnam's garment and textile export volume in 2003 is expected to reach 3.65 billion dollars, exceeding the yearly target by more than 400 million dollars. The country's textile

MYANMAR GOLF TOUR 2003
Maruman Golf Classic
 December 9 - 12, 2003
 Yangon Golf Club

maruman

KM **AIR MANDALAY** **GRAND SLAM** **ALPINE**
UPG **Canon** **Wilson**

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

Efficient use of electricity

- * Use daylight as the main source of light
- * Use the least possible amount of electricity only if there is not enough natural light
- * Use the least possible amount of electricity required in production and service enterprises
- * Preventing waste of electricity benefits the user and others

There are about 500,000 households using electricity in Yangon. Thus, saving a four-foot fluorescent lamp every day by each household amounts to saving power that is equal to the capacity a 20-megawatt power station can supply.

Efficient use of fuel

- * Saving one gallon of fuel per car per month will save the nation one US dollar
- * Thus, a total of 455,822 cars in Myanmar can save US\$ 5.5 million in a year
- * The amount, US \$ 5.5 million, can build a major bridge across Ayeyawady River

All this needs to be known

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

စတုတ္ထအကြိမ်

မြန်မာ့တိုင်းရင်းဆေးသမားတော်များညီလာခံ

ကျိုက္ကဆံကွင်း၊ ပြည်ထောင်စုနန်းမ

၂၀၀၃ ခုနှစ်၊ ဒီဇင်ဘာလ (၁၆)ရက်နေ့မှ (၁၈)ရက်နေ့.

စတုတ္ထအကြိမ်

တိုင်းရင်းဆေးနှင့်ဆေးပစ္စည်းပြပွဲ

တပ်မတော်နန်းမ

၂၀၀၃ ခုနှစ်၊ ဒီဇင်ဘာလ (၁၇)ရက်နေ့မှ (၂၆)ရက်နေ့.

New generation youths take great interest...

(from page 1)

The objectives of ICT development of the State are meeting with success owing to concerted efforts of Myanmar Computer Federation, computer scientists, computer industrialists and computer enthusiasts and the assistance of the government. The ICT development in Myanmar has been recognized by the international community. It is honourable for the nation that the ASOCIO chose and presented ASOCIO awards on ICT development in Myanmar.

Therefore, the respective governmental departments, the MCF, the private industries concerning ICT are to make earnest efforts to be able to maintain and raise the momentum of the development.

In addition, efforts are to be made for the emergence of an electronic communication law as soon as possible for prevention of cyber crimes committed by means of ICT and for development of ICT in accordance with rules and regulations while the opportunity for ICT development is being created.

Those concerned are to make collective efforts for sooner completion of the second phase, meeting the set standard and to make arrangements for construction of the third phase of the MICT Park project.

And systematic efforts are also to be made for equitable development in ICT and construction of ICT infrastructures.

Relentless efforts are to be made to be able to show the outstanding performances of ICT scientists and industrialists including the new generation youths and development of ICT in the nation at the ICT week activities to mark the anniversary of the MICT Park to be held soon.

Afterwards, the Prime Minister inspected the medals and certificates of ASOCIO ICT Award 2003 and scale model for construction of the MICT Park building phase-III.

The Asian Oceanian Computing Industry Organization (ASOCIO) has been set up with the membership of the computer industries of 23 Asia Pacific regional countries including Myanmar. The computer industries represent over 10000 ICT companies. The ASOCIO is supervising the co-operation of governments, ICT Industries and communities among the member countries. More than 650 representatives of 28 nations including the member countries attended the 19th ASOCIO Summit and General Assembly which were held in Hanoi, Vietnam.

At the ASOCIO Summits and General Assemblies, ASOCIO awards were presented to the persons and organizations for their contributions to the development of ICT. Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir and Thai Prime Minister Dr Thaksin Shinawatra were presented ASOCIO awards in 1998 and in 2002 respectively. In 2003 Prime Minister of Vietnam Mr Phan Van Khai and Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt won ASOCIO awards. ASOCIO ICT awards (2003) for organization went to Myanmar Computer Federation and the Multimedia Development Corporation of Malaysia.

MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party attending graduation parade of 1st Intake of Military Institute of Nursing and Paramedical Science in Yangon on 5 December. (News reported)—MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects scale model of MICT Phase-III.—MNA

Youth Education Training Camp (7/2003) opened

YANGON, 6 Dec—The Yangon Division Maternal and Child Welfare Association opened the Youth Education Training Camp (7/2003) at the Institute of Nursing here this morning, attended by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe.

Also present on the occasion were President of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, Vice-President Dr Daw Tin Lin Myint

and CEC members, Patron of Yangon Division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Daw Khin Thet Htay, members of Panel of Patrons, Deputy Commander Col Wai Lwin, the military region commanders, Secretary of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Kyaw Tint and members, officials and others.

First, Patron of Yangon Division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Daw Khin Thet Htay explained the purpose of the

opening of the camp.

Then, Daw Khin Thet Htay presented the commemorative pennant to President of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe and the ceremony came to a close. Next, the commander, the president and members greeted the youths and MCWA members.

The camp was opened by Yangon Division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee under reproductive health project of MMCWA and WPF.—MNA



Minister
Brig-Gen
Thein Zaw.

MNA



Patron Yangon Division Supervisory Committee for MCWA Daw Khin Thet Htay speaks at the opening ceremony of Youth Educative Training Centre 7/2003.—MNA



Sayadaw Bhaddanta Panñindabhivamsa.— MNA

Sayadaw Bhaddanta Panñinda Bhivamsa passes away

YANGON, 6 Dec — The Religious Affairs Department today announced that Ninth Ganadhipati Sammuti Sasanabaing of Weluvan Nikaya Gana Presiding Nayaka of Pyay Pwinthla Theingon Monastery in Pyay District, Bago Division, Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Panñinda Bhivamsa, aged 93, Vasa 73, passed away at 2 pm on 12th Waxing of Nadaw 1365 ME (5-12-2003).

The Sayadaw was born of U Daung Oo and Daw Sein Pwint in Padamyakyun Village, Shwedaung Township, Pyay District, Bago Division, at 4 am on 15th Waxing of Tabodwe 1272 ME. He was novitiated by Pyay Pwinthla Theingon Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Tikkha (Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru) with the sponsorship of his parents on the Full Moon Day of Tabauing 1282 ME. And on 8th Waxing of Tazaungmon 1292 ME, he was ordained by Sayadaw Bhaddanta Tikkha (Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru) with the sponsorship of his parents.

The Sayadaw studied Buddhist literature under Pyay Padamyakyun Sayadaw, Pyay Pwinthla Theingon Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Tikkha (Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru) in Pakokku, Sasana Vipularama Mandalay Monastery Sayadaw U Pakhan, and Pakokku Maha Withutayama Monastery Sayadaw U Paduma.

The Sayadaw taught Buddhist literature to his disciples of novices and monks in Pwinthla Theingon Monastery in Pyay, Chinyegon Monastery in Padaung Township, and Dhamma Lankara Monastery in North Okkalapa Township, Yangon Division. He performed religious duties in the Sixth Buddhist Synod.

The government conferred Agga Maha Pandita Title on the Sayadaw in 1356 ME (1995).

The final rites of the Sayadaw will be held on 3rd Waning of Nadaw 1365 ME (11-12-2003).

MNA



The final rites of Thamanya Sayadaw in progress.— MNA



People and members of the Sangha attending final rites of Thamanya Sayadaw in Thamanya Hill.— MNA

Mass sports activities launched in Yangon

YANGON, 6 Dec — The first week of the year 2003 December mass sports activities (2003) were launched in Yangon this morning.

Departmental personnel, local authorities, members of social organizations and the people totalling over 15,000 took a walk from Aung San Stadium along the ring road of Yangon Zoological Gardens, then along U Htaung Bo Street, then along Upper Pansodan Street and then to

the stadium. There, they took physical exercises collectively. Members of aerobic teams from Nos 3 and 4 Basic Education Schools in Mingalar Taungnyunt Township present a skill demonstration. Next, sports games were held and officials presented prizes to the winners. Loi Hein Co served those present with soft drinks.

A total of over 8,000 people participated in a similar ceremony held at Kyaikkasan Sports and Physical Education Institute at 6 am today. They took a walk along the ring road of Kyaikkasan Ground. They performed collective physical exercises, followed by track and field events. The officials presented prizes to the winners. Likewise, around 6,000 people took part in the sports activities held in the Youths Training Centre in Thingangyun Township. — MNA

Lt-Gen Maung Bo sees...

(from page 16)

Then, they inspected construction of Khaya-Kyonphe earth section in Khaya village. On arrival at Thamanya Hill in Hpa-an Township, Lt-Gen Maung Bo paid homage to the remains of Thamanya Hill

Sayadaw and members of the Sangha who were attending the final rites of the Thamanya Sayadaw.

In the afternoon, Lt-Gen Maung Bo attended the final rites of the Sayadaw and left there in the evening.

MNA

Funfair of Hninzigone Home for the Aged opens

YANGON, 6 Dec — The opening ceremony of the 42nd funfair of the Hninzigone Home for the Aged was held at the home for the aged in Bahan Township this evening.

It was attended by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and wife, Minister for Social Welfare Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa and wife, Deputy Minister for Social Welfare Relief and Resettlement

Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint, commanders of military regions, Director-General of the Social Welfare Department U Sit Myaing, local authorities, Chairman of Myanmar Writers and Journalist Associations U Hla Myaing (Ko Hsaung), members of social organizations, members of the administrative board to the home for the aged, and wellwishers.

First, Chairman of Hninzigone Home for the Aged U Tin Maung extended greetings. Next, Minister Maj-Gen Sein Htwa made a speech. Afterwards, Secretary Maj Aung Than (Retd) explained the purpose of holding the funfair. Later, the commander, the minister and the chairman of the administrative board formally opened the funfair. After the ceremony, the commander and wife, the minister and wife, and guests viewed round the funfair. — MNA

MNA



JAPAN-ASEAN 2003 CONCERT HELD: Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung and Mr Miwa Shoho present flower baskets to artists at Japan-ASEAN 2003 Myanmar Harp and Traditional Musical Instrument Concert, Jointly-organized by Ministry of Culture and Peace Smile Land Travels & Tours Co Ltd at National Theatre, Myoma Kyaung Street, Dagon Township on 4-12-2003.—MNA

MRA English proficiency courses

YANGON, 6 Dec — The Myanmar Royal Academy (MRA) recently launched general English classes (intermediate level), GCE English and Medical English classes for students, nurses and doctors and one-month Special English class for those who will go abroad.

English in Business Studies (Accounting, Finance, Marketing and Management) and TOEFL classes will be opened at No 57, Ground Floor, 9th Street (Middle), Lanmadaw. Those wishing to attend the classes may contact Tel: 222121.

Agricultural Technology Advancement Training School

PyinOoLwin Chit Swe

The Agricultural Technology Advancement Training School in PyinOoLwin is a significant milestone of Myanmar-Korea cooperation in agricultural sector.

Myanmar is an agro-based country and over 70 per cent of her population lives in rural areas. So, the State has been placing emphasis on development of agricultural sector.

In the time of the State Peace and Development Council, altogether 143 irrigation facilities have been built to supply water

for agricultural use. A total of 262 river water-pumping stations have been established in the regions where conditions do not favour to build dams.

These projects have been implemented with the sheer goodwill of the leaders of the State to help farmers. The State had to spend K 58,000 million plus a huge sum of foreign money.

In addition, the State, bearing partly the expenses, have been rendering assistance to farmers including selling of fertilizers and insecticides which

are needed in agricultural production enterprise at reasonable prizes. As a result, the agricultural production has increased. As farmers earn more and more, their living standard became very high during the period of past ten years. Better farming technologies result in boosting production. So, the State has helped farmers acquire new farming technologies.

The Agricultural Technology Advancement Training School in PyinOoLwin will be of great help to the State's above-mentioned objective. The training school is established to boost produc-



Farmers and service personnel attending Agricultural Technology Advancement Training School in PyinOoLwin.



View of Agricultural Technology Advancement Training School in PyinOoLwin.

tion and develop farming technologies by educating farmers farming technologies, to uplift the living standard of farmers and for farmers to cherish their business based on patriotism and cooperation.

The training school will conduct short- and long-term degree courses on Agricultural science, Agricultural economic science, Agricultural research and Agricultural engineering.

The course conducts subjects on growing of agricultural crops, perennial crops, vegetables, mushroom, coffee, macadamia and ginseng, water utiliza-

tion, use of farm machinery, livestock breeding and English. Moreover, technical cooperation has been made with the Republic of Korea for development and growing of crop strains. Outstanding trainees are sent to Korea for further studies. On 18 July 2000, an MoU on agricultural cooperation was signed. Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt himself laid the foundation for the training school on 11 September 2001.

The Canaan Farmers' School of Korea handed over the school building to the Ministry of Agriculture

and Irrigation on 22 June 2002. Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt himself opened the Course No 1/ 2003 on 27 January 2003. The mottoes of the training school are

- Let's study while working and let's work while studying,
- Let's build our social community, our land and our country with our own hands,
- Let's unite for success, and
- Give loving-kindness to others to have happiness.

Translation: KKK

(Myanma Alin: 3-12-2003)

Official says China, Slovenia face new trade opportunities

BEIJING, 6 Dec — A senior Chinese official said here Thursday that China-Slovenia trade ties are facing new opportunities and China encourages its domestic enterprises to boost investment in Slovenia.

Yu Ping, vice-president of the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT), made the remark at a China-Slovenia business forum here Thursday. He said China was glad to witness that Slovenia would become a member country of the European Union (EU) next May, noting that China-Slovenia economic and trade ties maintained a good growth

momentum since the two countries forged diplomatic relations 10 years ago.

The visiting Slovenian Prime Minister Anton Rop also said at the forum that Slovenia's opening economy welcomes further trade cooperation with China.

He said Slovenia could serve as a "springboard" for Chinese enterprises to further penetrate markets of

EU member countries due to the country's preferential trade and investment policies and special geographic position.

According to the latest official statistics, China-Slovenia trade volume reached 136 million US dollars by the end of this September, up 47 per cent over the same period of last year.

MNA/Xinhua

Indonesian Energy Minister named OPEC president

JAKARTA, 6 Dec — Indonesian Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Purnomo Yusgiantoro was installed Friday as the Organization of Petroleum-Exporting Countries (OPEC) president during a conference in Vienna.

In a telephone interview with Jakarta-based Detikcom online news portal, Purnomo said the cartel's decision is a "big surprise" for him.

He added the 12-member OPEC also asked him to assume the secretary-general post until a definite figure was selected.

"It happened because the voting for a secretary-general faced a deadlock. The conference could not reach agreement over which among three candidates eligible for

the secretary-general post," he said.

Selecting a secretary-general is always a difficult task for OPEC because member countries from the Middle East often disagree with each other, he said, noting that the process could take seven years before a new secretary-general was elected. Purnomo, who earned his PhD from the University of Colorado, said being elected as OPEC president would not make him ignore his tasks in the Indonesian Cabinet. — MNA/Xinhua

Youth unemployment improved in HK

HONG KONG, 6 Dec — The unemployment rate for youth aged 15 to 19 has fallen from 36.1 per cent (26,400 jobless) in the third quarter of this year to 32.5 per cent (22,700 jobless) from August to October 2003, a Hong Kong official said here Thursday.

The Permanent Secretary for Economic Development and Labour Matthew Cheung Kin-chung made the remarks at a launching ceremony for Workplace Attachment Training of the Youth Pre-employment Training Programme (YPTP).

He noted that the capacity of the programme had been increased from 12,000 to 18,000 this year and more courses had been added, adding that the application period had also been extended to ensure that no one would be turned away.

The YPTP was launched in 1999 to

provide pre-employment training, workplace attachment, careers advisory and support services to participants. More than 45,000 trainees have received training in the past four years. Apart from those who decided to pursue further studies, nearly 70 per cent of the remainder had secured employment.

"Young people are valuable to the community as they will be our future masters. However, their employment opportunities may be affected by the doubt cast by some employers on their work abilities as these employers think that youngsters are inexperienced and immature," he said.

Cheung stressed that the workplace attachment training was an important component of the YPTP. According to him, more than 1,000 employers provided over 10,000 training places under the YPTP last year.

MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam's automobile sales surge in first 11 months

HANOI, 6 Dec — Vietnam posted automobile sales of 34,896 units in the first 11 months of this year, a year-on-year climb of 51.1 per cent, the Vietnam Automobile Manufacturers Association (VAMA) told Xinhua on Thursday.

Specifically, automakers in the country sold a total of 22,804 passenger cars, 9,340 commercial vehicles and 2,752 special utility vehicles in the period, up 125.2 per cent, down 5 per cent and down 12.1 per cent, respectively.

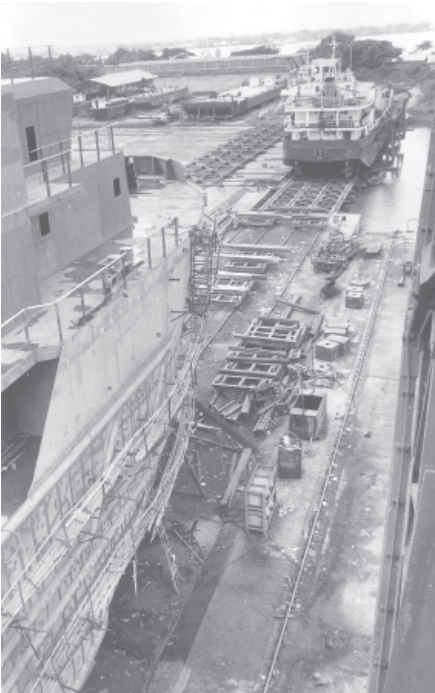
Higher living standard of local people, especially businessmen, is mainly attributed to the surge in automobile sales. Besides, many rushed to purchase new passenger cars, fearing that their prices will

climb further when the government increases special consumption tax on the vehicle to 24 per cent from current 5 per cent next month.

Between January and November, Toyota Vietnam continued recording the largest sales of 10,264 automobiles; followed by Vidamco, famous for Daewoo brand, with 4,480 vehicles; and Ford Vietnam with 4,182, VAMA said.

MNA/Xinhua

To win the sea



The Myanma Shipyard is building ships for foreign companies.

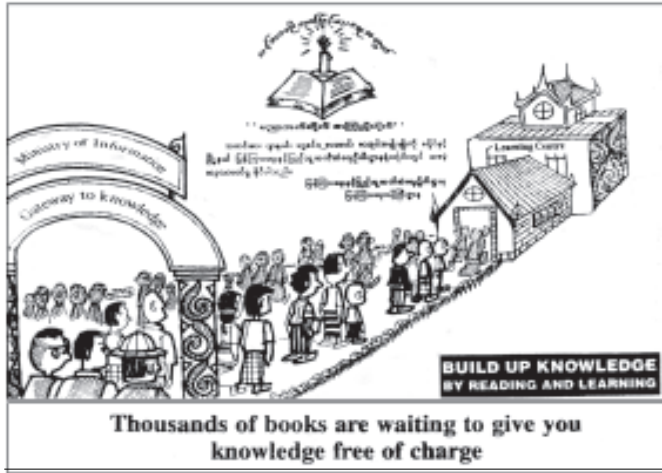
The Myanma Shipyards of the Ministry of Transport is building new vessels and repairing the existing boats of the government organizations, cooperatives, private enterprises and foreign companies.

Head of State Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance on establishment of Myanmar Maritime University for producing highly-qualified maritime engineers needed in nation-building endeavours.

The photo shows the MMU.



Jaya Gold-2 vessel was built by Myanma Shipyards of the Ministry of Transport for Java Marine Lines Private Limited of Singapore. The photo taken at Nanthida Jetty on 21 April 2003 is the proof of advancement in Myanmar's ship-building technology.



ADVERTISEMENTS

မြန်မာကျွန်းမြေ ချိပ်ပိတ်တင်ဒါခေါ်ယူခြင်း

စဉ် ပစ္စည်းအမျိုးအစား အရေအတွက် တင်ဒါပိတ်ရက်

၁။ Asbestos Disc (Octagon Type) 10000 Nos ၃၀-၁၂-၂၀၀၃

အမှတ်(၁) စက်မှုဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊ မြန်မာ့ကြွေးတည်မြေထည်လုပ်ငန်း၊ ရောင်းဝယ်ရေးဌာန၊ အမှတ် (၁၉၂) ကမ္ဘာ့အေးဘုရားလမ်း၊ ရန်ကုန်တွင် ရုံးချိန်အတွင်း ဆက်သွယ်စုံစမ်းပြီး တင်ဒါပုံစံများကိုလာရောက် ဝယ်ယူနိုင်ပါသည်။

တင်ဒါပုံစံတရားဝင်ဝယ်ယူသူများထံမှ တင်ဒါကိုသာလက်ခံပါမည်။

(အသေးစိတ်သိရှိလိုပါက စုံစမ်းရန် တယ်လီဖုန်းအမှတ်-၅၆၆၂၉၅၊ ၅၆၆၂၉၂)

မြန်မာ့ကြွေးတည်မြေထည်လုပ်ငန်း

(၂)အောင်စ ပလတ်စတစ်ပုလင်း (အဖုံးပါ) ဝယ်ယူလိုခြင်း

ပစ္စည်းအမျိုးအစား	လိုအပ်ချက်	ပေးသွင်းရမည့်နေရာ
၁။ (က) (၂)အောင်စပလတ်စတစ်ပုလင်း (Screw type cap with safety ring H.D.P.E plastic)	၂၀၀၀၀၀-လုံး (နှစ်သန်းတိတိ)	မြန်မာနိုင်ငံဆေးဝါးလုပ်ငန်းစက်ရုံ
(ခ) (၂)အောင်စပလတ်စတစ်ပုလင်း (Screw type cap with safety ring H.D.P.E plastic)	၁၉၂၇၀၀-လုံး တစ်သန်းကို သိန်းနှစ်သောင်း ခုနှစ်ထောင်သုံးရာတိတိ	အထူးစီစဉ်ပြီးပြောဆိုဆေးဝါးလုပ်ငန်းစက်ရုံ (ရေခဲ၊ စစ်ကိုင်းတိုင်း)

တင်ဒါပိတ်ရက်။ ၁၅-၁၂-၂၀၀၃ (တနင်္လာ)နေ့၊ မွန်းလွဲ (၂:၀၀)နာရီ

မှတ်ချက်။ အသေးစိတ်အကြောင်းအရာများကို မြန်မာနိုင်ငံဆေးဝါးလုပ်ငန်းစက်ရုံ၊ ပစ္စည်းစီမံရေးဌာနတွင် ရုံးချိန်အတွင်း စုံစမ်းနိုင်ပြီး တင်ဒါပုံစံများကိုလည်း ဝယ်ယူနိုင်ပါသည်။ (ဆက်သွယ်ရန်တယ်လီဖုန်းအမှတ်-၆၆၆၃၈၁)

စက်ရုံများ

မြန်မာနိုင်ငံဆေးဝါးလုပ်ငန်းစက်ရုံ

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV QING CHUN MEN VOY NO (051)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV QING CHUN MEN VOY No (051) are hereby notified that the vessel will arrive on 7-12-03 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11.20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

AGENT FOR: M/S INTERASIA LINE

Phone : 256908/378316/376797

ARRIVAL/CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV "BAGO" VOY NO. BG757/N

Consignees of cargo carried on MV "BAGO" VOY No.BG757/N are hereby notified that the vessel has arrived at Yangon port on 8-12-2003 and will be berthing on about 9-12-2003 and cargoes will be discharged into the premises of Myanma Port Authority where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the bye-laws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily between 8 am to 11.30 and 12 noon to 4 pm into Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharged of cargo from vessel.

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

**CONTAINER FEEDER SERVICE
MYANMA FIVE STAR LINE**

Phone: 293147,296507,295754

Joint research on breast & prostate cancers launched in HK

HONG KONG, 6 Dec—A joint research initiative to study the efficacy of groundbreaking anti-tumour products for breast cancer and prostate cancer was launched here Thursday.

The collaborative study, conducted by the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST) and CK Life Sciences International Holdings Inc., will also establish the first-ever pharmacogenomic and pharmacogenetic database for the Chinese population.

With the governmental Innovation and Technology Commission and CK Life Sciences each providing

half of the 833,000 US dollars funding, and HKUST providing its scientific expertise, the research programme will be carried out over a period of two and a half years.

The efficacy of CK Life Sciences' anti-tumour products and their immune-enhancing effects will be studied in the first part of the joint research.

The experts of HKUST will also help establish a pharmacogenetic database for the Chinese people to identify the panel of genes involved.

MNA/Xinhua

မြန်မာ့အလင်းသတင်းစာ

ASEM conference on cultures, civilizations concludes in Beijing

BELJING, 6 Dec — The Asia-Europe Conference on Cultures and Civilizations concluded here Thursday afternoon.

The two-day culture ministerial conference, the first within the framework of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM), passed a chairman's statement before concluding. France has proposed to host the event next time.

Representatives from 26 ASEM members reached broad consensus on the issue of cultural diversity and unity. They observed that cultural diversity is a fundamental feature of world cultures and a form of manifestation of world civilizations. ASEM can and should make a contribution to the promotion of dialogue, understanding and mutual respect among different cultures and civilizations of the world.

They also shared the view that the meeting has enhanced countries' understanding of different cultures and civilizations, broadened their common ground, and laid a sound basis for future cooperation.

Addressing the closing ceremony, Chinese Culture Minister Sun Jiazheng said dialogues between cultures and civilizations of

Asia and Europe have created a platform for transcending a model of globalization that seeks to impose uniformity, and for the definition of responses to the diversity of situations and complexity of the international situation.

"The Chinese Culture Ministry is willing to work with cultural departments of other ASEM members to work for the bright future of the two continents and the world at large," Sun said.

The meeting also passed policy directions for future cooperation, including expanding the work of ASEM in the field of cultural and educational exchanges and welcoming the initiative taken by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to elaborate on a convention on cultural diversity. Attended by some 200 representatives from 26 ASEM members, the conference was proposed by China at the fourth ASEM summit in Copenhagen in 2002 and was later written into the presidential declaration as a key follow-up action of the meeting.

MNA/Xinhua

European culture officials say oriental civilization seizes Europe

BELJING, 6 Dec— The long-standing oriental civilizations have always been fascinating to many European countries which take in oriental cultures in their process of development, said European cultural officials here.

At the two-day Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Conference on Cultures and Civilizations which opened Wednesday, the European cultural officials showed extreme interest in the cultures of the East. The time-honoured history of the East might trace back much earlier than the West, thus their

exchanges would lead to fruitful results, said Portuguese Minister for Culture Pedro Roseta. China, as one of the countries with an ancient civilization, not only once made the unique contribution of the ancient Silk Road, but is playing an active role in current cultural exchanges in the world, said Roseta. Gunter Mulack, German Ambassador of the Federal Foreign Office, said that the oriental civilizations have been attractive for German philosophers and thinkers, and the European countries are still drawing on Asia's excellent cultural achievements even today.

The world's cultures are moving toward unity in parallel with information technology, which in turn has led to cultural disputes, said

Mulack, adding that the West should increase cultural dialogues with the East so as to remove hostility and estrangement. The conference held in Beijing will bring us more inspirations, said Mulack.

Italian Ambassador to China Gabriele Menegatti said that Italy is willing to conduct cultural exchanges with China as well as other Asian countries, hoping more Asian youth would understand the differences between Asia and Europe to promote mutual understanding of the two continents.

The European countries should take a farsighted view and positively carry out cultural exchange programmes between Asia and Europe, said Finnish Culture Minister Tanja Karpela.

MNA/Xinhua

Chinese, Oman FM's hold talks

BELJING, 5 Dec— Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing exchanged views here with Yousef Bin Alawi Bin Abdullah, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Oman, on bilateral relations and issues of common concern.

Li said China and Oman had kept friendly relations since diplomatic ties were forged between the two countries. China appreciated Oman's adherence to the one-China policy, he said, and China was willing to further expand the friendly bilateral relations. Li also praised Oman's efforts to pursue the good neighbourly policy, improve relations between different countries and regions, promote regional economic cooperation and maintain regional peace and stability. Singing high praises of China's foreign policy, Alawi said Oman valued the relations with China.

He said the cooperation between the two countries was fruitful and Oman was ready to promote more cooperation with Chinese enterprises. Alawi arrived here Wednesday for his China visit at the invitation of Li Zhaoxing. — MNA/Xinhua

မညာရေးဖြင့် ခေတ်မီပွဲပြီးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့

UN launches fight against obesity, poor diets

GENEVA, 6 Dec— The World Health Organization, alarmed at mounting deaths linked to high sugar and fatty diets, presented its recipe on Thursday for a world of fitter and more health-conscious eaters.

Incidence of cardiovascular disease, diabetes and certain types of cancer — all of which can be brought on by unhealthy diets and inactivity — have soared to account for 60 per cent of the some 56.5 million of preventable deaths a year worldwide.

And the problem is greatest in developing countries, even if malnutrition and infectious disease remain more important causes of ill health in the very poorest, the United Nations said.

In a draft plan to be put to member states at the spring 2004 session of the World Health Assembly, its governing body, the WHO, called for governments, food firms and non-governmental organizations to work together to change eating habits.

"A profound shift in the balance of the major causes of death is under way in most countries," the Geneva-based organization said.

"Of particular concern are the increasing unhealthy diets and reduced physical activity of children and adolescents."

It predicts the number of cases of type 2 diabetes, which is acquired rather than inherited, will soar from 117 million to 370 million by 2030. The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention say one in three Americans born in 2000 will develop the condition.

The proposals, which were drawn up at the request of member states and followed extensive consultations with governments and industry, made no mention of the WHO's recommendation earlier this year that sugar should not account for more than 10 per cent of the energy intake in an average diet.

That report, issued with the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), sparked an angry response from the US sugar industry, which had argued for a 25-per-cent ceiling.

In recent months several multinational companies have announced plans to cut down on some types of vegetable fats, linked to obesity and heart disease, in their products.

MNA/Reuters

Study says US medicine use ebbs with higher payments

BOSTON, 6 Dec— Health insurance plans that encourage Americans to use less expensive drugs may actually discourage some people from taking important medications altogether, researchers reported recently.

The researchers found that when patients were forced to pay more for their medications under "three-tiered" prescription drug plans, they were more likely to stop taking the drugs — including needed ones for chronic illnesses like heart disease.

In one of the first studies to show how workers treated for chronic illnesses react to changes in their prescription drug plans, lead author Haiden Huskamp and his colleagues found higher co-payments saved the insurance company money, but often cost patients a lot more.

Co-payments are out-of-pocket costs that consumers must pay in addition to their health care premiums. Huskamp, of Harvard Medical School, said sizable co-payment increases could have "worrisome effects".

Nearly two-thirds of US workers with health insurance — the rate is as high as 80 per cent in some parts of the country — are now covered by three-tiered prescription drug plans, designed to steer patients to lower-priced medicines.

Under the plans, generic drugs require the lowest co-payment, "approved" prescription drugs require a higher co-pay, and consumers must pay even more for medications not on the approved list.

The unidentified company in the study that dramatically revised its prescription programme started charging eight US dollars for each generic prescription, 15 US dollars for "approved" brand-name drugs and 30 US dollars for unapproved medicine. Previously, the co-payment for all prescriptions was seven US dollars.

People forced to switch to the new system were nearly three times more likely to stop taking their ACE inhibitors for blood pressure than workers in a different company who continued to pay 7 US dollars for prescription drugs not on the approved list.

Twice as many stopped taking their cholesterol-lowering drugs and the number who gave up their medicine to relieve excess stomach acid also rose significantly.

MNA/Reuters

Asia-Europe Foundation to play active role in cultural exchanges

BELING, 6 Dec— The Asia-Europe Foundation, the only standing organ of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM), pledged to play an even more active role in promoting cultural exchanges and cooperation between the two continents.

Delfin Colome, executive director of the foundation, said here that his organization will help Asian and European officials at different levels to have more exchanges and promote the two continents' cooperation in all spheres. Attending the Conference on Cultures and Civilizations, the first within the framework of ASEM, Colome said the world is facing threats from unilateralism, and thus more opportunities should be created for countries to get together and have dialogues.

"To meet challenges from terrorism and globalization, we need to unite together and hold dialogues based on equality and mutual respect," he said.

Mainly dedicated to cultural coopera-

tion and heritage protection, the foundation has held approximately 200 exchange activities since it was founded seven years ago. Through exchanges in information, culture and human resources, the foundation has enhanced understanding between Asian and European people.

Colome praises China's leading role in initiating and organizing the conference, saying that it has provided opportunities for cultural officials to conduct candid and constructive dialogues and promote the two continents' partnership. "China has a magnificent culture and a stable political situation and social environment," he said, adding that "these factors laid a sound basis for success of the meeting". — MNA/Xinhua



The space shuttle Atlantis is towed from the Orbiter Processing Facility to the Vehicle Assembly Building at the Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Fla on 5 Dec, 2003. Atlantis is being relocated while annual maintenance is performed in the OPF. Atlantis is scheduled to be the first space shuttle to launch when NASA resumes space flight. — INTERNET

Asian, European officials face Hollywood threat

BELING, 6 Dec — Culture officials from Asia and Europe say globalization does not necessarily mean that the influence of Hollywood movies will destroy indigenous cultures.

During the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Conference on Cultures and Civilizations, the largest cultural ministerial meeting of its kind held in China, senior cultural officials from 26 ASEM members dismissed claims that Hollywood films will devastate world civilizations.

Brunei, with a long history, is greatly influenced by the Western culture represented by Hollywood, said Haji Jemat Haji Ampal, Brunei permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports. He was deeply concerned about the impact on local culture, he said. Every culture absorbs elements from others but stands independent with its own characteristics, said Lee Boon Yang, Singaporean Minister of Information, Communications and the arts. Any nation that expects to conduct exchanges with the outside world can not evade the impact of globalization, Lee said.

Citing the example of Chinese-language

programmes topping ratings in Singapore where the English language has a dominant position, Lee was optimistic that native culture still enjoys great charm and potential under globalization. Native culture is rooted in a nation and not likely to be influenced by foreign cultural elements, said Hong Yongping, deputy director of Chinese Culture Ministry's Policies and Regulations Department.

The alien culture will intrude on another culture only when it stops progress or cuts itself away from the outside world, said Gunter Mulack, German Ambassador of the federal foreign office. It is more important for Asian and European nations to develop innovation and spread their own cultures all over the world, said Delfin Colome, executive director of the Asia-Europe Foundation. A variety of cultures in the United States exist in harmony although some people are afraid of the Hollywood prevalence around the world, said Colome. — MNA/Xinhua



Chinese girls play with snowballs during a snowfall in Shenyang, the capital of China's northeastern province of Liaoning, on 5 Dec, 2003. — INTERNET

SPORTS

Leaders Monaco come back to beat Marseille 2-1

PARIS, 6 Dec— Leaders Monaco snuffed out Olympique Marseille's hopes of challenging for the French title when a superb Ludovic Giuly goal gave them a 2-1 away win on Friday.

Champions Olympique Lyon stayed six points behind in second place after a 2-1 home win over Metz but Marseille are now 12 points adrift of Monaco in fifth place after their fourth successive home defeat in all competitions.

Striker Ahmed Mido put Marseille ahead shortly before halftime but Monaco, unbeaten since August 9 in the league, dominated the second half.

They equalized through a header by central defender Sebastien Squillaci off a Jerome Rothen free kick before midfielder Giuly danced through the Marseille defence from halfway to flick the ball home with his left foot.

It was Giuly's ninth goal of the season. Marseille were booed off the pitch. Lyon started hesitantly and Metz, 17th at start of play, went ahead in the 22nd minute when Florent Malouda centred at the end of a counter-attack for Jonathan Jager to score with a header.—MNA/Reuters



Fabio Celestini, left, and Brahim Hemdani, right, of Marseille, fight for the ball with Dado Prso, of Monaco, during their French soccer league match played in Marseille, southern France, on 5 Dec, 2003.—INTERNET

CROSSWORD PUZZLE**ACROSS**

- 7 Middle
- 8 Russian dramatist
- 10 Low stuffed seat
- 11 Bury
- 12 Roguish
- 13 Struck forcibly
- 17 Body of constables
- 18 Ice cream container
- 22 Squeeze out
- 23 That which can be maintained
- 24 Frozen Arctic plain
- 25 Feel great sorrow and loss

DOWN

- 1 Gymnast
- 2 Having become detached
- 3 ingrained dirt
- 4 Showing economy
- 5 Fish
- 6 A tooth
- 9 Enmity
- 14 To associate
- 15 Shoe-mender
- 16 Umpire
- 19 Grudge
- 20 Pretence
- 21 Trap

Leeds secure financial breathing space

LONDON, 6 Dec— Leeds United reached agreement with key creditors on Thursday to give the debt-ridden English soccer club until January 19 to find parties prepared to buy or invest in it.

With debts of around 80 million pounds (138 million US dollar), the club—which is at the bottom of England's Premier League—has warned it might have call in administrators.

"The board will seek to identify parties who would be prepared to make a substantial investment in, or offer for, the business, working in conjunction with the group's restructuring advisers," Leeds said in a statement. The club said its share-

holders might not realize value for the equity at the current share price, which closed up 8.11 per cent at 4.995 pence.

It warned again that it could be forced into administration if it failed to find financial supporters.

Leeds confirmed however that it had been approached by a company associated with Bahraini Sheikh Abdulrahman Bin Mubarak Al Khalifa, widely reported to be a supporter of the club. The member of Bahrain's royal family said on Wednesday he was exploring ways to help Leeds and might make an offer.

"In addition, Allan Leighton has resigned from the board with immediate effect to avoid any conflict of interest should he decide to become involved in any future funding or purchase of the business," Leeds said.

Leeds said the standstill agreement was reached with

the providers of 60 million pounds of senior unsecured notes and Gerling Insurance, the credit insurer of the Registered Football Finance Ltd which provides player finance lease agreements.

Some investors had expected a possible wave of takeovers for England's debt-ridden soccer clubs after Russian billionaire Roman Abramovich bought Chelsea, but the high debts of many teams have made similar deals tricky.

League champions Manchester United are often the subject of intense takeover speculation, but Manchester are far more attractive than their rivals as one of the few clubs that is actually making a profit.

In October, Leeds reported a pre-tax loss of 49.5 million pounds for the 2002-03 financial year. Like many clubs, its debts and losses have risen due to players' wages.—MNA/Reuters

Masterful Richard McEvoy leads Hong Kong Open

HONG KONG, 6 Dec— England's Richard McEvoy made a sensational start Thursday to his first full season on the European Tour when he took the first round lead in the 700,000 US dollars Omega Hong Kong Open.

McEvoy, who won Europe's Qualifying School last month, fired an eight-under-par 62 at The Hong Kong Golf Club. The joint-sanctioned tournament is the opening event of The European Tour's 2003/2004 seasons, and the penultimate leg of this year's Asian PGA Tour.

The 24-year-old leads by four from Scotland's Steven O'Hara and Amandeep Johl from India.

China's Zhang Lianwei and Irishman Pdraig Harrington returned 67s.

McEvoy made the turn in four-under-par 30, with birdies on two, four, eight and nine. He birdied 10 and 12, dropped a shot on the 13th but ran away with the lead with birdies on 14, 15 and 18. He narrowly issued a birdie putt from 10 feet on 17 but drained a 15 footer for birdie on the difficult par four final hole.

O'Hara also made it through the Qualifying School, in 13th place, and played with McEvoy in the final round.

Zhang, paired with England's Nick Faldo, made a good start to what is the 45th staging of the Hong Kong Open. The Chinese star, winner of last month's Volvo China Open, is presently second on the Asian PGA Tour Order of Merit list behind Arjun Atwal from India. He trails the Indian by 36,624 US dollars but could move to top spot this week with a good result. Atwal is competing at the US PGA Tour Qualifying School this week but will return to Asia next week for the season-ending Volvo Masters of Asia in Bangkok.

Defending champion Fredrik Jacobson of Sweden carded a 68, along with the 2001 winner Jose Maria Olazabal from Spain and Northern Ireland's Darren Clarke. Faldo and Denmark's Thomas Bjorn came in with a 69.—MNA/Reuters

Four off, 13 booked as Penarol win Uruguayan title

MONTEVIDEO, 6 Dec— Four players were sent off and 13 booked as Penarol beat arch-rivals Nacional 1-0 in the Uruguayan championship final to win the title for the first time since 1999.

Nacional finished Thursday's match with eight men after having three players dismissed while Penarol were shown one red card in a game littered with violent tackles.

Nacional also had two substitutes, the team doctor and coach Daniel Carreno sent off from the bench.

Referee Gustavo Mendez was given a police escort off the field at the end to protect him from protesting Nacional players, who were unhappy about Penarol's winning goal.

Penarol, who have now won 36 titles since the game turned professional in 1931, and Nacional, champions for the previous three years, traditionally dominate Uruguayan football.

Matches between the two often degenerate into violence. Nacional were reduced to 10 men after only 10 minutes when Cameroon midfielder Angbwa Benoit was shown a second yellow card.

The goal came in first half injury time when Penarol's flamboyant Paraguayan goalkeeper Jose Luis Chilavert's free kick was not held by his opposite number Jorge Bava and Joe Bizera headed home the rebound.—MNA/Reuters

Liverpool lose Kewell to injury

LONDON, 6 Dec— Liverpool's Australian playmaker Harry Kewell has an ankle injury that will keep him out for up to three weeks, the Premier League club said on Friday.

Kewell suffered ligament damage during Liverpool's League Cup defeat by Bolton Wanderers this week and is likely to miss the next three Premier League games, against Newcastle United on Saturday, Southampton and Wolverhampton Wanderers.

He could also be ruled out of the matches on December 26 against Bolton and two days later against Manchester City. With eight goals and an array of creative skills, Kewell has made a vital contribution to Liverpool since his close season transfer from Leeds United.

The timing of the setback could not be worse for Liverpool whose England striker Michael Owen is still out of action with a thigh injury.

"It is a blow for us," Liverpool manager Gerard Houllier told the club's web site.

"Harry has done well since he has come to the club. He has provided the missing link between midfield and attack and has scored some important goals.

"Obviously, we are disappointed because Harry and Michael Owen give us a lot of attacking efficiency and we are without them both at the moment." — MNA/Reuters



Dante Lopez of Paraguay, center, scores the first goal of his team against Germany during a Group F match for the World U20 Soccer Championship at the Al Nahyan Stadium in Abu Dhabi on 5 Dec, 2003.

INTERNET

MRTV-3



**7-12-2003 (sunday)
(Programme Schedule)
Morning Transmission
(9:00 - 10:00)**

- 9:00 Signature Tune
- 9:02 Greetings
- 9:02 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Mingalabar"
- 9:06 Water Hyacinth Furniture
- 9:10** **Headline News**
- 9:12 Easily Cooked Tasty Dishes Snake gourd stuffing pounded prawn"
- 9:15** **National News**
- 9:20 Myanmar Movie Impact "A Life-Long Partner"
- 9:30** **National News**
- 9:35 Thabotseik Village on Seaside
- 9:40 Song "Bonfire Festival"
- 9:42 The National Museum (III)
- 9:45** **National News**
- 9:50 Special Teak Plantation Programme in Myanmar
- 9:58 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"

**7-12-2003 (Sunday)
Regular Programmes for Viewers from Abroad
Evening Transmission
(15:30 - 17:30)**

- 15:30 Signature Tune
- 15:32 Greetings
- 15:32 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Mingalabar"
- 15:36 Water Hyacinth Furniture
- 15:40** **Headline News**
- 15:42 Easily Cooked Tasty Dishes Snake gourd stuffing pounded prawn"
- 15:45** **National News**
- 15:50 Myanmar Movie Impact "A Life-Long Partner"
- 16:00** **National News**
- 16:05 Thabotseik Village on Seaside
- 16:10 Song "Bonfire Festival"
- 16:12 The National Museum (III)



Sunday, December 7

View today:

- 7:00 am**
- 1. Recitation of parittas by Missionary Sayardaw U Ottamathara
- 7:25 am**
- 2. To be healthy exercise
- 7:30 am**
- 3. Morning news
- 7:40 am**
- 4. Nice and sweet song
- 7:50 am**
- 5. ယဉ်ကျေးစွာ(သမီး)ပြောဆိုတာ
- 8:05 am**
- 6. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 8:15 am**
- 7. နိဗ္ဗာန်ရေထိန်းတံခါး
- 8:30 am**
- 8. International news
- 8:45 am**
- 9. Say it in English
- 11:00 am**
- 1. Martial Song
- 11:10 am**

- 16:15** **National News**
- 16:20 Special Teak Plantation Programme in Myanmar
- 16:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Myanma Panorama & Myanma Sentiment"
- 16:30** **National News**
- 16:35 Travelogue "Pyin Oo Lwin"
- 16:40 Myanmar Cuisine "Traditional Shwe-daung Noodle"
- 16:45** **National News**
- 16:50 Unforgettable Traditions of Pa-O National National Dance "Kayin Dance (We Bu)"
- 16:55 Inn-Waung Waterfall
- 17:00** **National News**
- 17:05 Myanma Seafood
- 17:10 Song "Come to Myanmar (The Golden Land)"
- 17:15** **National News**
- 17:20 Talent Show on the Myanmar Bamboo Xylophone
- 17:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"

**Evening Transmission
(19:30 - 23:30)**

- 19:30 Signature Tune
- 19:32 Greetings
- 19:32 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Mingalabar"
- 19:35 Popa Mountain Park
- 19:40** **Headline News**
- 19:42 Easily Cooked Tasty Dishes "Fry bitter gourd with Pounded dried Prawn Powder"
- 19:45** **National News**
- 19:50 The National Museum (II)
- 19:55 Culture Stage "The Myanmar Dance, a Modern Version "
- 19:58 Naga Traditional Costumes & Dances
- 20:00** **National News**
- 20:05 Baungte: My Village
- 20:10 Myanmar Modern Song "Lodestar"
- 20:15** **National News**
- 20:20 King Alaung Mintaya's Palace Site
- 20:25 Song "The Smooth way with beautiful white flowers"
- 20:30** **National News**
- 20:35 Paintings decorated by art of goldsmith
- 20:40 Myanmar Cuisine "Steamed Eggplant with Tomato Sauce "
- 20:45** **National News**

- 20:50 Myanmar Movies Impact "Love and His Dignity"
- 21:00** **National News**
- 21:05 Dawei Traditional Longyi Weaving Art
- 21:10 Songs on Screen "Creation of A love-like Song "
- 21:15** **National News**
- 21:20 The making of a Myanmar Saung (Harp)
- 21:28 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Mingalabar"
- 21:35 Water Hyacinth Furniture
- 21:40** **Headline News**
- 21:42 Easily Cooked Tasty Dishes (Snake gourd stuffing pounded prawn)
- 21:45** **National News**
- 21:50 Myanmar Movies Impact "A Life-Long Partner"
- 22:00** **National News**
- 22:05 Thabotseik Village on Seaside
- 22:10 Song "Bonfire Festival"
- 22:12 The National Museum (III)
- 22:15** **National News**
- 22:20 Special Teak Plantation Programme in Myanmar
- 22:25 Song "Peace be with you"
- 22:30** **National News**
- 22:35 Travelogue "Pyin Oo Lwin"
- 22:40 Myanmar Cuisine "Traditions Shwe-daung Noodle"
- 22:45** **National News**
- 22:50 Unforgettable Traditional of Pa-O National National Dance "Kayin Dance (We Bu)"
- 22:55 Inn-Waung Waterfall
- 23:00** **National News**
- 23:05 Myanma Seafood
- 23:10 Song "Come to Myanmar (The Golden Land)"
- 23:15** **National News**
- 23:20 Talent Show on the Myanmar Bamboo Xylophone
- 23:28 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"

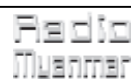
**7-12-2003 (Sunday) &
8-12-2003 (Monday)
Evening & Morning
Transmission
(23:30 - 1:30)**

- 23:30 Signature Tune
- 23:32 Greetings
- 23:32 Song of Myanmar

- Beauty & Scenic Sights "Mingalabar"
- 23:36 Water Hyacinth Furniture
- 23:40** **Headline News**
- 23:42 Easily Cooked Tasty Dishes Snake gourd stuffing pounded prawn"
- 23:45** **National News**
- 23:50 Myanmar Movies Impact "A Life-Long Partner"
- 24:00** **National News**
- 00:05 Thabotseik Village on Seaside
- 00:10 Song "Bonfire Festival"
- 00:12 The National Museum (III)
- 00:15** **National News**
- 00:20 Special Teak Plantation Programme in Myanmar
- 00:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Myanma Panorama & Myanma Sentiment"
- 00:30** **National News**
- 00:35 Travelogue "Pyin Oo Lwin"
- 00:40 Myanmar Cuisine "Traditions Shwe-daung Noodle"
- 00:45** **National News**
- 00:50 Unforgettable Traditions of Pa-O National National Dance "Kayin Dance (We Bu)"
- 00:55 Inn-Waung Waterfall
- 01:00** **National News**
- 01:05 Myanma Seafood
- 01:10 Song "Come to Myanmar (The Golden Land)"
- 01:15** **National News**
- 01:20 Talent Show on the Myanmar Bamboo Xylophone
- 01:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"

**8-12-2003 (Monday)
Morning Transmission
(03:30 - 07:30)**

- 03:30 Signature Tune
- 03:32 Greetings
- 03:32 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Myanma Panorama & Myanma Sentiment"
- 03:36 Popa Mountain Park
- 03:40** **Headline News**
- 03:42 Easily Cooked Tasty Dishes "Fry bitter gourd with pounded dried Prawn Powder"
- 03:45** **National News**
- 03:50 The National



Sunday, December 7

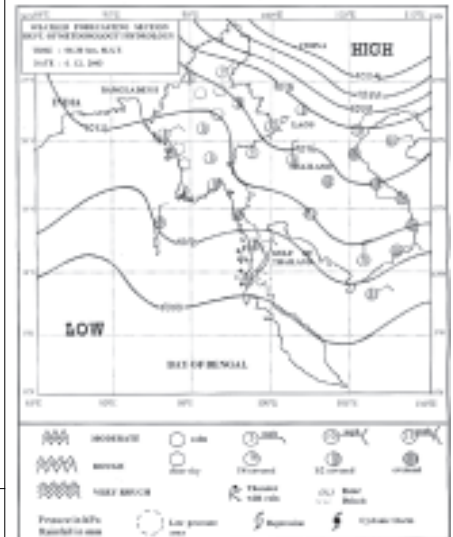
Tune in today:

- 8.30 am** Brief news
- 8.35 am** Music
- 8.40 am** Perspectives
- 8.45 am** Music
- 8.55am** National news/Slogan
- 9.05 am** Music
- 9.10 am** International news
- 9.15 am** Music
- 1.30 pm** News/Slogan
- 1.40 pm** Story for children "Shwe Ni, the deer"
- 1:50 pm** Songs for children
- 9.00 pm** Weekly news review
- 9.10 pm** Music
- 9:15 pm** Article
- 9.25 pm** Let's Songs/Latest Hits One heart (Celine Dion)
- 9.45 pm** News/Slogan
- 10.00 pm** PEL

- Museum (II)
- 03:55 Culture Stage "The Myanmar Dance, a Modern Version"
- 03:58 Naga Traditional costumes & Dances
- 04:00** **National News**
- 04:05 Baungte: My Village
- 04:10 Myanmar Modern Song "Lodestar"
- 04:15** **National News**
- 04:20 King Alaung Mintaya's Palace Site
- 04:25 Song "The Smooth way with beautiful white flowers"
- 04:30** **National News**
- 04:35 Paintings decorated by art of goldsmith
- 04:40 Myanmar Cuisine "Steamed Eggplant with Tomato Sauce "
- 04:45** **National News**
- 04:50 Myanmar Movies Impact "Love and His Dignity"
- 05:00** **National News**
- 05:05 Dawei Traditional Longyi Weaving Art
- 05:10 Songs on Screen "Creation of A love-like Song "
- 05:15** **National News**
- 05:20 The making of a Myanmar Saung (Harp)
- 05:28 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Mingalabar"
- 05:35 Water Hyacinth Furniture
- 05:40** **Headline News**
- 05:42 Easily Cooked Tasty Dishes "Snake gourd

- stuffing pounded prawn"
- 05:45** **National News**
- 05:50 Myanmar Movies Impact "A Life-Long Partner"
- 06:00** **National News**
- 06:05 Thabotseik Village on Seaside
- 06:10 Myanmar Modern Song "Bonfire Festival"
- 06:12 The National Museum (III)
- 06:20 Special Teak Plantation Programme in Myanmar
- 06:25 Song "Peace be with you"
- 06:30** **National News**
- 06:35 Travelogue "Pyin Oo Lwin"
- 06:40 Myanmar Cuisine "Traditional Shwe-daung Noodle"
- 06:45** **National News**
- 06:50 Unforgettable Traditional of Pa-O National National Dance "Kayin Dance (We Bu)"
- 06:55 Inn-Waung Waterfall
- 07:00** **National News**
- 07:05 Myanma Seafood
- 07:10 Song "Come to Myanmar (The Golden Land)"
- 07:15** **National News**
- 07:20 Talent Show on the Myanmar Bamboo Xylophone
- 07:28 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Saturday, 6 December, 2003

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:
During the past 24 hours, weather has been fair in the whole country. Night temperatures were 3°C to 4°C below normal in Shan, Kayin and Chin States, Magway, Yangon, Upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions, 7°C above normal Ayeyawady Division and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperature was -1°C in Hakha.

Maximum temperature on 5-12-2003 was 33.5°C (92°F). Minimum temperature on 6-12-2003 was 16.1°C (61°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 6-12-2003 was 72%. Total sunshine hours on 5-12-2003 was (8.1) hours approx. Rainfall 6-12-2003 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2003 was 2211 mm (87.05 inches) at Yangon Airport, 2315 mm (91.14 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 2394 mm (94.25 inches) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 9 mph from Northeast at (12:50) hours MST on 5-12-2003.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 7-12-2003: Except for the possibility of isolated light rain in Kachin State, weather will be generally fair in the whole country. Degree of certainty is (40%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Generally fair weather in the whole country.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 7-12-2003: Partly cloudy. **Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 7-12-2003:** Fine weather.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo attends final rites of Thamanya Sayadaw

YANGON, 6 Dec— The final rites of Thamanya Hill Sayadaw Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Bhaddanta Vinaya, aged 93 years and vasa 73 who passed away at 9 am on 29 November 2003 was held at the Mogok building at the foot of Thamanya Hill in Hpa-an Township on 5 December afternoon, attended by member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo of the Ministry of Defence. Also present were members of the Sangha, Chairman of Mon State Peace and Development Council Commander Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Chairman of Kayin State Peace and Development Council Col Khin Kyu and Col Maung Shein of Kawkaik Station draped the remains of the Sangha with velvet robe.

Member of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee

Pakokku Maha Withok-dayama Monastery Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Vajara administered the Nine Precepts. Commander Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung, Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, No 22 LID Commander Brig-Gen Ngwe Thein, Kayin State Peace and Development Council Chairman Col Khin Kyu and Col Maung Shein of Kawkaik Station draped the remains of the Sangha with velvet robe.

Taungga Aye Yeiktha Sayadaw Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Panāsami read the brief biography of the late Sayadaw. The minister also read his message of condolences of the Ministry of Religious Affairs.

Then, the commander accepted K 500,000 donated by the State Peace and Development Council through Lt-Gen Maung Bo and the Ministry of Religious Affairs through Minister Brig-Gen Thura



Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party carrying the remains of Thamanya Sayadaw.— MNA

Myint Maung.

Next, Lt-Gen Maung Bo, Commander Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung, Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung and

officials donated provisions to the Sayadaws. Joint-Secretary of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Kalewa Tawya Monastery Sayadaw

Bhaddanta Jagarabhivamsa delivered a sermon and shared merits gained. At 2 pm, the remains were carried to the tomb on the hill from Mogok

building. Finally, the remains were kept into the tomb after recitation of the religious verses by the Sayadaws.

MNA



Lt-Gen Maung Bo sees over Thanlwin Bridge (Hpa-an), Hpa-an University

YANGON, 6 Dec— Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung and officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and the Ministry of Religious Affairs, arrived in Thaton, Mon State, at 11 am on 4 December.

Accompanied by Chairman of Mon State Peace and Development Council Commander Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung and officials, Lt-Gen Maung Bo proceeded to

Thanlwin Bridge (Hpa-an) and gave instructions on durability of the bridge and prevention against erosion at the approach structure on Myaingga bank as soon as possible and then inspected the bridge.

On 5 December, Lt-Gen Maung Bo, Commander Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung, local LID commanders, officials of Kawkaik and Thaton stations and the Kayin State Peace and Development Council Chairman arrived at the construction site of Adipati Road of Hpa-an University. Lt-Gen Maung Bo told officials to complete the construction

works in time. Afterwards, they inspected construction of Hpa-an University in progress. Then, they inspected maintenance of Hpa-an-Mawlamyine Road.

Next, Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party saw over construction of Zathabyin-Kyonphe section of Zathabyin-Kyonphe-Khaya-Thanle-Kyagale-Hlaing Road with the use of heavy machinery near Zathabyin village in Hpa-an Township. At Shwe Hintha Tawya monastery in Kawkaik Village, Lt-Gen Maung Bo met with local people and paid homage to members of the Sangha.

(See page 9)

Lt-Gen Maung Bo inspects progress in construction of Hpa-an University.—MNA

Woman rowers win silver

YANGON, 6 Dec— The rowing contest of XXII South-East Asian Games continued in Hanoi, Vietnam, this morning.

Myint Myint Htwe, 24, of the Ministry of Construction from Loikaw Township, Kayah State, and Naw Le Ka Phaw, 18, of the Ministry of Industry-2 from Twantay Township, Yangon Division, secured one silver which was first for the Myanmar sports contingent in the women's two-oar lightweight class.

It was the first silver for both the State and the two Myanmar women. — MNA

XXII South-East Asian Games inaugurated in Hanoi

YANGON, 6 Dec— A ceremony to open the XXII South-East Asian Games was held at National Gymnasium, Hanoi, Vietnam, at 7 pm yesterday.

At the outset, Olympic sports relay team carried Vietnamese national flag and emblems of XXII SEA games into the National

Gymnasium and athletes from 11 countries took their positions.

The Myanmar athletes delegation led by Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu also took positions at the designated place in the sports grounds.

Next, the national flags of 11 countries were carried by parachute and at the same

time Vietnamese Prime Minister Phan Van Khai formally opened the XXII SEA Games. After the athletes had left the sports grounds, Vietnamese traditional dance troupe entertained with songs and dance to the fans.

The opening ceremony ended with shooting fire-works. — MNA



Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint and party attend opening of XXII South-East Asian Games at National Gymnasium in Hanoi, Vietnam.—MNA

Industry-1 Minister chooses sites for factory projects in Mandalay Division

YANGON, 6 Dec — Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung chose sites for factory projects in Myingyan and Taungtha Townships, Mandalay Division yesterday and met with rural people and gave instructions on development tasks.

Next, the minister inspected measures being taken for dyeing and printing factory of Myanmar Textile Industries, installation of extension of 200 looms and civil engineering works of project in progress. The minister also gave in-

structions on efforts to be made for running of looms as soon as possible.

Afterwards, the minister chose sites for vest factory to be built near Taungtha diversion weir with the aids of charts.

MNA