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Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects shops at Myanmar Shopping Mall on Sule Pagoda Road.—MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects Myanmar Shopping Mall

YANGON, 7 Dec—Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt this morning arrived at Myanmar Shopping Mall where he was welcomed by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, ministers and officials.

The Prime Minister inspected showrooms at the Myanmar Shopping Mall which had been opened on Sule Pagoda Road.

A ceremony to inaugurate the Myanmar Shopping Mall was held at the said building, attended by Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads, officials of Htoo Trading Co Ltd and guests.

First, Managing Director U Htay Aung of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism and Managing Director U Teza of Htoo Trading Co Ltd formally opened the shopping mall.

Afterwards, Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen

Thein Zaw unveiled the signboard of the shopping mall. Next, the guests viewed the shops.

Various kinds of camera, watches, cosmetics, jewelry items, garments with various designs for ladies, foodstuff, purses, paintings, furniture made of rattan, various kinds of electronic devices, sports gear and book stalls are on sale at the shopping mall and Internet Cafe & Network Game are kept open there.

MNA

Myanmar Shopping Mall on Sule Pagoda Road.—MNA



Minister U Aung Thaung meets local people, presents provisions to monasteries in Taungtha Township

YANGON, 7 Dec—Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung this morning arrived at YwaU Monastery in Aye-ywa Village, Taungtha Township, Mandalay Division and presented offertories to Presiding Sayadaw of the monastery Bhaddanta Kelasa.

Next, the minister met with local people in the compound of the monastery and discussed arrangements made for development of health, education and transport sectors and future work.

Afterwards, the minister proceeded to YwaU Monastery in Kanni Village and paid homage to Presiding Sayadaw of the monastery Bhaddanta Tiloka. After

presenting offertories to the Sayadaw, the minister met with local people and discussed matters related to regional development.

After that, the minister presented offertories to Presiding Sayadaw of YwaU Monastery in Aungchantha Village and met with the local people.

At 10 am, the minister attended the eighth provision-donation ceremony held at Pylon Aungchantha Pagoda and Panyawarana Ahyonsoon offering association in Taungtha. The minister explained the purpose of the donation and presented 200 bags of rice to the association and 225 bags of rice to 75 monasteries. He next presented of-

ferteries to members of the Sangha.

Next, the minister presented 75 bags of rice to the Home for the Aged through Chairman of Home for the Aged Supervisory Committee U Ba Hlaing. Chairman of Taungtha Township Sangha Nayaka Committee Presiding Sayadaw of Sasana Vepulla Kyakan

Kyaungtaik Bhaddanta Sundara delivered a sermon, followed by sharing of merits gained.

At noon, the minister attended the ceremony to donate a vehicle to be used for missionary purpose held at Sasana Vepulla Kyakan Kyaungtaik and presented related documents and the vehicle to Presiding

Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sundara.

Next, the congregation received the Five Precepts from the Kyakan Kyaungtaik Sayadaw. The minister and officials presented offertories to members of the Sangha, and the merit-sharing followed, which brought the ceremony to an end.—MNA

Myanmar won two golds in SEA Games

YANGON, 7 Dec — Myanmar sports team won two gold, six silver and eight bronze medals up to 6 December in the XXII SEA Games held in Vietnam. (More on page 8) —MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 8 December, 2003

For further ICT development

In the world today, information from one region can reach another part of the world in seconds as information and communication technology is advancing rapidly.

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.

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

In his address, the Prime Minister said that 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; that the ICT development in Myanmar has been recognized by the international community; and that it is honourable for the nation to receive the ASOCIO awards for ICT development in Myanmar.

The Asian Oceanian Computing Industry Organization (ASOCIO) has been set up with the membership of the computer industries of 23 countries from Asia and the Pacific region including Myanmar and it represents over 10,000 ICT companies.

Thanks to the encouragement of the Government and relentless efforts of computer scientists, computer industrialists and enthusiasts, there have emerged Myanmar Information and Communication Technology Parks essential for IT development in Yangon and Mandalay in a short time.

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

In recognition of the contributions to the development of ICT, ASOCIO awards were presented to Prime Minister of Vietnam Mr Phan Van Khai and Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt in 2003.

ASOCIO ICT awards (2003) for organizations went to Myanmar Computer Federation and the Multimedia Development Corporation of Malaysia.

At a time when ICT development in Myanmar is gaining momentum, the respective departments, MCF and ICT industrialists are urged to make earnest efforts for achieving greater success.



The eighth ceremony to pay respects to faculty members of GTI old students in progress in Maha Dhamma Beikman in Bahan Township on 7 December.—H

Buddha Pujaniya festival opens

YANGON, 7 Dec—The opening of the Buddha Pujaniya festival of the Maha Zeya Atula Marazein bronze image in Bahan Township took place at the southern gateway to the image this morning, attended by the township Peace and Development Council chairman and members, social organization members, Wut association members, teachers and students and invited guests.

The ceremony was opened with three-time recitation of *Namo Tassa*. Leader of Myat Yangchi Wut association U Mya Thang recited Pali verses.

Member of the panel of patrons of the Committee for holding the Pujaniya Township PDC Chairman U Tun Hla Aung extended greetings and Chairman of Pagoda Board of Trustees U Tin Ngwe spoke words of thanks.

Afterwards, member of Wut associations recited Metta Sutta. The township PDC Chairman and the Chairman of Pagoda Board of Trustees formally opened the ceremony which came to a close with three-time recitation of *Buddha Sasanam Ciram Tithatu*. —MNA

Tatmadaw Soccer Tournament continues

YANGON, 7 Dec—The second round matches of the 42nd Defence Services Commander-in-Chief's Trophy Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) Soccer Tournament continued at respective venues today.

At Yangon Command sports Ground in Mingaladon, Tatmadaw (Navy) team beat South-East Command team 2-1. Similarly, Southern Command team played with South-West Command team goalless draw at Padomma Sports Ground in Sangyoung Township.

MNA

Trial of National Chess Championship on 22-30 Dec

YANGON, 7 Dec—The first step trial of National Chess Championship, organized by Myanmar Chess Federation, will be held at Thida Hall of Fire Services Department in Mayangon Township from 22 to 30 December.

Those wishing to participate in the championship may enlist at the federation at Aung San Stadium, not later than 21 December.

MNA



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe inspects shops at tax-free market at the junction of Hanthawady and Kyundaw Roads in Kamayut Township.—YANGON COMMAND

Commander inspects tax-free markets in Yangon City

YANGON, 7 Dec—Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe inspected tax-free markets in Dagon, Kamayut, Mayangon, Yankin and Tamway townships this morning. Accompanied by military region commanders, Joint-Secretary of Yangon

City Development Committee U Kyi Win and officials, the commander inspected sales of vegetables, meat, fish, egg, rice and personal goods at the markets.

At Kyaikkasan Vehicle and Spare Parts Centre in Tamway Township, the commander saw over shops in the centre and gave necessary instructions.

On arrival at Yangon Tatmyo Market in Pha-Sa-Pa-La Ward, Mingala Taungnyunt Township, the commander and party inspected sales of vegetables, meat and fish, groceries, rice and personal goods shops and garments stores. Later, the commander gave necessary instructions.

MNA



Yangon Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin welcomes back Mandalay Mayor Brig-Gen Yan Thein at the airport.—MNA

Mandalay Mayor Brig-Gen Yan Thein arrives back

YANGON, 7 Dec—Chairman of Mandalay City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Yan Thein, Vice-Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee

Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa and delegation members arrived back here by air this afternoon after attending the East Asia Mayors' Meeting held in Kunming, the People's Repub-

lic of China. They were welcomed back at Yangon International Airport by Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin. —MNA

Commander attends opening of new patient ward two-storey building of Labutta People's Hospital

YANGON, 7 Dec—A ceremony to open a new patient ward two-storey building of Labutta People's Hospital, Ayeyawady Division and hand it over to the Ministry of Health was held in front of the building on 5 December. Present were Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council South-West Command Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing and wife, departmental officials, social organizations, and guests.

The commander made a speech on the occasion. On behalf of wellwisher Dr Sein Win and family of United Construction, townselder U Tin Oo reported to the minister on measures taken

for emergence of the new building. The documents of the building were handed over to the head of township health department.

Next, Head of Department Dr Tun Aye of Township Health Department spoke words of thanks.

Afterwards, Head of Department Dr Than Aung of Ayeyawady Division Health Department and townselder U Tin Oo formally opened the new building. The commander formally unveiled the signboard of the building. The commander and those present viewed round the building.

Later, the commander encouraged the patients undergoing medical treatment and inspected surgical room

and X-ray unit where he heard reports on measures taken for medical treatment presented by the Medical Superintendent and officials.

The two-storey patient building is of reinforced concrete type and it is an eight-bed facility. Wellwisher Dr Sein Win and family of United Construction donated the new building worth over K 25 million in memorial to late parents.

The commander proceeded to the four-storey Pariyatti Sathintaik of Labutta Township and paid homage to Vice-Chairman of Township Sangha Nayaka Committee Sayadaw Bhaddanta Naninda and members of the Sangha.

MNA

Panel begins to chart UN's future

UNITED NATIONS, 7 Dec—The head of a panel charting the future of the United Nations says his group is to come up with "practical and doable" proposals in analyzing the world body's failure to respond to threats of war.

After deep divisions over the US invasion of Iraq, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan last month chose a panel of former prime ministers and foreign ministers, among others, to make proposals for the United Nations in the 21st century.

Speaking before the 16-member group started its first weekend retreat in Princeton, New Jersey the former prime minister of Thailand, Anand Panyarachun said on Friday, "we are at a crossroads."

"We have to try to focus on the fundamental causes of failure of the UN system

to take collective action or make a collective response to threats of peace and security," he said of the report the panel will deliver by next September.

"We have to focus on a set of recommendations that are practical and are doable," Panyarachun said.

The panel was formed after Annan told world leaders at the General Assembly session last September that the world body had reached a "fork in the road," possibly as important as in 1945 when representatives of 50 countries met in San Francisco to draw up the UN

charter.

He challenged the Bush administration's doctrine of pre-emptive military intervention, saying it could lead to the law of the jungle. But he said that the multilateral security system was also in disrepair, often incapable of dealing with threats of weapons proliferation, terrorism and poverty.

Panyarachun said the world remembered UN failures more than its achievements.

"It is true that the UN has had a mixture of good and disappointing results," he said. "But be that as it may,

in recent years credibility of UN is at stake."

"If the UN is found to be wanting or not as effective as people expect, it could mean we are moving towards the end of the UN system," he said.

Included in the group is Qian Qichen, China's former foreign minister, Yevgeny Primakov, a former Russian prime and foreign minister, former Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans, former Norwegian prime minister Gro Harlem Brundtland.

The American delegate is Brent Scowcroft, a former national security adviser.

Internet

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Baghdad bomb kills US soldier, 3 Iraqis

BAGHDAD, 7 Dec—An American soldier and three Iraqis were killed in a roadside bomb attack in Baghdad on Friday, police said.

Captain Sami Hadi told Reuters at the scene that around 16 Iraqis were wounded when the bomb, planted in the middle of a busy road, exploded as a US military convoy and a minibus were passing in opposite directions.

Witnesses said the minibus was badly damaged in the blast, with all its windows blown out. Pools of blood were visible on the floor of the wreckage. The front vehicle of the US military convoy was also hit, witnesses said.

The US military did not have any immediate information on the incident but said it was investigating.

More than 180 US soldiers have been killed in action in Iraq since Washington declared major combat over on May 1. During that period, scores of Iraqis have also been killed in almost daily assaults by anti-American guerrillas.

MNA/Reuters



An Iraqi woman leaves her house with her two children during a search for weapons held by US soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 325th Airborne Infantry regiment recently at Al-Iskanderiya suburb, southeast of Baghdad.—INTERNET

Dollar may weaken next week amid growing dollar-negative trend

TOKYO, 7 Dec—The US dollar may weaken against the yen next week as the Japanese currency loses its immunity to a fresh dollar-weakening trend, which pushed up the euro to all-time highs and other major currencies to multiyear highs this week.

Although the yen had been given a reprieve from the trend—resulting from global investors' desire to limit exposure to dollar-denominated securities—the dollar's fall of more than 2 yen from Tuesday appears to signify the start of the loss of that immunity, dealers said.

Although the yen had been left out in the cold due partly to factors such as the nationalization of Ashikaga Bank and the Nov 29 killing of two Japanese diplomats in Iraq, the market "appears to have started a correction in the yen-dollar front," said Daisuke Uno, chief market analyst at Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corp.

Dealers said they expect the dollar to trade between

106.50 yen and 110.00 yen in the coming week.

In the early part of the past week, the yen was unscathed by upward pressure on such high-yielding currencies as the British pound and the Australian dollar as well as the euro, as the plight of Ashikaga Bank and the killing of the diplomats dampened sentiment about Japan, dealers said.

The dollar hit a high for the week in Tokyo of 110.04 yen Monday.

But on Wednesday, the upward momentum started to affect the yen to the detriment of Japanese exporters, with the yen rising to the range of 108 yen to the dollar.

On Thursday and Friday, the yen was seen in the lower

half of the 108 yen range with the overall dollar-weakening trend threatening to send it below 108 yen from time to time.

The dollar touched the week's Tokyo low of 108.08 yen Thursday. Later in the day, the dollar fell into the 107 yen range overseas before returning to the 108 yen range on the threat of Bank of Japan (BOJ) interventions.

But on Friday, the dollar came close to sinking below a three-year Tokyo low of 107.52 yen hit Nov 14, 2000, when the day's release of a disappointing US jobs data for November pushed the currency as low as 107.53 yen.

The US Labour Department said the US economy created only 57,000 jobs in the nonfarm sector in the month, much smaller than economists' forecasts of 120,000-200,000.

Internet

China Tibet Culture Week" opens in Thailand

BANGKOK, 7 Dec—"China Tibet Culture Week," the first of its kind ever held in Thailand, opened here Friday evening. Against a backdrop of snow-capped mountains and Lama temples, Tibetan performers with ethnic fineries unveiled the event at the National Stadium in downtown Bangkok.

Li Bing, Vice-Minister of the Information Office of the State Council of China, read a message of congratulation from Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao at the opening ceremony.

"The culture week is a great event in cultural exchanges between the two countries," Wen said in the message. "The Tibetan culture is a component of the treasure house of the splendid Chinese culture and a unique treasure in world culture."

The Premier hailed China and Thailand as close neighbours and trustworthy partners and said that the fraternal friendship fostered during the long-term friendly co-operation between the two countries has become even closer and was displaying its vitality as time goes by.

Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra also sent a message to the event.

Thaksin said in his message that Thailand and China have long enjoyed close and friendly relations which have been moving toward a strategic partner-

ship covering all areas of co-operation.

"Cultural exchanges such as this will certainly help promote better mutual understanding between our peoples," the Thai Prime Minister said.

"Moreover, as the Thai and Tibetan people are predominantly Buddhists and share many similarities, we are very glad to have an opportunity to learn more about Tibetan culture and traditions," he said in the message.

The event, scheduled to last until December 18, would offer local audience a pano-

ramic view on Tibet with typical Tibetan singing, dancing, movies and exhibitions.

Li Bing, who heads the delegation of "China Tibet Culture Week," said in his opening speech that the performances and exhibitions in the following two weeks would help Thai people know more about Tibet and become more interested in the fascinating place.

In 2001 and 2002, China staged similar cultural events in Australia, New Zealand, Belgium and Canada.

MNA/Xinhua



An elderly Iraqi man walks past a US soldier securing a street near a riverbank in the town of Baquba in central Iraq on 6 December, 2003.

INTERNET

Don't smoke

Rome accord on Iraqi loans set to help trade

ROME, 7 Dec — The Iraqi economy got a boost on Friday when 16 countries signed a deal to release more than 2.0 billion US dollars in short-term export guarantees for companies looking to win reconstruction contracts in Iraq.

Marek Belka, the head of economic policy in Iraq's US-led temporary administration, said the agreement would make it much easier for Iraqi firms to buy badly-needed goods from abroad and make them less reliant on costly hard-cash transactions.

"This is a very important event for the private sector and positive for the reconstruction effort," Belka told *Reuters* after the signing ceremony in the Italian Treasury.

The two biggest contributors were the United States and Japan, which each offered loan guarantees of around 500 million US dollars, said an Italian official, who declined to be named.

The US Export-Import Bank announced in Washington its 500-million-US-dollar programme was now open for business.

The US short-term insurance facility is intended to support sales of consumer goods, spare parts, bulk agricultural commodities, fertilizer, capital equipment and raw materials.

Germany, which was adamantly opposed to the US-led invasion of Iraq, signed up to Friday's deal, but France, another fervent critic of the war, was conspicuously absent.

The loans will be handled by the Trade Bank of Iraq, which was created in July by the US-led authorities in Baghdad and is being operated by an international consortium headed by US bank JP Morgan Chase Co.

Friday's deal will make it possible for Iraqi agencies and oil concerns to buy big-ticket items from abroad using letters of credit under-

pinned by national governments.

"Iraqis at the moment have to pay cash for pretty much everything, which is hugely cumbersome and risky," Belka said.

"The fact that the Trade Bank of Iraq can now issue letters of credit will make it easy for Iraqis to buy goods in a more civilized and safer fashion. It will also reduce their costs."

Officials expected initial demand from Iraq to focus on consumer goods, such as food.

Italy's credit export agency SACE put some 250 million euros (301.5 million US dollars) on the table for short-term guarantees. Another 750 million euros have been earmarked for medium-to-long-term projects, but that money is frozen.

"We do not think that there are the conditions yet for medium-to-long term investment programmes," said an official at SACE, referring to the security situation in Iraq.

MNA/Reuters

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Iraqis stand on top of a burned police car in Samarra, Iraq on 6 Dec 2003. A funeral for two Iraqis killed in a firefight with US troops turned violent. — INTERNET

South Koreans rally against sending troops to Iraq

SEOUL, 7 Dec — Some 3,000 people rallied near the US embassy in Seoul on Saturday to protest the South Korean government's decision to send troops to Iraq, witnesses said.

The protestors braved freezing temperatures and gusting winds to chant anti-US and anti-government slogans on the pavement, some 150 metres away from the US embassy compound.

"No troops to Iraq," they shouted while waving banners. The protestors included activists, workers, students, teachers, farmers, street vendors and representatives for the urban poor.

They also chanted slogans opposing a free trade agreement with Chile and opening the market to agricultural imports.

Companies of riot police, who outnumbered the demonstrators, formed human barriers to block roads leading to the embassy.

Last month South Korean President Roh Moo-Hyun said he would consider sending around 3,000 troops, mostly non-combatants, to Iraq — far fewer than the United States requested. More than 400 non-combatants from South Korea are already in Iraq.

The sensitive US request for more troops has split South Korean public opinion and the issue is heating up after an attack killed two South Koreans in Iraq and injured two others six days earlier.

The four electrical company workers from Seoul were ambushed in their car on a highway near the Iraqi town of Tikrit. — *Internet*

Family expert warns divorce can psychologically damage children

WELLINGTON, 7 Dec — Divorce is as harmful to some children as a high-fat, high-cholesterol diet, a visiting family expert has warned.

Professor Paul Amato of Pennsylvania State University of the United States told the Strengthening Family Relationships Conference in Wellington Thursday that the effects of divorce on children could be as harmful as a "high-fat, high-cholesterol diet", according to *The Dominion Post* here Friday.

"Yet we think of changing peoples' diet as being an issue of public health," he told the meeting.

Children became distressed when caught in the middle of a divorce. It had

psychological effects that could persist for decades, Amato said.

He said that divorce often severed important ties with a child's father. It frequently stood in the way of "authoritative" parenting, which studies had shown was best for children.

Authoritative parents were not just supportive and helpful, but also "quite firm". "They're not like dictators but use democratic control," Amato said.

The more child support fathers paid the better their children performed in school, Amato's study had shown.

Amato said children often rejected their stepfather when their mother remarried, partly out of fear of being disloyal to their biological father. Amato has suggested the divorced parents held off remarriage until their children adjusted to the "dramatic" change of divorce.

MNA/Xinhua

Iraq mourners open fire, killing policeman

SAMARRA, 7 Dec — Iraqis mourning two men killed in a firefight with US troops clashed Saturday with civil defence forces, killing one officer and setting his pickup truck ablaze. "Long live Saddam!" they chanted as the vehicle smoldered.

Further north, gunmen killed a police rookie in the latest attack on Iraqis seen as collaborating with the US occupation. US forces arrested arms dealers and broke up a cell they said was planning attacks on Americans.

In Baghdad, an explosion in a truck killed at least two men late Saturday.

Police found remnants of what appeared to be a mortar and shells at the site. It was not immediately clear whether the victims were guerrillas or bystanders.

The mourners in Samarra were burying two men killed last week in running battles with US forces. After the Americans returned their bodies on Saturday, about 1,000 people marched to the cemetery to bury them. As is customary in Iraq, they fired weapons in the air.

A group of Iraqi officers from the US-led civil defence corps told them to put away their guns, witnesses said, and the mourners opened fire, shooting one of the officers in the head and chasing away the others.

Minutes later, dozens of people jumped up and down on the charred pickup truck, chanting "Long live Saddam! Death to the traitors".

Samarra is 60 miles north of Baghdad in the so-called Sunni Triangle, where opposition to the US-led occupation has been fiercest.

Internet



South Korean protesters chant anti-government slogans at a rally in Seoul on 6 Dec, 2003. Thousands of protesters gathered on Saturday to demand the government stop the plan to dispatch more troops to Iraq. — *INTERNET*

Vietnam to produce anti-SARS clothing

HANOI, 7 Dec — Vietnam is likely to make clothes from a special cloth imported from the United States, which are used to protect wearers from severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) and other fatal contagious diseases.

The country's leading local garment maker Viet Tien is proposing that the state allow it to tax-free import Prevent cloth produced by US firm Kappler. A domesti-

cally-made suit will cost less than 10 US dollars, compared to import prices of 15 dollars.

Next year, Viet Tien will produce anti-SARS clothing for export to the United States under a deal inked with Kappler.

Anti-SARS suits were used during the outbreak of the deadly disease in some regions in Asia.

MNA/Xinhua

Figures show funds for Iraq are far short of pledges

WASHINGTON, 7 Dec — Six weeks after organizers of an international donors conference in Madrid said that more than \$3 billion in grants had been pledged to help Iraq with immediate needs, a new World Bank tally verifies grants of only \$685 million for 2004.

The vast gap seems to have occurred largely for two reasons: some countries, like Japan, changed the nature of their commitment after the conference from immediate aid to slower, long-term help; and some that had left their intentions unclear were incorrectly assumed to be giving immediate aid.

Many experts also say that donation pledges often do not materialize in the end, or come in the harder-to-tally form of credits for the purchase of commodities.

The grant money for immediate needs was part of a total \$13 billion that organizers said was raised at the conference.

The Bush administration does not dispute the gap, but officials say it is too early for an accurate count, asserting that the number of grants will probably grow.

Some United Nations officials concur. "We know the Japanese are rethinking what they're going to do," said Julia Taft, director of the Bureau of Crisis Prevention and Recovery at the United Nations Development Fund. "But once we get our trust funds up and running, about 15 donors will come forward. It's like, the money is in the bank, but the bank doesn't exist yet."

An independent trust fund was promised at the Madrid conference

and is due to be set up next week.

Aid officials acknowledge that it is not yet clear how much money will end up going to Iraq outside the American contribution of \$18.7 billion in the next year.

The World Bank's new calculation is that of the total pledged for Iraq, \$3.7 billion would be in grants and the rest in loans. But those totals are for the period ending in 2007.

The Bush administration had hoped that the bulk of the aid would be available immediately. But there have been delays with loan money, too. International law allows only a sovereign government to incur debt, legal experts say. —Internet

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France continues to refuse to take part in Iraq reconstruction

ROME, 7 Dec—The United States has recruited 15 countries to help it rebuild Iraq, but the French are still refusing to take part in the effort.

Paris and Washington differed vehemently over the US-led war in Iraq, and the French are still refusing to have any official part in the Iraq reconstruction.

Iraq's interim trade minister says the \$2.4-billion deal would do for Iraq what the Marshall Plan did for Europe after World War II.

The deal was signed in Rome Saturday by Iraq's

Coalition Provisional Authority, government export banks from the 16 participating countries and the Trade Bank of Iraq.

Participants include: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Britain, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Poland, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United States. —Internet



Soldiers of the US Army's 4th Infantry Division, patrol the streets of Saddam Hussein's hometown of Tikrit, Iraq, north of Baghdad, on 6 Dec, 2003.—INTERNET

Glaciers in Canada recede quickly

OTTAWA, 7 Dec — Glacier cover in the Canadian Rockies is nearing its lowest point in 10,000 years and water levels on the country's biggest river of St Lawrence have fallen significantly in the last century, it is reported here Friday.

About 1,300 of Canada's glaciers have lost between 25 percent and 75 percent of their mass since 1850, Statistics Canada said Wednesday in a report entitled Human Activity and the Environment.

The report said most of the losses have been recorded in the last 50 years. "Along

the eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains, glacier cover is receding rapidly and is now close to its lowest level in 10,000 years," the report added.

On the St Lawrence River, levels at Montreal "averaged two metres above the long-term average low-water mark at the outset of the

last century".

Matthew Bramley, director of climate change at Alberta's Pembina Institute for Appropriate Development, told reporters that the recession of Rocky Mountain glaciers has long been attributed to global warming.

MNA/Xinhua

Beethoven manuscript fetches \$2m

LONDON, 7 Dec — A signed manuscript of one of Ludwig van Beethoven's string quartets fetched nearly 1.2 million pounds (2.1 million US dollars) at auction on Friday.

The 31-page manuscript of Beethoven's Scherzo from his String Quartet Opus 127 in E Flat Major was bought by a private buyer for 1,181,600 pounds, Sotheby's auction house said in a statement. "The result achieved by the Scherzo sold today confirms beyond all doubt the strength both of the market and of the demand for autograph works by this legendary composer," said Stephen Roe, head of Sotheby's European Book Department.

Beethoven composed the Scherzo at the request of a Russian prince in 1824-25. The manuscript includes alterations and additions made by the composer himself. — MNA/Reuters

Microsoft launches Internet portal in Indonesia

JAKARTA, 7 Dec — Microsoft has officially announced the launch of MSN Indonesia, a localized web site of worldwide portal msn.com.

"Of the 350 million subscribers to msn.com, 306,000 are Hotmail users and 110,000 are MSN Messenger users from Indonesia, so we want to make it easier for them by providing a local MSN site, using the Indonesian language as an interface," PT Microsoft Indonesia president Tony Chen was quoted here by *The Jakarta Post* as saying. Besides Hotmail and MSN Messenger, the new site, msn.co.id, will offer local news, search engines, online shopping, as well as electronic dating services — all services offered by the original portal.

Meanwhile, Shriram Adukoorie, director of MSN South Asia, admitted that partnerships with local companies in providing local news and other content were still being negotiated, so the web site was only partially finished on the launch date.

"We invite local companies to enter into partnerships with us in running this web site — for example, partnerships with local media to provide the latest news for our web site," Shriram said. Nevertheless, Shriram was confident that the number of local customers would grow by 100 per cent over the next 12 months.

MSN Indonesia will also offer services such as MSN Mobile so that subscribers can receive e-mail messages, breaking news or chat with their friends via mobile phone.

Indonesia, with a total population of over 210 million, is a land of opportunity for business people offering online services.

Although not many people have Internet access at home, many users, including those residing in minor cities, enjoy Internet facilities through local Internet cafes and in schools.

MNA/Xinhua

Ireland has won the Miss World beauty pageant, held this year for the first time in China

HAINAN, 7 Dec—Rosanna Davison, 19, took the title on China's tropical island of Hainan, watched by millions of people around the world.

China only recently lifted a 54-year ban on beauty contests and spent millions sprucing up the venue.

Miss Davison, the daughter of rock singer Chris de Burgh, is a university student in the Irish capital, Dublin.

Mr De Burgh - best known for his hit Lady In Red - told reporters backstage: "I'm absolutely thrilled, I'm seriously proud of her."

Miss Canada, Nazanin Afshin-Jam, took second place, while the host country's Miss China, Guan Qi, was third.

Beauty queens from a record 106 countries have been parading before the cameras in recent days at China's historic sites and beauty spots.

They wrapped themselves in fur coats on a snowy Great Wall and unpacked their swimsuits on the southern island of Hainan dubbed as "China's Hawaii".

The city of Sanya has spent more than \$30 million sprucing itself up for the cameras, as the show for the first time was to be shown on China's state television.

A \$12 m complex was built especially for the pageant. Among the panel of judges of this year's finals are the Hollywood actor and martial arts star, Jackie Chan, and the Miss World 2001 from Nigeria, Agbani Darego.

Internet

Miss Ireland (centre), 19-year-old Rosanna Davison, won the Miss World competition held on Saturday in Hainan, China. Second place went to Miss Canada (right), Ms Nazanin Afshin-Jam, while the host country's Ms Guan Qi took third. — INTERNET



Bomb attack kills US soldier, wounds two in Iraq

MOSUL (Iraq), 7 Dec — Guerrillas blew apart a US Humvee with a roadside bomb in the northern Iraq city of Mosul on Sunday, killing one American soldier and wounding two in the latest deadly strike on occupying forces.

Sergeant Kelly Tyler of the 101st Airborne Division told Reuters that explosives were detonated as a US convoy drove past in Mosul, Iraq's third-largest city. Police who rushed to the scene said the blast destroyed a Humvee in the three-vehicle convoy.

"We heard an explosion and ran towards it. I saw four US soldiers lying on the ground, with their Humvee destroyed," policeman Hamid Saleh said.

According to the latest Pentagon figures, 307 US soldiers have been killed in action since the start of the war to oust Saddam, 192 of them since President George W Bush declared major combat over on May 1.

Iraqi guerrillas have mounted daring attacks against US forces and their allies as well as Iraqis cooperating with the occupation. —Internet



A US army vehicle (rear) passes Iraqi men lined up for gasoline at a gasoline station in Baghdad on 6 Dec, 2003.—INTERNET

EU ministers agree transport priorities

BRUSSELS, 7 Dec — European Union governments approved a list of transport infrastructure projects on Friday which will be eligible for EU funding — the Trans-European Networks (TENs) aimed at boosting Europe's economy.

In a meeting shown on closed-circuit television, EU transport ministers approved the list and added just one to the 29 projects — a canal between the Netherlands, Belgium and France. The list must be confirmed by the European Parliament.

Ministers looked headed for a deadlock when several countries, including Ireland, Portugal and Sweden, tried to add new projects to the list,

a process some EU diplomats said was inevitable if any alterations were made to the proposal.

But the new canal project, linking waterways between the river Seine in France and the Schelde on the Dutch-Belgian border, was the only addition as ministers accepted it was not included on the original list largely due to technical reasons.

"I am very, very happy,"

French Transport Minister Gilles de Robien told reporters. "It wasn't looking good for the Seine-Schelde."

European Union Transport Commissioner Loyola de Palacio resisted the addition, saying it would open a Pandora's box allowing other countries and the European Parliament to overload the list with new projects.

MNA/Reuters

Britain lifts warning against travel to Turkey

LONDON, 7 Dec — The British Government on Friday removed its warning against travel to major cities of Turkey, while still claiming a high threat level in the country.

"Whilst there is still a high threat level in Turkey, the advice against all but most essential travel to Istanbul and other major cities has been removed from the (Travel) Advice.

This is in response to a change in the assessment of the immediate threat," the summary of the British Foreign Office's newly updated travel advice read.

MNA/Xinhua

Malaysian exports up 4.4% in October

KUALA LUMPUR, 7 Dec — Malaysia's exports in October stood at nine billion US dollars, up 4.4 per cent over that of previous month, a Press release on Malaysia External Trade Statistics indicated on Friday.

This was the highest monthly export figure recorded since September 2000, said the Press release issued here.

The total imports in October this year rose to 7.42 billion US dollars compared with 6.68 billion US dollars in September.

The trade surplus for the month under review arrived at 1.58 billion US dollars.

For the period January-October this year, total value of exports reached 81.67 billion US dollars, up 5.4 per cent over that of same period last year. —MNA/Xinhua

Study says cocaine, ecstasy cause DNA mutation

ROME, 7 Dec — Cocaine and ecstasy not only cause addiction and raise the risk of cancer but also provoke genetic mutations, Italian scientists said on Friday.

"Cocaine and ecstasy have proved to be more dangerous than we had imagined," said Giorgio Bronzetti, chief scientist at the National Centre for Research's (CNR) biotechnology department.

"These drugs, on top of their toxicological effects, attack DNA provoking mutations and altering the hereditary material. This is very worrying for the effects it could have on future generations," he said.

The use of ecstasy, a drug popular at all-night dance parties, increased by 70 per

cent between 1995 and 2000, according to a United Nations report published in September.

Ecstasy and amphetamines have overtaken cocaine and heroin as the fastest growing global narcotics menace, the study said.

The CNR report, which took more than three years to complete, said animal tests had shown a direct relationship between ecstasy and cocaine intake and the effects on DNA.

MNA/Reuters

International media protests US visa policy, treatment of journalists

International media protests US visa policy, treatment of journalists

VIENNA (Austria), 7 Dec — International journalists are complaining that a US requirement for them to have special visas is unfair.

An Austrian journalist on his way to interview Ben Affleck for a movie magazine was detained, handcuffed, held overnight and deported.

Several say that in the past they were able to enter the United States for jour-

nalistic work without visas.

A photographer for a Danish newspaper says he was detained, his fingerprints and DNA taken and that he was escorted to his return flight.

Six French journalists were detained overnight in

Los Angeles, then forced to cross the entire airport in handcuffs and without belts or laces. The Belgium-based International Federation of Journalists plans to launch a global campaign against the US rules in coming days.

Internet

UN says digital divide between rich and poor narrowing

GENEVA, 7 Dec — The digital divide between rich and poor nations, measuring the gap in access to the Internet and telecommunications, is narrowing faster than many expected, a United Nations agency said recently.

Days before a world information summit in Geneva, which has "the divide" high on the agenda, the International Telecommunication Union said telephone networks had spread rapidly across the developing world during the past decade.

"Fixed and mobile telephone networks have grown more dramatically...than in the entire period before that date (1990)," said Esperanza Magpantay, one of the authors of the World Telecommunication Development Report 2003.

As a result, even a country as poor as Ethiopia, where only 0.3 per cent of the population are phone owners, some 80 per cent had reasonable access to public phones, fellow author Michael Minges told journalists.

At the same time, market research reports on Internet access in the European Union had routinely overestimated usage because when national statistics in-

stitutes carried out similar surveys, the figures were on average 13 per cent lower than claimed in the research, he added.

"The digital divide is not as big as it was thought to be. In the EU there is probably less and in developing countries more than we thought," Minges said.

As a result, he added, it was probably unnecessary for developing countries to press for financial aid for telecommunications' infrastructure to be included in the proposed action plan for the December 10-12 summit.

A call by some developing countries for a "solidarity" fund is one of the areas of disagreement that envoys must try to resolve in

final preparatory negotiations set for this weekend.

But while the infrastructure might be in place, more must be done to reduce costs and increase awareness of how best to use so-called information and communication technologies — anything from the Internet to radio.

Above all, better statistics were needed about use and availability, particularly in developing countries, to enable governments to plan effective strategies, the report said.

"There is a dearth of information for the world's poorest economies. This statistical divide is as great as — or even greater than — the digital divide," it added. —MNA/Reuters



Tourists ride horses near the 4,500-year old Sphinx at Giza near Cairo, on 6 Dec, 2003. Foreign tourism in Egypt has bounced back in recent months, following a 25 per cent decline earlier in the year during the height of the Iraq war. —INTERNET

Border area development: Once upon a time in Mawpha region

Myint Soe (Na-ta-la)

Ko Khin Maung Cho (Poet Ko Cho San), a friend of mine, contributed a poem to the National Races magazine, published by the Department for Development of Border Areas and National Races. His poem reminded me of the days when we were collectively upgrading Metman into a town. Great! He could tell us about Metman with his poems.

Another friend of mine, Ko Ohn Myint, knew the Mawpha area very well. He had served in the No 77 Light Infantry Division. Although he is not a poet, he can tell us about Mawpha very well.

He told us that, "When we went to Mawpha in 1986-87, we had to cross Tapain River from a jetty on board a pontoon boat. Mawpha then was a hamlet with only 14 or 15 houses. It is located on a mountain over 5,000 feet above the sea level. From the mountain we could see Thanlwin River flowing silently on the lowland. In the east we could see the beautiful natural scene as far as the eye could see. The Point 5710, lying near Metman, was higher than the village. When there were battles in the area, the No 77 Light Infantry Division took a foothold at the Point. In the east not far from the Point was Thankhamouk Hillock. The Tatmadaw members had to make much sacrifices to seize it from the BCP. The BCP had military camps in Yaung-U and Yaung-aw. Our troops were stationed in Lon-nauk and Twa-nauk villages in the north-west. I had discharged military duties at Hsok-wo in the south of Mawpha. It was also a hamlet with only 14 or 15 houses. There were poppy fields at the village."

Permanent guests in Mawpha region

Aye Win was one of my classmates during my four years at the Defence Services Academy. He was quick to make friends with anybody and friendly with everyone at the institution. When we had completed our studies at the DSA, duties were assigned to us to serve in the forward areas. When I asked him his assignment, he told me that he was assigned to Battalion No 105 under the No 77 LID. That was the last time I had seen him and heard his voice. He sacrificed his life for the national cause at a battle in Mawpha region as a 2nd Lt. Other Tatmadaw members including Cap Maung Yi, who was awarded the Thiha Thura Title for gallantry, also sacrificed lives in Mawpha region.

Mawpha in the past

In the past, areas lying in the north and west of the Mawpha region were under the control of BCP, Mongpyin was in the south and Thanlwin River and Monghsu Township were in the west. It was also known as Thanlwin/Mawpha region. Residing there were Wa, Shan and Lahu races. Although it was included in the Panyang Township it was difficult for the authorities to open and run administrative

offices in Mawpha as it was on the other bank of the Thanlwin. Thus, the region was under the control of the BCP for many years.

Director U Sein Lin of our department was another person who knew the Mawpha region very well. Although 20 years have passed, he could draw the map of the region and pinpoint the villages, Tatmadaw camps, enemy positions, the places where battles took place, and the jetty from which he and his troops crossed the Thanlwin. He was from the No 104 Light Infantry Regiment.

The battalions under the command of the No 77 LID engaged battles with the BCP troops and liberated many areas from under the BCP control. While listening to his words, my mind went back to the officers mess of the No 104 Light Infantry Regiment, where I dined together with my friends, where we recounted our battle experiences, and where we teased each other.

What he told me was the true situation of the Mawpha region. The situation in the region was getting worse then. The death of my friend Aye Win was a proof. The Tatmadaw and the BCP were engaging in deadly battles to seize all the strategic places in the region. Villages in the region were destroyed, and became deserted or ghost villages because of the battles. Even at the time when the Tatmadaw was able to control most of the areas of the region, the local people still lacked knowledge and necessities.

There were no schools, hospitals and dispensaries. The military medical health attendants of the nearby military bases were giving medical treatment to the patients at the villages in the region. As for the villagers, they thought that the anti-malaria drug was enough for curing all kinds of diseases.

Mountain springs were the sources of water for drinking and other purposes as there was not a single pond or well of clean water in the region. There was no electricity and cars. When the supply convoy arrived, the local people came and helped carry the rations. Afterwards, they were on a joyride on the cars.

Tarwein Nong was the only jetty in the region to cross the Thanlwin. Many people lost their lives while trying to cross the river. Household goods were rare as transport was difficult. Even the household goods like soaps were rare. Any kind of foodstuff including salt was expensive. They had to satisfy their life with chilli and salt as the only daily curry. They are sincere people. But their troubles were so big. Who have saved them from those troubles?

(Translation: TMT)

Kyemon+Myanma Alin: 5 December 2003.

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

စာတုတ္တအကြိမ်

မြန်မာ့တိုင်းရင်းဆေးသမားတော်များညီလာခံ

ကျိုက္ကဆံကွင်း၊ ပြည်ထောင်စုနေ့မ

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

စာတုတ္တအကြိမ်

တိုင်းရင်းဆေးနှင့်ဆေးပညာညှိနှိုင်းပြပွဲ

တပ်မတော်နေ့မ

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

Archdiocesan Youth Apostolate (Yangon) celebrates silver jubilee

YANGON, 6 Dec — The Archdiocesan Youth Apostolate (Yangon) held a ceremony to mark its silver jubilee at the Strand Hotel on Strand Road here this evening.

It was attended by Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko, diplomats of foreign embassies in Yangon, Director-General of the Religious Affairs

Department Dr Myo Myint and Deputy Director-General U Htin Myo, the Bishop and Fathers and officials of the Archdiocesan Youth Apostolate (Yangon), Catholic youths and guests.

The youths of the AYA (Yangon) sang a hymn to mark the silver jubilee. Next, the president of the AYA (Yangon) presented a brief biography of the association.

Afterwards, the deputy minister and Bishop Charles Bo delivered speeches on the occasion.

Youths in charge Father Edwin David spoke words of thanks, followed by asking for God's favour and protection for all.

Next, a dinner was hosted and entertainment programmes were presented to those present.

MNA

Hockey tourney opened

YANGON, 7 Dec — The seventh Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services (Army, Navy and Air)'s Shield Hockey Tournament was opened at the state sports grounds in Taunggyi on 3 December afternoon.

Among the spectators were Shan State Peace and Development Council Chairman Eastern Command Commander Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint and wife, military officers of the command and departmental officials.

The commander addressed the opening ceremony and watched the first match in which the central command team played against No 11 LID team.

Altogether 18 teams are participating in the tournament which continues till 17 December.

MNA



Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko addresses silver jubilee celebration of Archdiocesan Youth Apostolate (Yangon) on 6-12-2003. — MNA

Lt-Gen Maung Bo meets...

(from page 16)

Speaking on the occasion, Lt-Gen Maung Bo said that the government is implementing plans for equitable development of the areas throughout the country including border areas; as Kayin State is included in one of the areas of development, departmental personnel are required to organize local people so as to participate in the regional development tasks; departmental officials are to harmoniously and actively cooperate in undertaking the tasks; in addition, service personnel must carry out the tasks to give wide knowledge to the local people.

Then, Lt-Gen Maung Bo cordially met those present.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Maung Bo and Commander Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung arrived at Mebaung Monastery in Hpa-an where they paid homage to State Ovadacariya Agga Maha Pandita Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Mebaung Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Indriya, aged 94 and vasa 74. They asked after health of the Sayadaw and donated provisions to the Sayadaw.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo left Hpa-an at 11.30 am and arrived back here in the evening.—MNA

Construction work of Monywa Airport inspected

YANGON, 7 Dec — Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe, accompanied by Director of the Department for Civil Aviation U Ohn Myint and officials, arrived at the finished wood factory of Tagon Wood-based Industrial Co Ltd in Sagaing, Sagaing Division, jointly undertaken by Sagaing Division War Veterans Organization and Flying Tiger Co Ltd, on 5 December. Deputy Manager of the factory U Ko Ko Myint reported on the site chosen for construction of the building of Tagon Wood-based Industrial Co Ltd, location, laying of pipe line and construction of the water tank.

Managing Director of the Co U Mya Khaing reported on production and sale of timber, requirements and supply of raw materials and sale of finished products. Next, the minister fulfilled

the needs.

The minister and party inspected the machinery at the factory and gave necessary instructions to officials.

The minister and party went to the construction site of Monywa Airport. Managing Director of Shwe Thanlwin Highway Co U Zaw Win Tun reported to North West Command Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye and Minister Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe on availability of gravel and fuel oil, use of vehicles and machinery. The commander and the minister attended to the requirements.

Next, they went to the northern part of the runway and inspected earth work and tarring of road. The commander and the minister also inspected along the runway of the airport and gave necessary instructions to officials.

MNA

Myanmar team bags five silver, seven bronze more

YANGON, 7 Dec — The Myanmar sports contingent won five more silver and seven bronze today.

Winners of silver medal were Kyaw Oo and Aung Hsan Oo in the double event in the billiard tournament; Yin Hwa Thong Lwe in Khata event of the women's judo tournament; Aye Aye Thin in the 52-kilo event of the women's judo tournament; Aye Aye Aung in the women's 57-kilo event and Yan Naing Soe in the men's 73-kilo event.

Winners of bronze

medal were the men's team in the 50-m prome rifle shooting event and Aung Nyein Ni in the single shooting event; Win Lwin Oo in the men's 80-kilo Kumite event of judo Tournament and Aung Thura in the men's 10000-m race; the women's two-oar western style rowing event; Lay Nanda Aung in the women's 63-kilo event of the judo Tournament and Tun Tin Htoo in the men's 66-kilo event in the judo Tournament.

MNA

A&I Minister arrives back

YANGON, 7 Dec — The Myanmar delegation led by Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin arrived back here by air yesterday evening after attending the 32nd Conference of United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization held in Rome, Italy.

The delegation was wel-

comed back at Yangon International Airport by Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun, Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein, Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Ohn Myint, Directors-General and Managing Directors and officials.—MNA



Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Thein Zaw unveils signboard of Myanmar Shopping Mall. (News page 1) MNA



Managing Director U Htay Aung of Ministry of Hotels and Tourism and Managing Director U Teza of Htoo Trading Co Ltd formally open Myanmar Shopping Mall. (News page 1)—MNA

Commander inspects TadaU Township Hospital, Pansay creek in Mandalay

YANGON, 7 Dec — Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint, accompanied by departmental officials, made an inspection tour of TadaU Township Hospital on 3 December. The commander inspected operation theatre, patient wards and dental section. Dr Su Su Kyi reported to the commander on measures being taken for

giving medical treatment in the hospital.

Next, the commander encouraged the patients undergoing medical treatment and gave instructions to officials.

Afterwards, the minister proceeded to Pansay creek, TadaU and inspected construction of the bridge in progress.

The minister gave necessary instructions and attended to the needs.

MNA

Mass sports activities launched in Bago Division

YANGON, 7 Dec — Chairman of Bago Division Peace and Development Council Southern Command Commander Brig-Gen Ko Ko and wife, departmental officials at division/district/township levels, members of Maternal and Child Welfare Association, social organizations, local people and students numbering over 50,000 collectively took a walk in front of Thirihantha hall, Shwemawdaw pagoda yesterday morning, as mass sport activities in the first week of December, 2003.

The commander and those present collectively took a walk along Shwemawdaw pagoda street, Shinsawpu street, Phettan street, Hinthakon street and Thanatpin street and entered into Division Sports Grounds and performed physical exercises.

The commander and officials held lucky draw programme including 32 kinds of personal goods worth over 200,000.

The mass sport activities were held in every townships, Bago Division and will be held every week during December.

MNA

Annual general meeting of MWEA held

YANGON, 7 Dec — Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs' Association held its annual general meeting 2002-2003 at the meeting hall of the association on Shwedagon Pagoda Road in Dagon Township here this morning.

Present at the meeting were patrons of the association, advisers, the president, executives and members.

President of MWEA Daw Sein Sein made an opening speech. Secretary Daw Nu Nu Yi and Auditor Daw Khin Htay Yu submitted and read the annual report 2002-2003 of the executives and financial statements respectively.

Joint Secretary Daw Hla Wady read the list of new

executives for the year 2003-2004, and member Daw Khin Ohn Myint supported the list.

The chairman of the meeting approved the list of new executives including President Daw Khin Myint Myint, Vice-Presidents Daw Thet Yi and Daw Nu Nu Yi Secretary Daw Hla Wady and Joint Secretary Daw Khin Lay.

President Daw Khin Myint Myint extended greetings and handed over K 12 million to the MWEA. The donation was contributed for the funds for organizing the 10th International Women Entrepreneurs' Federation World Conference.

MNA



President Daw Khin Myint Myint presents K 12 million for funds of MWEA to officials.—MNA

Drive safely

Commander inspects...

(from page 16)
have been implemented and feeder canals have been dug in Tetthitkyun and Bawlekyun areas.

Then, local authorities and officials reported on regional development and agricultural matters.

Next, local officials and farmers reported on educa-

tion, health and transport matters for regional development.

Later, the commander attended to their needs and gave instructions that departmental officials are to cooperate with social organizations and local people for development of their respective townships.— MNA

Minister inspects No 2 Agricultural Machinery Factory

YANGON, 7 Dec — Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin, together with officials, yesterday morning arrived at No 2 Agricultural Machinery Factory (Malun) of Myanma Agricultural Machinery Industries in Minhla Township, Magway Division. The General Man-

ager of the factory U Thein Aung reported to the minister on production target and production of new items and future tasks.

The minister next inspected the workshop for the assembling of tractors and gave necessary instructions to officials.— MNA

Great Wall National Championship Badminton Tourney concludes

YANGON, 7 Dec — The final match of Great Wall National Championship Badminton Tournament and the prize presentation, organized by Myanmar Badminton Federation, was held at the Aung San Stadium this morning. Among the spectators were officials of the Ministry of Sports, patrons

and executives of Myanmar Women Sports Federation, patrons and President U Maung Maung Swe of MBF and executives.

After the final match, MWSF General Secretary Daw Aye Aye and U Maung Maung Swe and officials presented prizes to winners.— MNA



Prize presentation ceremony of Great Wall National Badminton Championship in progress.— MNA

Hunger, poverty serious threat to peace

Rome, 7 Dec — Pope John Paul appealed to governments on Friday to tackle hunger and poverty, saying they were a serious threat to peace and that having enough to eat was a basic human right.

"Hunger and malnutrition, aggravated by growing poverty, represent a grave threat to the peaceful coexistence of peoples and nations," he told representatives of the UN's food agency.

"Economic and political decisions... must increasingly be guided by a commitment to global solidarity and respect for fundamental human rights, including the right to ad-

equately nourishment," the 83-year-old Pontiff said.

One in every seven people is now malnourished and the goal of halving world hunger by 2015 is increasingly out of reach, the United Nation's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) said in its annual report, published last week.

"The world cannot remain deaf to the plea of those who demand the food they need in order to survive," the Pope said.

The number of hungry people in the world increased by 18 million to 842 million in 1999-2001 from 1995-1997, the FAO hunger report said.

MNA/Reuters

သစ်ပင်စိုက်ပါ ပျားမွေးပါ
နှစ်ဖြာအကျိုး ဆထမ်းပိုး။



Research paper reading session of MAAFLFC to be held

YANGON, 7 Dec — Organized by Myanmar Academy of Agriculture, Forest and Livestock and Fisheries Science, research paper reading session 2003 will be held from 10 to 12 December.

The opening ceremony of the paper reading session will be opened at the meeting hall of Myanma Agriculture and Livestock Breeding Enterprise (Headquarters), 9th mile, Pyay Road at 9 am of December 10.

The reading session of paper on agriculture will be held at the meeting hall of Myanma Farm Enterprise (Head Office), the paper on forestry at Forestry Department, Insein Township and the paper on livestock breeding and fisheries at Livestock, Feedstuff and Dairy Products Enterprise. MNA

ICRC Conference agrees on measures to protect human dignity

GENEVA, 7 Dec — The 28th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent closed here Saturday with the participants committing themselves to a wide range of measures to protect human dignity.

Over 1,500 representatives of governments and members of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement agreed on an Agenda for Humanitarian Action, which focuses on enhancing protection of people affected by armed conflict and reducing the impact of disasters and disease on vulnerable groups.

The states undertook to improve systems for ascertaining the fate of missing persons and to take effective steps to search for and identify human remains. It was also agreed that all states would pursue the ultimate goal of global elimination of anti-personnel mines.

Furthermore, the conference made a call for protecting humanity from poisoning and the deliberate spread of disease. "We all agreed that urgent action is required to prevent the misuse of biotechnology for hostile purposes and the erosion of the prohibitions on poisoning and the deliberate

spread of disease contained in international humanitarian law," said Jakob Kellenberger, President of The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

Kellenberger particularly welcomed the two objectives of the Humanitarian Agenda which focused on issues relating to the devastating effects of armed conflicts. He said that "the one is aiming at ensuring respect for and restoring the dignity of persons missing as a result of armed conflict and their families, and the other at strengthening protection from the indiscriminate use and effects of weapons through controls on weapons development, proliferation and use".

"This was the first International Conference of the 21st Century, and it came at a time when the world is facing major challenges to peace and security and widespread threats to health," said Conference President Jaime Fernandez.

The 28th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent opened here on December 2 with the protection of human dignity as its central theme.

MNA/Xinhua

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa and Chairman of Hninzigon Home for the Aged Management Board U Maung Tin formally open 42nd Fair. (News reported)— MNA

e-Education Learning Centre

သင်ခန်းစာထုတ်လွှင့်မည့် အစီအစဉ်

နေ့လည် ၁၃:၀၀ နာရီမှ ၁၅:၀၀နာရီအထိ

၈-၁၂-၂၀၀၃ (တနင်္လာနေ့.)

* Mental Disorders

- တတိယနှစ် စိတ်ပညာအထူးပြု ကျောင်းသူ/သားများ

* Educational Anthropology

- ဒုတိယနှစ် ပညာရေးတက္ကသိုလ်/အဝေးသင်

ကျောင်းသူ/သားများ

၉-၁၂-၂၀၀၃ (အင်္ဂါနေ့.)

* Introduction to Biotechnology

- Biotechnology ဘာသာရပ် လေ့လာသင်ကြား

နေသော ကျောင်းသူ/သားများ၊ စိတ်ဝင်စားသူများ

* Pali Language & Literature

- ပါ၊ ဒု၊ တ အရှေ့တိုင်းပညာ အထူးပြု ကျောင်းသူ/

သားများ

၁၀-၁၂-၂၀၀၃ (ဗုဒ္ဓဟူးနေ့.)

* Law of Contract

- LLB (ဒုနှစ်) နှင့် BA (Business Law) (ဒုနှစ်)

* Myanmar Customary Law

- LLB (ဒုနှစ်) နှင့် BA (Myanmar Studies)

(တနှစ်)

၁၁-၁၂-၂၀၀၃ (ကြာသပတေးနေ့.)

* Legal Frame Work on ASEAN

- BA (SEAP Studies) (တနှစ်)

* Constitutions of ASEAN Countries

- BA (SEAP Studies) (တနှစ်)

၁၂-၁၂-၂၀၀၃ (သောကြာနေ့.)

* Environmental Law

- B.Sc (Environmental Studies) (တနှစ်)

* Introduction to Archaeology

- ရှေးဟောင်းသုတေသနပညာ ဘွဲ့ကြို ကျောင်းသူ/

သားများ

နံနက် ၉:၀၀ နာရီမှ ၁၆:၀၀နာရီအထိ

၁၃-၁၂-၂၀၀၃ (စနေနေ့.)

* အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ် ကျောင်းသူ/

သားများအတွက် သင်ခန်းစာများ

၁၄-၁၂-၂၀၀၃ (တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့.)

* အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ် ကျောင်းသူ/

သားများအတွက် သင်ခန်းစာများ

Development of Rakhine State is not a dream

Zaw Min Latt (News Agency)

The State, the people and the Tatmadaw are joining hands in all spheres for building up a peaceful, modern and developed nation.

At present, progress has been achieved in all sectors. The State has constructed dams and reservoirs for agriculture and roads and bridges for transportation.

Sanepauk Bridge constructed by Myanmar engineers on Yangon-Kyaupkyu Road in Ann Township, Rakhine State was inaugurated on 17 November. The Ministry of Construction built the new bridge under the guidance of the Head of State Senior General Than Shwe.

At the inauguration ceremony of the bridge, Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than made a speech. In his speech, he said the State Peace and Development Council has been making strenuous efforts for all-round development to ensure the emergence of a new modern and developed nation. In the process, development projects have been laid down and are being implemented to bring about equitable and harmonious development across the nation. The Sanepauk Bridge opened is situated in Taungup-Ma-ei-Kyaupkyu road section of the Yangon-Kyaupkyu Union Highway. The Kaishay Bridge, the Tanlwe Bridge, Hsabyin Bridge, Lamu Bridge, Ma-ei Bridge have been constructed out of 14 bridges with a length of over 180 feet to be constructed on Taungup-Ma-ei-Kyaupkyu road section. The Sanepauk Bridge is the 7th of its kind to be opened on the road section.

At the auspicious time, Chairman of the Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Commander of the Western Command Maj-Gen Maung Oo and Minister for



Sanepauk Bridge on Yangon-Kyaupkyu Road in Ann Township, Rakhine State.

Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun formally opened the bridge. Afterwards, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than unveiled the stone inscription of the bridge.

The Sanepauk Bridge is 789 feet and four inches long and constructed crossing Sanepauk Creek. The bridge has 24 feet wide motorway and 2 feet wide pedestrian lanes on both sides. Its upper structure is of steel frame and lower structure is of reinforced concrete type. It can withstand 60-ton loads. Its clearance is 170 feet wide and

6 feet in height from the maximum water level.

Now, Lonedawpauk Bridge, Didokepauk Bridge, Thanthamakyi Bridge, Thanthamanchay Bridge, Thazintan Bridge, Wanphike Bridge and Minkyang Bridge are under construction in Rakhine State.

Now, the dream of Rakhine State has come true.

(Translation: AMS)

Kyemon: 29-11-2003

Vajpayee confirms participation in SAARC meet to Jamali

NEW DELHI, 7 Dec — Just ahead of his trip to Nigeria for the Commonwealth Summit, Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee here confirmed his participation in the SAARC summit in Islamabad in January to his Pakistani counterpart Mir Zaffarullah Khan Jamali.

In a letter to Jamali, the Prime Minister "confirmed his participation at the SAARC summit". External Affairs Ministry spokesman said in a statement here.

A letter to this effect was delivered to Pakistan Foreign Office on Thursday morning, he said. The Prime Minister's letter was in response to a letter of invitation from Jamali on August 6, the spokesman said.

Vajpayee's trip to Pakistan takes place at a time when the two countries are in the midst of putting in place confidence-building measures to improve ties.

Indian officials have said while the Prime Minister was bound to come across Pakistani leaders at such a forum, there was no likelihood of any substantive talk on bilateral issues taking place between them.

While welcoming the positive response from Pakistan to its proposals, New Delhi has stuck to the view that dialogue on outstanding issues could be held only when Pakistan took credible steps to end infiltration and cross-border terrorism.

The SAARC Summit is slated to take place from January 4 to 6 when leaders

from the seven-member grouping including Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan and Maldives besides India and Pakistan participate. Vajpayee had last visited Pakistan in February, 1999 when he had undertaken the historic bus ride to Lahore and signed with the then prime minister Nawaz Sharif the historic Lahore Declaration. New Delhi is looking for substantive progress on issues like preferential trading arrangement and the free trade agreement among SAARC leaders to boost regional economic co-operation. — MNA/PTI

Chinese, Pakistani local governments to strengthen cooperation

LAHORE, 7 Dec — Jia Qinglin, chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), said he hoped that local governments of China and Pakistan would strengthen cooperation and learn from each other.

Jia, who is here on an official goodwill visit at the invitation of Pakistani Senate Chairman Mohammed Mian Soomro, made the remarks during his stay here at separate meetings with Punjab Province Chief Minister Chaudhry Parvez Elahi, Governor Khalid Maqbool, Provincial Assembly Speaker Mohammad Afzal Sahi.

Jia, who arrived in this capital of Punjab Province on Friday afternoon from Pakistan's capital city Islamabad, said this is his first visit to Pakistan, which has enabled him to witness the Pakistani people's friendship toward the Chinese people.

He noted that Sino-Pakistani friendship is the common treasure of the two peoples and China's policy on its friendship with Pakistan will never change no matter what happens in the regional and international situations.

China will join Pakistan in continuing to promote the further growth of bilateral relations, stressed Jia.

Punjab provincial leaders said China is not only Pakistan's friendly neighbour, but also a reliable friend.

They welcomed Chinese business communities to invest here and conduct cooperation.

During his stay in Punjab, Jia also visited the Heavy Mechanical Complex built with Chinese assistance, Ghazi Barotha hydropower project with Chinese participation, and the HNR Company Private Limited with investment from China's Haier.

Pakistan is the last leg of Jia's visit to five South Asian nations.

He had visited India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Nepal before arriving here.

MNA/Xinhua

Two more Indian temples to be put on World Heritage list

NEW DELHI, 7 Dec — UNESCO will declare two temples in Darasuram and Kumbakonam in southern India's Tamil Nadu State as World Heritage Temples on Monday, Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) sources said Saturday.

The World Heritage Team from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) will visit these sites on the same day, the *Press Trust of India* quoted the sources as saying.

The team is scheduled to visit on Sunday the world famous Big Temple, which along with the Rock Temples at Mahabalipuram near Chennai in east Indian coast, has already been declared as a Heritage Temple by UNESCO, the PTI reported.

The ASI had sent proposals to UNESCO to declare all these temples as World Heritage Temples, it said.

India has altogether 16 monuments which have been put into the World Heritage list so far.

MNA/Xinhua

"SEAI" expresses concern about agri proposed plans

KOCHI, 7 Dec — The Seafood Exporters Association of India (SEAI) has expressed concern about the Agriculture Ministry's proposed plans to permit joint ventures between Thai and Indian companies to operate large and medium fishing vessels in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

If large deep sea fishing vessels from Thailand were permitted to operate in Indian waters, there would be almost total depletion of deep sea resources, the association said in its memoranda to the central government, copies of which were released to the media in this southern Indian city.

MNA/PTI

Three killed in British light aircraft crash

LONDON, 7 Dec — Three people were killed in a plane crash near Oxford on Saturday when the light aircraft attempted to land, police said.

The victims were believed to be two Belgians and a French national, a spokeswoman for Thames Valley police said.

The plane is believed to have been trying to land at Kidlington Airport in Oxfordshire when it crashed into a field, the spokeswoman said.

"The plane crashed as it was coming into the airport," she said.

"We can confirm that three people died. There are no survivors."

MNA/Reuters

20 injured as local train derails in Italy

MILAN, 7 Dec — A train derailed just north of Milan on Saturday leaving about 20 people injured, police said.

They said the train, which was going from Milan to Saronno, derailed near a station. The derailment was believed to have happened after the train collided with a locomotive.

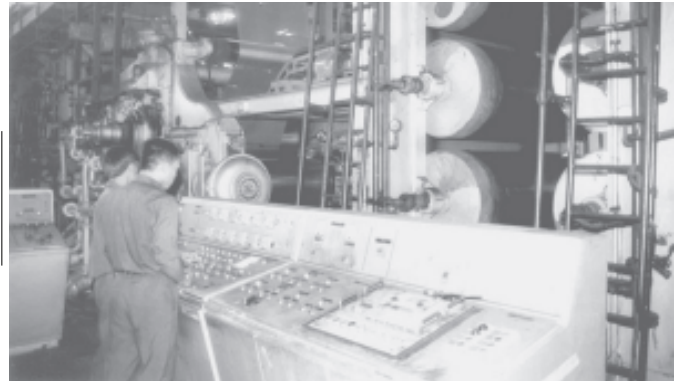
At least five people were hospitalized, at least one in serious condition, according to initial reports.

MNA/Reuters

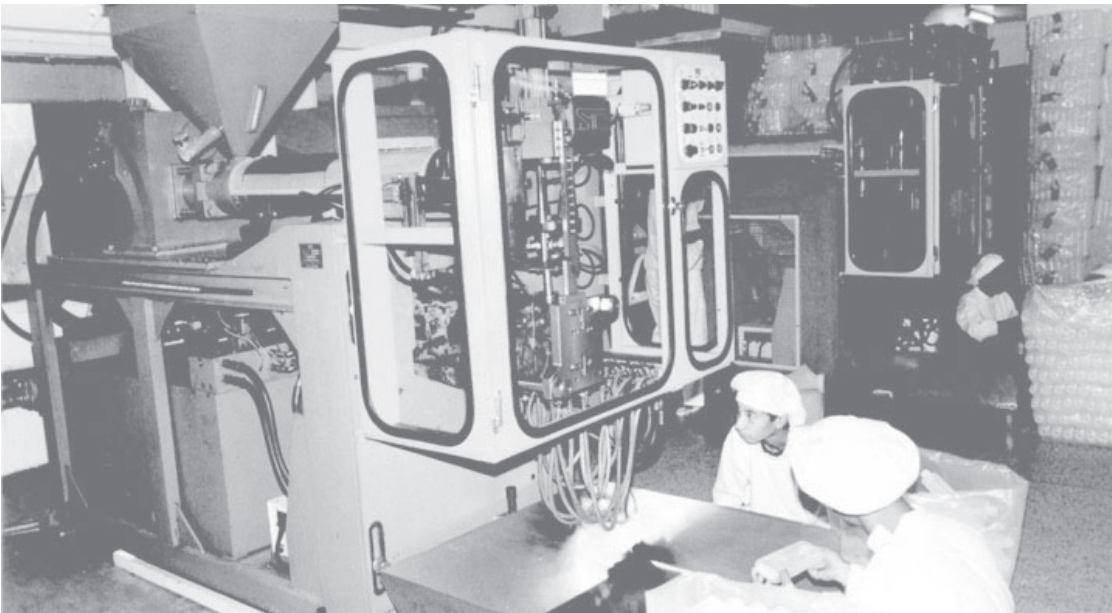
The power of the industrial sector



The diesel engine factory in Indagaw Region, Bago Division, was constructed by the Ministry of Industry-2. It is now manufacturing 18-horse-power engines for water pumps, power-tillers, generators and dinghies. — MNA



No 1 Tyre and Rubber Factory of Myanma Tyre and Rubber Industries under the Ministry of Industry-2 is located six miles from Thaton, Mon State. Thanks to the factory there are job opportunities for over 1,000 people. It produces different kinds of tyres. The photo shows part of the production process at the factory. —PHOTO: HTWE KYI



The Myanmar Pharmaceutical Factory under Myanma Pharmaceutical Industries was constructed on 110.18 acres of land to the west of Kyogon station, Insein Township. The factory produces high quality tablets, medicines, injections, vaccines and intravenous injections.

PHOTO:
AUNG MYAT KYAW



The Battery Workshop established in Dagon Myothit (South) under the Ministry of Industry-2 produces 50,000 National brand batteries a year to fulfil the domestic needs.—PHOTO: INDUSTRY-2

မိမိတို့အတွက် အသံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်ဆို့

Family communication urged to help Chinese children avoid autism

GUANGZHOU, 7 Dec— Psychological experts have urged Chinese parents to communicate about emotions and feelings with their children to help them develop a healthy mind and easy character, and avoid lapsing into autism.

The alert sounded to the dangers of the psychological disorder mainly affecting children following a recent survey among 765 students in five primary and junior schools in Guangzhou, capital of south Guangdong Province, which is one of the country's economically developed areas.

The survey on children's view on family education showed that more than 40 per cent of the interviewees wanted their parents to have a sense of humour, more than 20 per cent would like to join their parents in games, web surfing and other entertainment activities, and about 16 per cent regarded chatting and communication with parents as the favourites at home.

Experts at the provincial psychological health research institute said that the survey reflects the loneliness of children in the present-day society, where

high-rises estrange children from each other.

Chinese children meet their peers and friends mostly during the schooltime and spend their spare time alone at their own homes without companions to play games with or do group activities together with.

Adding to the solitude is that, said the experts, their parents are fully occupied by work and other businesses and thus have not enough time to share with their offspring.

The experts warned that those children alienated from the community for quite a long time are prone to autism, a condition most common among children characterized by self-absorption, which could cause them to grow into adults indifferent to others' feelings and lacking community sense and social responsibility.

MNA/Xinhua

Castro says Cuban revolution will outlast Bush

CARDENAS (Cuba), 7 Dec— Cuban President Fidel Castro said on Friday he will outlast any Bush Administration plans to oust him and Cuba's one-party Communist state will survive his death.

"The group of idiots that met in the White House will die of bitterness and frustration," the 77-year-old Cuban leader said in an address to school children celebrating the 10th birthday of Elian Gonzalez, the shipwrecked boy at the centre of an international custody battle in 2000.

Bush top aides met on Friday at the White House and decided tighter inspections of US citizens travelling to Cuba and a crackdown on illegal business with the Caribbean island to enforce four-decade-old sanctions aimed at undermining Castro.

The Commission for Assistance to a Free Cuba, created in October by President George W Bush to foster a democratic transition on the island and headed by US Secretary of State Colin Powell and Cuban-born Housing Secretary Mel Martinez, met for the first time on Friday at the White House with Bush's National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice.

"This little meeting does not worry us... they would be better off dedicating their time to drinking whiskey and smoking

marijuana," Castro said, speaking to hundreds of school children.

"They hope that 15 minutes after my death the revolution will collapse. They don't know that this country has thousands of leaders," he added.

Castro, who overthrew a US-backed right-wing leader in a 1959 guerilla uprising, has outlasted the hostility of nine US presidents after building a Soviet-styled Communist society 90 miles from the United States.

Since he arrived in the White House, Bush has tightened the screws on Cuba, reducing travel there by academic and cultural exchange groups, and cracking down on Americans who visit the island without a special US Treasury Department permit.

Bush has vowed to veto efforts to amend trade sanctions, such as the lifting of travel restrictions advocated by business groups. Three years ago, US farmers and agribusiness companies successfully lobbied for an exception to the embargo allowing sales of food to Cuba.

MNA/Reuters



A pair of twins flash a victory sign during a party for twins in Nanjing, in east-central China, on 6 Dec, 2003. A total of 423 pairs of twins were invited to the party said to be the biggest held in the former capital.

INTERNET

India may hike agri-import tariff to counter WTO imbalances

ROME, 7 Dec— India has warned that developing countries will have to increase their import tariffs on agricultural products if the developed countries continue with the current mammoth subsidies regime.

"Unabated subsidies by major developed countries leave developing countries with the sole recourse of using tariff related measures to protect their farmers from the adverse consequences of trade distortions", Agriculture Minister Rajnath Singh said here.

Addressing a round table on WTO-related issues in the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) conference Wednesday, he said unfairly gained competitiveness through bulging subsidies and unjustified protection in developed countries have rendered the developing countries vulnerable to the agricultural trade regime.

Plight of African cotton farmers clearly illustrates the perils of lop sided reform in

agricultural trade. Similar deprivations caused by distorted trade are evident across much of the developing world.

Advanced developed world economies must not be allowed to undermine the livelihood security of farmers in developing countries under the guise of self-serving trade reforms.

Singh is here for participating in the FAO conference on Global Food Security. Apart from participating in the round-table discussion, he also held bilateral discussions with European Agriculture Commissioner and his counterparts from Japan, Sweden and Finland. Talks mainly veered round issues concerning negotiations in WTO on agriculture.

MNA/PTI

Study shows smoking cannabis cause damage to lungs

LONDON, 7 Dec— Smoking cannabis is not the harmless recreational activity it may seem because it can cause lung damage, researchers said on Friday.

Regularly smoking three or four joints a week, even for less than six years, can impair lung function and rob the body of antioxidants that protect cells against damage that can lead to heart disease and cancer.

"Smoking cannabis on a regular basis actually depletes your lung of protective antioxidant substances... and this may have chronic long-term implications for young individuals," said Dr Sarah Nuttall of the University of Birmingham in central England.

In a small study involving 20 people aged 19 to 30, including non-smokers and those who smoked tobacco and cannabis, Nuttall and her team took blood samples, measured lung function and tested for antioxidant markers. She presented the finding at a meeting of the British Thoracic Society in London.

"We found that smokers, compared to non-smokers, had impaired lung function," Nuttall said in an interview.

Cannabis smokers also had significantly lower levels of a protective antioxidant and nitric oxide, which is involved in lung function, than non-smokers.

"These findings are important in young

individuals in which the use of cannabis is increasing and may have serious long-term implications for what is currently regarded as a relatively harmless recreational habit," she said.

Dr John Harvey of the British Thoracic Society called for more research into the effects of smoking on the lungs.

"It is vital that young people understand the dangers of both cigarette and cannabis smoking since these habits can start having a serious impact on their lungs at an early stage," he said in a statement.

Some European countries have taken a relaxed approach to cannabis use. Although it is technically illegal in the Netherlands, the drug can be bought and used in cannabis coffee shops in the country.

The Netherlands was also the first nation to make cannabis available as a prescription drug in pharmacies for chronically ill patients. — MNA/Reuters



Germany's Steffen Driesen, competes in the 200-metre backstroke at the World Cup swimming in Durban, South Africa, on 6 Dec, 2003.

INTERNET

သစ်တောသစ်ပင် ချစ်ခင်တဲ့လူမျိုး
သစ်ပင်ကိုနှစ်စဉ်စိုက် ရွှေတိုက်ကိုစိုက်

SPORTS

S-E Asian Games open in Vietnam

HANOI, 7 Dec— The 22nd South-East Asian Games raised its curtain Friday night amid a gala celebration at the My Dinh National Stadium in Hanoi. A team of 11 skydivers carried the national flags of the participating 11 countries and parachuted into the National Stadium, signalling the official start of the nine-day biennial Games.

Vietnamese Prime Minister Phan Van Khai declared open the Games after a parade of more than 5,000 competitors and officials.

Then thousands of athletes, artists and children took up the centre stage with a colourful rendition of traditional songs and dances.

Nearly 4,000 athletes will compete in 32 sports, ranging from traditional pastimes like athletics and soccer to the more exotic pencak silat and sepak takraw. The competition will take place in 11 provinces and cities nationwide, the majority of which in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City. The participating countries are Brunei, Cambodia, Vietnam, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, East Timor, Myanmar, Singapore and Laos, with Thailand and Indonesia considered most likely to dominate the region's biggest sporting event.

Vietnam and Thailand have both registered to compete in all 32 sports. The host nation has the biggest contingent with 690 competitors, while East Timor the smallest with just 16.—MNA/Reuters



Real Madrid's Brazilian player Ronaldo, centre, fights for the ball against Carles Puyol, left and Michael Reiziger of FC Barcelona during a Spanish league soccer match at Camp Nou in Barcelona, Spain, on 6 Dec, 2003. Real Madrid won the game 2-1.—Internet

Eriksson says qualifying not easy

FRANKFURT (Germany), 7 Dec—England coach Sven-Goran Eriksson said his team would not find it easy against British rivals Wales and Northern Ireland in their qualifying group for the 2006 World Cup in Germany.

"It's local derbies, more or less," Eriksson told reporters at the draw on Friday after England were placed in Group Six with Wales, Northern Ireland, Poland, Austria and Azerbaijan.

"Wales did very well in qualification (for Euro 2004), they could have won the group. It will not be easy at all. 'I am sure Wales want to beat England at any cost but we want the same. We will see.'"

After guiding England

through to the Euro 2004 finals, Eriksson will be confident of winning the group and the Swede said he was pleased to have avoided the Netherlands, one of the dangerous floaters in the draw.

Eriksson was also happy to be facing Poland, a team England have played many times in previous qualifying groups.

"I think it's a rather good draw, interesting," Eriksson said. "It's not per-

fect but it's not bad. We will see what happens. It's okay." Wales manager Mark Hughes has fond memories of the last time the Welsh faced England, the former Manchester United and Barcelona striker scoring on his international debut to secure a 1-0 victory at Wrexham in 1984.

"It was in my hometown and I scored the winner. I've got happy memories of that game and I hope to have happy memories of the games we've got ahead of us as well," Hughes told Sky TV. "England are doing very well at the moment. They are one of the top sides so it's a big test for us. I'm sure the Welsh lads will relish the prospect.—MNA/Reuters

Answers for yesterday's Crossword puzzle**Vietnam's gymnasts win first SEA Games gold for hosts**

HANOI, 7 Dec— Hosts Vietnam claimed their first gold medal at the 22nd Southeast Asian Games on Friday as their women gymnasts triumphed in the team event.

The Vietnamese team, composed of Do Thuy Duong, Do Thi Ngan Thuong, Dao Thuy Linh, Duong Minh Hang, Phan Thi Ha Thanh and Tran Thi Phuong Thao, scored a cumulative 124.550 points from four disciplines — vault, uneven bars, balance beam and floor exercise. Singapore took the silver with 124.425 points, with Thailand third with 123.850. Many Vietnamese gymnasts shed tears in delight after the competition as it was a "surprise" win for them.

"We had pinned medal hopes on the men's side," said Nguyen Hoang Bao, coach of the Vietnamese team.—MNA/Xinhua

Philippines wins SEA Games women's team archery gold

HANOI, 7 Dec— The Philippines outscored Malaysia 218-211 in the women's team archery final to win the country's first gold medal at the 22nd Southeast Asian Games here on Friday.

The Philippines, who upset title favourite Indonesia 226-224 in the semifinals, maintained their momentum against the Malaysians and bagged home the gold.

But Malaysia found some solace later as its men archers grabbed the men's team title after defeating Indonesia 236-232 in the final.

The archery competition concluded on Friday as Malaysia won half of the four gold medals available.—MNA/Reuters

Ferguson "feels fine" after heart scare

MANCHESTER (England), 7 Dec— Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson said he "felt fine" on Friday after undergoing hospital treatment for an irregular heart-beat.

The 61-year-old underwent a D-C cardio version, a controlled electronic shock, on Thursday, a statement from the English champions said.

"This was performed successfully on an elective basis yesterday. Everything is normal and Sir Alex feels fine," the statement said.

British media reported that Prime Minister Tony Blair recently underwent similar treatment for the same ailment.

Ferguson is one of the most successful managers in British soccer history having guided United to eight Premier League titles in the last 11 seasons and the 1999 Champions League.

Constantly in the limelight in 17 years as manager of one of the biggest and highest profile clubs in the world, he has had to deal with a number of controversial issues this season.

United defender Rio Ferdinand missed a drugs test, causing a huge furore that has yet to be resolved, and Ferguson has been embroiled in a high-profile row with one of

the club's biggest shareholders, John Magnier, over the breeding rights for top racehorse Rock of Gibraltar. That affair looks destined to be decided in the courts.

He had planned to retire by this year but decided against it, saying recently he felt "fitter than ever". There has been speculation in the British media that he plans to continue until 70 as manager of United.

The statement said the problem had been spotted at a routine examination three months ago.

"Further investigation indicated that there was no underlying cardiac abnormality... (the treatment) was performed successfully," it said.

Ferguson, who was "sent off" from the touchline for the first time as United manager for abusing an official during a match at Newcastle United in August, will be in charge of his team as usual for Saturday's Premier League match against Aston Villa, the club said.

MNA/Reuters

Beckham injury scare for Real Madrid

MADRID, 7 Dec—Real Madrid midfielder David Beckham pulled out of training with an ankle injury on Friday but should be fit to play in Saturday's Primera Liga clash with Barcelona at the Nou Camp.

"Beckham withdrew as a precaution," Real coach Carlos Queiroz said after training. "He'll be okay to play."

"We have to take a lot of care and avoid unnecessary risks. You also have to respect what your body is telling you."

Assuming the England captain is fit to play, Queiroz will be able to field his first-choice side, including the likes of Luis Figo and Ronaldo, both former Barcelona players, and French midfielder Zinedine Zidane.

Barcelona will be missing Brazilian playmaker Ronaldinho, their leading attacking player, because of injury.

MNA/Reuters

Woods top candidate for Player of the Year

WASHINGTON, 7 Dec— Tiger Woods was still the top candidate for this year's PGA Tour Player of the Year award, according to an unofficial vote on Thursday.

About 52.1 per cent of 10,783 readers of the USA Today voted for Woods, who did not win any major title this year.

South Africa's Vijay Singh is the second best player to these readers, receiving 27.7 per cent vote, while Mike Weir, winner of the Masters, receiving 10.3 per cent.

The players on Tour began submitted their votes after the Tour Championship early last month, and the final decision will be announced on Monday.

Woods won the title for the past four years.

MNA/Xinhua

European favourites get easy ride in 2006 qualifying draw

FRANKFURT (Germany), 7 Dec—Leading European favourites France, Italy and England were given a relatively easy ride when the preliminary draw for the 2006 World Cup finals in Germany was made on Friday.

France, the 1998 champions and Euro 2000 winners, were placed in European Group Four where their toughest rivals will be Switzerland and Ireland.

Italy's trickiest opponents in a not-too-daunting Group Five were Slovenia, Scotland and Norway, while England face their British neighbours Wales and Northern Ireland as

well as Poland and Austria in Group Six.

The draw threw up some other interesting confrontations with the Netherlands and the Czech Republic again pitted together — as they were in both the preliminary and finals draws for Euro 2004.

Germany as hosts are the only automatic qualifier and will be joined by 31 other countries for the finals which open in Munich on June 9, 2006 and end exactly one month later with the final in Berlin.

MNA/Reuters



**8-12-2003 (Monday)
(Programme Schedule)
Morning Transmission
(9:00 - 10:00)**

- 9:00 Signature Tune
- 9:02 Greetings
- 9:02 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Myanma Panorama & Myanma Sentiment"
- 9:06 Myanmar Natural Spirulina (Part III)
- 9:10** **Headline News**
- 9:12 Easily Cooked Tasty Dishes "Loach Fish Curry in Oil"
- 9:15** **National News**
- 9:20 Beautiful Pleasant Beach Village
- 9:25 Three Types of Dances
- 9:30** **National news**
- 9:35 Ancient Htoke Kan Thein Temple
- 9:40 Song "Sumprabum"
- 9:42 Green Turtle
- 9:45** **National News**
- 9:50 Lifestyles along the Ayeyawady (Mandalay to Pyay) (Part-I)
- 9:58 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"

**8-12-2003 (Monday)
Regular Programmes for
Viewers from Abroad
Evening Transmission
(15:30 - 17:30)**

- 15:30 Signature Tune Greetings
- 15:32 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Mingalabar"
- 15:36 Myanmar Natural Spirulina (Part III)
- 15:40** **Headline News**
- 15:42 Easily Cooked Tasty Dishes "Loach Fish Curry in oil"
- 15:45** **National News**



**Monday, December 8
View today:**

- 7:00 am**
- 1. ကျေးဇူးတင် မင်္ဂလာဆရာတော် တွေကြီး၊ နိုင်ငံတော်သံစယဟာ နာယကအဖွဲ့အစည်းတော်ဆောင်ရွက်၊ အဘိဓမ္မာရဋ္ဌာနရ၊ အဘိဓမ္မာရဋ္ဌာနရ ဟောသဒ္ဓမ္မဓမ္မာတိတ တိပိဋကဓရ မဇ္ဈိမသုတ္တံပါဠိတော်၊ ဆရာတော် ဘုဒ္ဓ ဝိမ္မာသရာဇာတိသမ္ဗုဒ္ဓ ပရိတ်တရားတော်
- 7:15 am**
- 2. တိပိဋကဓရ မဇ္ဈိမသုတ္တံပါဠိတော်၊ အရဟံသာဝတီတ၊ ဘုဒ္ဓသီရိရာဇာဝံသ (ယောဆရာတော်) ဟောကြားတော်မူမိသော ဥပုသ်တော်ပါဠိတော်
- 7:25 am**
- 3. To be healthy exercise
- 7:30 am**
- 4. Morning news
- 7:40 am**
- 5. Nice and sweet song
- 7:55 am**
- 6. Song of national races

- 15:50 Beautiful Pleasant Beach Village
- 15:55 Three Types of Dances
- 16:00** **National news**
- 16:05 Ancient Htoke Kan Thein Temple
- 16:10 Song "Sumprabum"
- 16:12 Green Turtle
- 16:15** **National News**
- 16:20 Lifestyles along the Ayeyawady (Mandalay to Pyay) (Part-I)
- 16:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Myanma Panorama & Myanma Sentiment"
- 16:30** **National News**
- 16:35 A Thousand Bo-trees from Greening Tropic Zone
- 16:40 Myanmar Cuisine "Potato Pudding"
- 16:45** **National News**
- 16:50 Myanmar Traditional Bronze Casting
- 16:55 National Dance "Kayah Dance"
- 17:00** **National News**
- 17:05 Photo by Artist Photo Show (Aung Min)
- 17:10 Song "Two, Together"
- 17:12 Weaving Industry of Pakokku
- 17:15** **National News**
- 17:20 A Trip to Naga Land
- 17:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"

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

- 19:30 Signature Tune Greetings
- 19:32 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Myanma Panorama & Myanma Sentiment"
- 19:35 Water Hyacinth Furniture
- 19:40** **Headline News**
- 19:42 Easily Cooked Tasty Dishes "Snake gourd stuffing pounded prawn"
- 19:45** **National News**
- 19:50 Hta Pwe (or) Mogok

- 8:05 am**
- 7. Cute little dancers
- 8:15 am**
- 8. အရေးကြီးပွဲ
- 8:20am**
- 9. မအီချောင်း ရေတောင်တံ
- 8:30 am**
- 10. International news
- 8:45 am**
- 11. Let's Go
- 2:30 pm**
- 1. (ပြုပြင်ဆင်ခြင်) အရေးတော် အာရုံ အားကစားပြိုင်ပွဲ တော်လှန်ပြိုင်ပွဲ (အမျိုးသမီး) တိုက်ရိုက်ထုတ်လွှင့်မှုအစဉ် (အကြိမ်လုံး) (ပြန်မာနှင့်မလေးရှား)
- 4:15 pm**
- 2. Songs to uphold National Spirit
- 4:30 pm**
- 3. Practice in reading
- 4:45 pm**
- 4. ငယ်မလန်ဆွဲသုအသံ
- 5:00 pm**
- 5. အဆေးသင်တန်းသို့လေ့လာရေး ရန်ပုံငွေသင်ကြားသင်ခန်းစာ - တတိယပုဒ် (သန့်စင်အသံ) (သန့်စင်)
- 5:15 pm**
- 6. Musical programme
- 5:30 pm**
- 7. Dance Variety

- Gems Market
- 19:55 Traditional Lamp Dance
- 20:00** **National News**
- 20:05 Thabotseik Village on Seaside
- 20:10 Song "Bonfire Festival"
- 20:12 The National Museum (III)
- 20:15** **National News**
- 20:20 Special Teak Plantation Programme in Myanmar
- 20:25 Songs on screen "Predestination"
- 20:30** **National News**
- 20:35 Travelogue "Pyin Oo Lwin"
- 20:40 Myanmar Cuisine "Traditions Shwe-daug Noodle"
- 20:45** **National News**
- 20:50 Unforgettable Traditions of Pa-O National
- 20:55 National Dance "Kayin Dance (We Bu)"
- 20:57 Inn-Waing Waterfall
- 21:00** **National News**
- 21:05 Myanmar Seafood
- 21:10 Song "Come to Myanmar (The Golden Land)"
- 21:15** **National News**
- 21:20 Talent Show on the Myanmar Bamboo Xylophone
- 21:30 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights

- "Mingalabar"
- 21:35 Myanmar Natural Spirulina (Part III)
- 21:40** **Headline News**
- 21:42 Easily Cooked Tasty Dishes "Loach Fish Curry in oil"
- 21:45** **National News**
- 21:50 Beautiful Pleasant Beach Village
- 21:55 Three Types of Dances
- 22:00** **National news**
- 22:05 Ancient Htoke Kan Thein Temple
- 22:10 Song "Sumprabum"
- 22:12 Green Turtle
- 22:15** **National News**
- 22:20 Lifestyles along the Ayeyawady (Mandalay to Pyay) (Part-I)
- 22:25 Song "Naughty Girl"
- 22:30** **National News**
- 22:35 A Thousand Bo-trees from Greening Tropic Zone
- 22:40 Myanmar Cuisine "Potato Pudding"
- 22:45** **National News**
- 22:50 Myanmar Traditional Bronze Casting
- 22:55 National Dance "Kayah Dance"
- 23:00** **National News**
- 23:05 Photo by Artist Photo Show (Aung Min)
- 23:10 Song "Two, Together"
- 23:12 Weaving Industry of Pakokku
- 23:15** **National News**

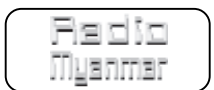
ဦးတက်တိုး (ဦးအုန်းဇေ)

အသက် (၄၁) နှစ်

သာသနာရေးနှင့်လူမှုရေး အထွေထွေအလှူရှင်
စာရေးဆရာ၊ သတင်းစာဆရာကြီး

ရန်ကုန်မြို့၊ ခုန့်မြို့နယ်၊ ယောမင်းကြီးရပ်၊ အမှတ်(၁၁)၊ နဝင်းလမ်း၊ နယ်လှည့်စာပေဌာန၊ မကွေးမြို့ (ဦးမောင်ကလေး+ဒေါ်ခင်ညွန့်)တို့၏ သား၊ စာရေးဆရာ ကဗျာဆရာမ ဒေါ်နုယုဦး၏ ကျေးဇူးရှင်ခင်ပွန်း၊ ဦးမင်းအောင် (သိပ္ပမင်းကြည်)၊ ဒေါ်ခင်ရည် (ကျောင်းဆရာမ)၊ ဒေါ်နုနုဦး၊ ဦးအောင်အောင် (စာသင်သားကုန်) တို့၏ မွေးသမီး ကျေးဇူးရှင်၊ မြို့(၅)ယောက်တို့၏ အဖိုး၊ စာရေးဆရာ သတင်းစာဆရာကြီး ဦးတက်တိုး (ဦးအုန်းဇေ)သည် ၇-၁၂-၂၀၀၃ ခု နံနက်တွင် ကွယ်လွန်အနိစ္စရောက်ပါကြောင်း ဆွေမျိုးမိတ်သံဃာအပေါင်းအား အကြောင်းကြားအပ်ပါသည်။ ဆရာကြီး၏ ရုပ်ကလာပ်ကို ၉-၁၂-၂၀၀၃ ခု၊ (အင်္ဂါနေ့) မွန်းလွဲ(၂)နာရီတွင် ရေဆေးသုသာန်တွင် ဂူသွင်းသင်္ဂြိုဟ်မည် ဖြစ်ပါသည်။ နေအိမ်မှကားများ မွန်းလွဲ(၁)နာရီတွင် ထွက်ပါမည်။

ကျန်ရစ်သူမိသားစု



**Monday, December 8
Tune in today:**

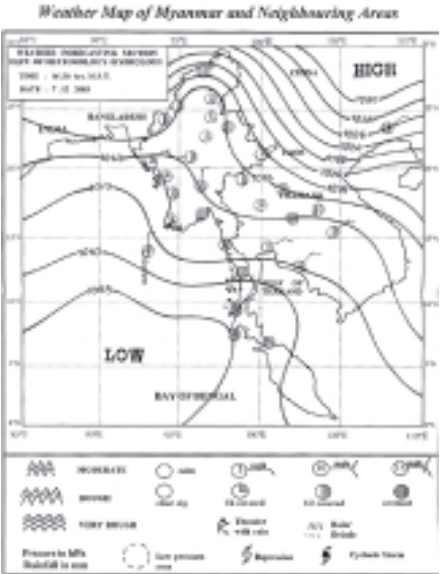
- 8.30 am** Brief news
- 8.35 am** Music
- 8.40 am** Perspectives
- 8.45 am** Music
- 8.50am** National news/Slogan
- 9.00 am** Music
- 9.05 am** International news
- 9.10 am** Music
- 1.30 pm** News/Slogan
- 1.40 pm** Lunch Time Music - If I Didn't love (Tina Arena) - I need to know (Srops Marc Anthony)
- 9.00 pm** Spotlight on the star sports
- 9.15 pm** Article
- 9.25 pm** Women's affairs - MAF Secures 2nd grade in the qualifier for World Olympics
- 9.35 pm** Vocal Gems - Another day in paradise (Phill Collins)
- 9.45 pm** News/Slogan
- 10.00 pm** PEL

- 23:20 A Trip to Naga Land
- 23:28 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"

**8-12-2003 (Monday) &
9-12-2003 (Tuesday)
Evening & Morning
Transmission
(23:30 - 1:30)**

- 23:30 Signature Tune Greetings
- 23:32 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Mingalabar"
- 23:36 Myanmar Natural Spirulina (Part III)
- 23:40** **Headline News**
- 23:42 Easily Cooked Tasty Dishes "Loach Fish Curry in oil"
- 23:45** **National News**
- 23:50 Beautiful Pleasant Beach Village
- 23:55 Three Types of Dances
- 23:00** **National news**
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- 23:15** **National News**
- 23:20 A Trip to Naga Land
- 01:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"



WEATHER

Sunday, 7 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 above normal in upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions, above normal in Kachin, Kayah, Mon States and Magway Division, 3°C to 4°C below normal in Kachin and Chin States and Yangon Division and 5°C to 6°C below normal in remaining areas. The significant night temperature was 0°C in Hakha.
Maximum temperature on 6-12-2003 was 33.5°C (92°F). Minimum temperature on 7-12-2003 was 16.3°C (61°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 7-12-2003 was 76%. Total sunshine hours on 6-12-2003 was (8.1) hours approx. Rainfall 7-12-2003 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 8 mph from Northwest at (10:00) hours MST on 6-12-2003.
Bay inference: Weather is partly cloudy in South Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.
Forecast valid until evening of 8-12-2003: Except for the possibility of isolated light rain in Kachin and Northern Shan States, 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:** Significant decrease of night temperature in upper Myanmar areas.
Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 8-12-2003: Partly cloudy. **Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 8-12-2003:** Fine weather.



Lt-Gen Maung Bo gives instructions to departmental officials of Kayin State at Hpa-an Station.— MNA

Lt-Gen Maung Bo meets departmental officials in Hpa-an

YANGON, 7 Dec— Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo of the Ministry of Defence met with Kayin State and district level departmental personnel at the combined hall of Hpa-an Station at 8 pm yesterday.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo gave instructions on regional development tasks.

Also present on the occasion were Chairman of Mon State Peace and Development Council Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung, local Light Infantry Division

Commander Brig-Gen Ngwe Thein, Chairman of Kayin State Peace and Development Council Col Khin Kyu, Secretary of Kayin State Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Kyaw Win Maung, Chairman of Hpa-an District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Soe Myint Aung, Chairman of Kawkaik District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Ko Ko Gyi and departmental officials.

At the outset, Chairman of Kayin State Peace and Development Council Col Khin Kyu reported on implemen-

tation of rural development tasks in 2003-2004 financial year, agricultural undertakings for local food sufficiency, putting of 361,574 acres of land under monsoon paddy, utilization of land and reclamation of vacant and virgin lands and accomplishment of projects in 2002-2003 and implementation of the projects till the end of October, 2002-2003.

Myanmar Agriculture Service Kayin State Manager U Kyaw Thein reported on rainfall in the state this year, cultivation of monsoon paddy, corn, edible oil crops

and double cropping. Deputy Director U Khin Win of Settlement and Land Records Department on prospects for reclamation of wetland in Mebaung-Naunglon region, Deputy Director U Aung Kyaw Win of Irrigation Department on digging of drains for ensuring prevention of flood in Mebaung-Naunglon region and Deputy Director U Myint Htay of Livestock and Veterinary Department on breeding of domestic poultry.

After hearing the reports, Lt-Gen Maung Bo fulfilled their requirements.

Chairman of Hpa-an District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Soe Myint Aung submitted reports on utilization of lands in the district, growing of monsoon and summer paddy, groundnut and other edible oil crops, carrying out of economic, social and transport tasks and implementation of rural de-

velopment works.

Chairman of Kawkaik District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Ko Ko Gyi reported on utilization of land in the district and carrying out of five rural development tasks. Next, Lt-Gen Maung Bo attended to their needs.

(See page 8)

Myanmar sports teams leave for Vietnam

YANGON, 7 Dec—A 14-member Myanmar Taekwondo team and a 24-member Myanmar traditional rowing team numbering 38 led by Team Leader U Zaw Lin left here by air for Vietnam this morning to participate in the XXII SEA Games.

They were seen off at

Yangon International Airport by officials of the Ministry of Sports, officials of Myanmar Taekwondo Federation and Myanmar Rowing Federation and their relatives.

It is the last batch of Myanmar sports teams to take part in the games.

MNA



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe inspects dredging of drains on either sides of Thida-aye Road in Htantabin Township.— YANGON COMMAND

Commander inspects development tasks in Htantabin

YANGON, 7 Dec— Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, accompanied by Secretary of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Kyaw Tint and departmental officials, this afternoon inspected agricultural and regional development tasks. At 2 pm, the commander arrived at Kogyi Creek near Letpangon Village, Htantabin Township where he inspected dredging of the creek by Irrigation Department with the use of heavy machinery.

Director U Kyaw Thein of ID and officials reported

on further dredging of the creek.

Then, the commander gave instructions on supply of water through canals for cultivation of summer paddy in Htantabin.

At Kyungu river water pumping project, the commander saw over preparations for supplying water through the main canal to irrigate summer paddy field. The commander gave instructions on cultivation of summer paddy in time.

Next, the commander met with local people and urged them to exceed the target of cultivation of summer paddy and cold season crops.

On arrival at the conflu-

ence of Kokkwa River and Kogyi Creek, the commander gave instructions on water supply for summer paddy and proper flow of water in Kogyi Creek to officials.

At Lamudan river water pumping project in Bawlekyun, on the other bank of Htantabin Township, the commander gave instructions on tasks of the project to be carried out as soon as possible.

Then, the commander inspected the rural road between Lamudanlay village and Hleiseik village in Bawlekyun area.

Afterwards, the commander met with officials and local farmers. Speaking on the occasion, the commander said that it is necessary to cultivate summer paddy in the places where monsoon paddy has been harvested as well as cold season crops, edible oil crops and pulses and beans. Local

authorities are required to inspect and provide assistance to grassroots level. Cultivation of crops must be carried out in vacant and virgin lands for greening the 30-mile radius of Yangon International Airport all the year round. A total of 14 sluice gates have been built, river water pumping projects

(See page 9)

Myanmar delegation arrives back

YANGON, 7 Dec— After paying a goodwill visit to China, the Myanmar delegation led by Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min arrived back here by air this evening. The delegation studied rail transportation work in Yunnan Province, China.

Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office Maj-Gen Thein Swe, Deputy Ministers for Rail Transportation Thura U Thaug Lwin and U Pe Than, Chinese Ambassador

Mr Li Jinjun and embassy staff, departmental heads and officials welcomed back the delegation members at Yangon International Airport.

Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min was accompanied by General Manager (Mechanical/Electronics) of Myanmar Railways U Soe Win, General Manager (Civil) Lt-Col Thi Han, Deputy General Manager (Electronics) U Zaw Win and Assistant General Manager (Communications) U Ba Myint as members.—MNA

Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min and party being welcomed back at the airport.— MNA



INSIDE

Perspectives

For further ICT development
Page 2

Article

Border area development: One upon a time in Mawpha region
Page 7

Circulation

23,814