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Thursday, 11 December, 2003

Senior General Than Shwe sees off Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt on departure for Tokyo to attend ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit

YANGON, 10 Dec— At the invitation of His Excellency Mr Junichiro Koizumi, Prime Minister of Japan, the Myanmar delegation led by Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt left here on a special flight at 7.15 am this morning to attend the ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit to be held in Tokyo, Japan, on 11 and 12 December.

Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe, Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council



Senior General Than Shwe and Vice-Senior General Maung Aye see off Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt at the airport.—MNA

Lt-Gen Soe Win, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, members of the State Peace and Development Council, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy) and the Commander-in-Chief (Air), the Chairman

of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command, ministers, senior military officers, Dean of the Diplomatic Corps Ambassador of Singapore Mr Simon

Tensing de Cruz and heads of foreign missions in Yangon, the UN Coordinator, Charge d'Affairs of Japan Mr Hiroshi Kawamura and staff, and departmental heads saw off

the Prime Minister at Yangon International Airport.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt was accompanied by Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung, Deputy

Minister U Khin Maung Win and departmental heads.

Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu left here for Tokyo, Japan, on 9 December to attend the ASEAN-Japan Business Forum which was held prior to the Summit.

MNA



Senior General Than Shwe bids bon voyage to Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt at the airport.—MNA

Government to implement tasks in cooperation with private sector Vice-Senior General Maung Aye meets industrialists in Taunggyi

YANGON, 10 Dec— Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye inspected

Ayethaya industrial zone in Ayethaya Myothit in Taunggyi Township on 6 December and the site of Kengtawng hydro electric power project in Mongnai Township on 7 December.

Vice-Senior General

Maung Aye, accompanied by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, members of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Aung Htwe,

Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and Lt-Gen Kyaw Win, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Kyi Min, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Maj-Gen Myat Hein, Chairman of Shan State Peace and Develop-

ment Council Commander of Eastern Command Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint, the ministers, senior military officers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and
(See page 16)

Myanmar bags two more gold

YANGON, 10 Dec— The Myanmar sports contingent bagged two gold in the XXII South-East Asian Games which continued in Hanoi, Vietnam, yesterday.

Kan Shwe, Phone Myint Teza, Aung Kyaw Moe and Khin Maung Myint won gold in the men's 1000-m canoe event and Kay Thi Win won gold in the women's 48-kilo weightlifting event.

Silver medal winners were Aung Lin in the men's 1000-m C-1 event, Win Htaik and Aung Lin in the men's 1000-m C-2, Kan Shwe and Aung Kyaw Moe in the men's 1000-m K-2, Phone Myint Teza in the men's 1000-m K-1, Thein Htay Win and Khin Mar Oo in the women's 1000-m K-1.

Bronze medal winners were Khin Mar Thin in the women's 1000-m K-1, Nyan Soe in the men's 100-kilo Judo event, Chaw Su Win in the women's above-78-kilo and Khin Myo Thu in the under-78-kilo events.

MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 11 December, 2003

Towards perpetual existence of the Union

The Government of the Union of Myanmar is taking all the necessary measures to bridge the development divide between states and divisions. It is building economic, education and health infrastructures such as roads and bridges, irrigation facilities, universities and colleges and hospitals wherever necessary across the Union.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and responsible personnel on 25 and 26 November visited townships in Chin State and fulfilled the regional needs presented by the local people. In his meeting with members of Chin State Peace and Development Council, district and township peace and development councils, departmental personnel and townsenders in Haka, the Prime Minister said that the narrower the development gap between states and divisions, the more consolidated the national unity and the longer the Union will last.

The national brethren have been living together in unity and amity through thick and thin for thousands of years. To be able to do so as long as the world exists, they must possess stronger Union Spirit and not believe what others say with the intention of setting one national race against another. We must join hands for the perpetual existence of the Union, bearing in mind that "United we stand; divided we fall".

We do not have to think long and hard to understand that the seven-point policy programme can no doubt ensure the emergence of a strong government and the perpetual existence of the Union. A weak government under the influence of other nations will surely weaken the Union and eventually bring about its collapse. To avoid such a thing happening, we are required to try our utmost to successfully realize the policy programme.

Finally, we would like to call upon the entire national people to strive for the perpetuation of the Union, national independence and sovereignty and for more consolidated national unity.

Myanmar Cricket Federation formed

YANGON, 10 Dec — The cooperation meeting on forming Myanmar Cricket Federation took place at the Panorama Hotel on Pansodan Road, here on 5 December.

At the meeting, the federation was formed. The donation of K 30,000 was presented for the Sports and Physical Education Department. U San Tin Aung

(Shwebo), U Aung Zaw Win, U Shah Mar, U Bo Ni, U Ei Shah Paksat and members of OYCC Cricket Association donated K 100,000 each and U Kyaw Kyaw (Myanmar Pride Ltd, cricket equipment worth K 500,000 to the federation through MCF President U Nyunt Win, who then presented certificates of honour to them.

MNA



U Kyaw Kyaw of Myanmar Pride Int'l Ltd and United Int'l Agencies presents cricket equipment worth K 500,000 to President U Nyunt Win of Myanmar Cricket Federation.—SPED



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye sees off Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt at Yangon International Airport (News Page 1).—MNA



Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung addresses opening of the fourth forestry research paper-reading session.—MNA

Forestry paper-reading session opened

YANGON, 10 Dec — Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung delivered an address at the opening of the fourth research paper-reading session, organized by the forestry scholar

section of Myanmar Academy of Agriculture, Forest, Livestock and Fisheries Science, at the hall of Forest Department in Insein

Township this afternoon.

Also present were Deputy Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, departmental heads,

officials and researchers.

A total of 18 papers will be submitted to the paper-reading session from 10 to 12 December. —MNA

Observance of 57th Anniversary of Union Day coordinated

YANGON, 10 Dec — The Information Subcommittee and Exhibition Subcommittee for Observance of the 57th Anniversary of Union Day (2004) met at the Information and Public Relations Department on Pansodan Street here this afternoon.

Present on the occasion were Chairman of the subcommittees Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein, officials of the subcommittees and representatives from respective ministries.

The chairman delivered a speech on the occasion.

Member of the Management Committee for Observance of Union Day Director-General of the IPRD U Chit Naing reported on holding exhibitions in the townships in which the Union Flag will stop for the night during the Union Flag conveying trip; Secretary of the Exhibition Subcommittee Director of the IPRD U

Tun Min, on schedules on exhibitions and opening booths; Secretary of the Information Subcommittee Director of Myanmar Radio and Television U Ko Ko Htwe, on subcommittee formation and functions; Deputy Director-General of the Department of Cultural Institute U Myint Kyau, booths on traditions and culture of national races; Managing Director of the Printing and Publishing Enterprise U Myint Thein, on present modern and developed Union of Myanmar booth; Managing Director of the News and Periodicals Enterprises U Tin Kha, on arrangements for the booth present political and social developments and the booth "Firmly hand in hand, united we shall always be"; and representatives from the ministries, on respective followed by a general round of discussions.

The deputy minister delivered concluding remarks. —MNA

Sanitation tasks carried out in Tamu

YANGON, 10 Dec — Sanitation of the road and dredging of drains were carried out in Tamu on 2 December.

Tamu Township De-

velopment Affairs Committee Executive Officer U Thaung Nyunt and local authorities supervised sanitation works at Zaydan Ward, Tamu Township.—MNA



Min Naing (Srixon) taking part in the Maruman Golf Classic Tournament.—MGF

maruman
Golf Classic

Maruman Golf Classic continues

YANGON, 10 Dec — The Maruman Golf Classic Tournament, the fifth leg of Myanmar Golf Tour 2003, continued at Yangon Golf Club this morning.

After the second round, Min Naing (Srixon) was leading the professional golf event with 147 strokes. Soe Kyaw Naing (Pan-West) and Myint Thaung (KM Golf Centre) tied at the second position with 148 each. Than Naing (Bago) with 150 was behind the seconds. Nanda Kyaw (YCDC) scored 151 at the fourth position and Soe Myint Lay (Wilson) with 152 at the fifth. In the men's amateur event, Thein Zaw Myint was leading with 149 strokes, followed by Hla Myo with 150, Bo Bo with 153, defending champion Zaw Zin

Win with 154 and Naing Naing Lin with 155.

The tournament is being organized by Myanmar PGA and Myanmar Golf Federation and mainly sponsored by Rothmans of Pall Mall Myanmar Pte Ltd together with Maruman-Kaung Myat Co Ltd, Air Mandalay, Grand Slam (Munsing Wear), Loi Hein (Alpine), UPG, Canon and KM Golf Centre and Wilson. Maruman-Kaung Myat Co Ltd and Sun Far Travels and Tours and Yangon Golf Club will present prizes to hold-in-one scorers.

The arrangement for holding the tournament is being made by Han Event Management. The third round continues tomorrow. —MNA

Suicide attacks wound 61 US troops in Iraq

TALAFAR, 10 Dec—Suicide bombers, one in a car and another on foot, blew themselves up at the gates of two US military bases on Tuesday, wounding 61 American soldiers but failing to inflict deadly casualties on the scale of recent attacks in Iraq.

Most of the soldiers were slightly hurt by debris and flying glass, indicating that massive defences — sand barriers, high cement walls and numerous roadblocks leading to the entrances of bases — have paid off for American troops occupying Iraq.

At the same time, the decision of the suicide bombers to test US defences reflected the tenacity of an enemy that seeks

to undermine American resolve by inflicting mass casualties with a single strike.

The image of US soldiers increasingly hunkered down in fortified bases could also undermine their efforts to befriend Iraqis as a US-led coalition tries to rebuild Iraq and introduce democracy while fighting a persistent insurgency in some parts of the country.

On Tuesday, a US Army observation helicopter took fire and made an emergency landing west of Baghdad, and the two crew members walked away with “minimal injuries,” the US military said. Residents said the helicopter was hit by a rocket-propelled grenade. The OH-58 Kiowa observation helicopter landed near Fallujah, a focus of resistance to the US occupation.

The town sits in the heart of the dangerous Sunni Triangle where the majority of attacks on American forces have occurred since the ouster of Saddam Hussein in a US-led invasion.

In the larger of the two suicide bombings Tuesday, a man drove up to the gate of a base of the 101st Airborne Division in Talafar, 235 miles northwest of Baghdad, at 4:45 am Tuesday, the military said. Guards at the gate and in a watchtower opened fire and the vehicle blew up, leaving a large crater at the gate’s entryway. —Internet

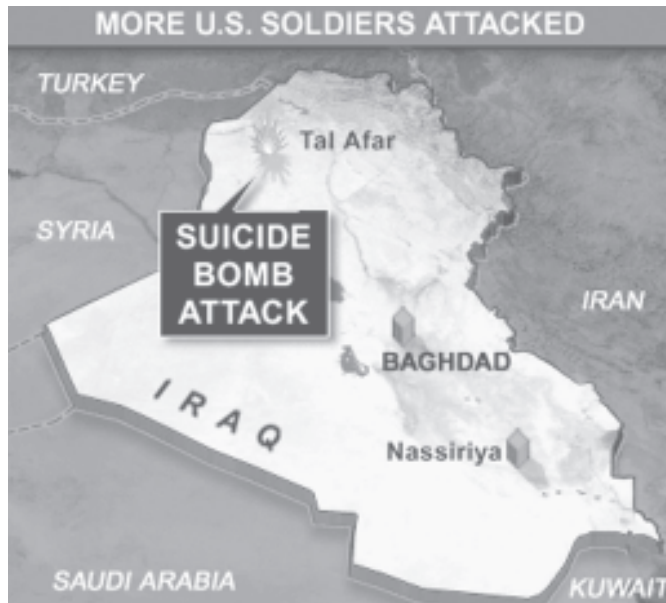
Explosive kills Houston soldier in Iraq

MOSUL, 10 Dec—A Houston soldier’s family suffered a devastating loss over the weekend when their 20-year-old son was killed as the Humvee he drove rolled over a radio-detonated improvised explosive device in Mosul.

Pfc. Ray Joseph Hutchinson was days away from being able to fly home to see his grandmother, who was brought to the Texas Medical Center in desperate need of open-heart surgery last week.

But, before he left the Middle East, Hutchinson was sent out on one more mission — one that ended his young life.

“The blast was powerful enough to where there were two other people in the vehicle with him that were critically injured and he was instantly killed,” Hutchinson’s brother Lee said. —Internet



A suicide car bomber wounded dozens of US soldiers and three Iraqis on 9 Dec, 2003 when he charged the gates of an American military base and blew up in his explosives-packed car as troops opened fire. — INTERNET

US military works to defuse Iraq’s deadly roadside bombs

BAGHDAD, 10 Dec—In Iraq, roadside bombs targeting US troops and their Iraqi allies have proven to be the most lethal weapon in the hands of attackers. VOA correspondent Alisha Ryu spoke with members of a US Army explosives disposal team in Baghdad about the difficulty of finding the roadside bombs before they explode.

Several dozen artillery shells and mortars from various countries are on display outside the base for the US explosive ordnance disposal team, located in central Baghdad at what was once one of Saddam Hussein’s old palaces.

Some of the shells and mortars are almost half a meter tall. Others are smaller. But team leader, Captain Larry Cousins, says the smaller ones are just as lethal if they are constructed in the right way.

Capt Cousins says all the shells were used to make deadly roadside bombs.

“The vast majority of what we’re seeing

is military ordnance, projectiles, large caliber projectiles, and bulk explosives but it’s Iraqi bulk explosives,” he said. “It was bought by their military.”

Capt Cousins says the improvised explosive devices his team finds are usually simple in design, using mortar rounds or rocket-propelled grenades fitted with timers and set to explode at random.

Some are a bit more sophisticated, enabling them to be remotely detonated. Still, the disposal team here says it has so far never encountered a device its members could not safely defuse. —Internet

China establishes first DHEM

BEIJING, 10 Dec — Authorities at the prestigious Beijing University announced here that its Guanghua School of Management had formally established its Department of Health Economics & Management (DHEM), the first of its kind among all China’s colleges and universities.

Professor Li Yining, a celebrated economist and also dean of the Guanghua School of Management, said at the inauguration ceremony that the Chinese Government was striving to enhance its management of the health sector, set up a sanitary and medical treatment mechanism adapted to the socialist market economic system, and strengthen its capacity to handle emergency outbreaks threatening the public’s health. “It makes the establishment of DHEM both timely and imperative,” Li said.

Sean Sullivan, a professor of pharmacoeconomics at the University of Washington, in the US, said in a congratulatory letter that the new department represented a significant initiative for the Chinese Government to develop a research and educational infrastructure to focus on important health care policy issues. Gordon G Liu, chairman of DHEM and also a health economist, pointed out that the SARS crisis in Beijing this spring had proved that epidemics could both endanger people’s health and lead to great economic and social losses. Thus, research into health problems belongs not only to the field of medical science, but also to the field of economics and management studies.

Liu said the science of health economics and management would study health-related issues in the areas of the market, technologies, policies and people’s behaviour, and aims to produce maximal “health outcomes” by optimizing related resources and management.

“With its population taking up 22 per cent but its medical treatment resources only 2 per cent of the world’s total, China faces much tougher health problems than any other country, especially when it comes to needy people in rural areas. So, it is urgent for China to start research into the effective utilization and optimal deployment of limited medical treatment resources,” Liu said. — MNA/Xinhua

Pakistani Premier telephones Vajpayee, conveys warm welcome

NEW DELHI, 10 Dec—In the midst of “positive developments” in Indo-Pakistani ties, Pakistan Premier Zafarullah Khan Jamali on Monday night telephoned Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and appreciated him for confirming his attendance in the next month’s SAARC summit, saying that a “warm welcome” awaited him in Islamabad next month.

During the five-minute conversation, Vajpayee told Jamali that he was looking forward to his visit to Islamabad, official sources said. Both the Prime Ministers agreed that there have been “positive bilateral developments” over the past few weeks, including the ceasefire along the Line of Control.

They felt that it is important that these positive trends are sustained, the sources said. Jamali, who called at 19:30 hours from Paris, conveyed to Vajpayee his appreciation for the Prime Minister’s letter confirming his attendance at the SAARC summit and said a “warm welcome awaits” him. — MNA/PTI



A soldier of US Army’s 4th Infantry Division guards a detained Iraqi man during a night raid in Khadasia, a northern suburb of Tikrit, Iraq, on 9 Dec, 2003. — INTERNET

Asian, Oceanic, biochemists, biologists meet

BANGALORE, 10 Dec—The 10th Congress of the Federation of Asian and Oceanic Biochemists and Molecular Biologists (FAOBMB) commenced here with Indian Human Resources Development Minister Murli Manohar Joshi advocating holistic approach towards research in various streams of science.

Joshi told the gathering of scientists at the inaugural function Sunday night that he has approached various universities to develop different combinations and modules but did not elaborate.

The Minister, who also holds the Science and Technology portfolio, called for forgetting the “barrier” between different sciences.

Secretary in the Department of Bio-technology, Manju Sharma, spoke about the strides that India has made in the sector, while FAOBMB president Professor Qi-shui Lin outlined the Congress’ objectives. —MNA/PTI

Iraq power transfer to bring more investors

AMMAN, 10 Dec—A faster US transfer of power in Baghdad to Iraqis will lead more foreign firms to bid for reconstruction projects now delayed because of security concerns, the Iraqi Finance Minister said on Tuesday.

Kamel al-Gilani was referring to the new US plan to hand back more Iraqi sovereignty in June which the US-backed Governing Council hopes will undercut violent opposition to Washington's military occupation.

"...Iraq would be more stable after June when sovereignty is completed and powers extended to Iraqis in a new formula... There will be more foreign investments coming after June in a better investment climate," Gilani told Reuters on the sidelines of a British-sponsored conference on Iraqi reconstruction in Amman.

Washington, facing a bolder insurgency against its military presence

in Iraq, has reversed an earlier insistence that a new constitution and general elections should come before power is transferred.

Gilani, speaking on a day when a suicide car bomber wounded 41 US troops, downplayed security worries, which he said mainly hurt foreign business projects in the "Sunni triangle" west and north of Baghdad.

Gilani said the business climate was improving in the mainly Kurdish north and the southern mainly Shiite regions, where reconstruction projects faced lower security hurdles.

The number of projects undertaken by foreign firms in the Baghdad area

was still disappointingly low, he added.

"There are a lot of opportunities in the north and the south, also in central Iraq where there are Arab and foreign firms... but not the level of presence we had hoped for," Gilani added.

Businessmen at the conference that brings British executives afraid of risking travel to Iraq together with eager Iraqi partners said escalating violence had either delayed ongoing projects or entry into the potentially lucrative market.

Many global firms, including major oil firms, are also reluctant to make long term investments in Iraq until a legitimate national Iraqi Government assumed power.—MNA/Reuters

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Accident in Iraq kills three Fort Lewis soldiers

BAGHDAD, 10 Dec—Three soldiers from the Fort Lewis-based Stryker brigade died last night in north-central Iraq when the collapse of a roadside embankment sent two of their vehicles tumbling into an irrigation canal, according to Army officials.

It's a sober start for the brigade that arrived in Iraq only a few days ago for a 12-month tour of duty with its armoured, eight-wheeled Stryker vehicles. These are the first new Army fighting vehicles in 20 years and have been assigned to combat patrols north of Baghdad, where the insurgency movement is strongest.

Internet

US chopper downed in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 10 Dec — Guerillas hit a US helicopter with a rocket-propelled grenade Tuesday near Fallujah, witnesses said. The American military said the aircraft made a "controlled landing."

Elsewhere Tuesday, a suicide bomber blew up a car packed with explosives at the gates of a military barracks, injuring dozens of American troops and six Iraqi civilians. Hours earlier, three soldiers died in a road accident in central Iraq, and three civilians died in a rocket attack in Baghdad.

A military spokesman, who asked not to be identified, said the OH-58D Kiowa observation helicopter from the 82nd Airborne Division made a "controlled landing" at 2:30 pm local time near Fallujah. There were two crewmen on board and neither was injured, the spokesman said, adding that a quick-reaction force had secured the area.

An Associated Press reporter saw two helicopters flying in formation near the city,

about 30 miles west of the capital, when one was hit by a grenade fired from the ground.

It went down immediately in an open field. The aircraft appeared structurally intact, but smoke was billowing from it. Two other helicopters with red crosses painted on the sides landed nearby a few minutes later, the reporter said. In videotape shot shortly after the downing, an A-10 Thunderbolt II was seen flying above. Several other Kiowas also circled the area, and a convoy of military vehicles drove toward the downed helicopter. Fallujah, a hotbed of resistance to the US occupation, sits in the heart of the dangerous Sunni Triangle where the majority of attacks on American forces have occurred since the ouster of former leader Saddam Hussein. — Internet



Iraqi men run towards the wreckage of US helicopter which crashed near Fallujah on 9 Dec, 2003. — INTERNET

India invites Japan to outsource business

TOKYO, 10 Dec—India on Monday invited Japan to outsource business to tackle the problem arising out of high percentage of aging population.

"This was a win-win situation for both countries... business outsourcing was the only way to overcome the demographic handicap and yet sustain profitability and growth," Planning Commission Member N K Singh said on recently.

Singh also highlighted India's economic advantage and the new opportunities deregulation and reforms have created for Japanese investment particularly in in-

frastructure. Participating at a symposium organized by Japanese Government, Singh also listed ports, airports privatization, roads, power and agro-processing as sectors which could attract Japanese investment.

Several economists and experts in international relations including Stephen Cohen of Brookings Institute, Gong Shao-peng of Foreign Affairs Collects, Yoshimi Ishikawa of Akita College

participated in the symposium which highlighted the strategic importance of India and prospects for Indo-Japanese cooperation.

Singh said the shifting consumption pattern of India's rich urban middle class for white and brown goods offered great scope for Japanese companies, which have excelled in mass consumption goods like television, entertainment and cooling systems.—MNA/PTI

Minister says Sri Lanka to receive half million tourists

COLOMBO, 10 Dec—Sri Lankan Tourism Minister Gamini Lokuge has expressed confidence that tourist arrivals in the scenery Indian Ocean island will reach the half million target by the year end, the official Daily News reported on Tuesday.

"Tourists continue to visit Sri Lanka despite the initial setbacks brought about by the sudden political developments. We are confident that we will reach the 500,000 mark," Lokuge said recently.

According to Tourist Board statistics, the first 10 months of this year showed a 26-per-cent increase with

393,974 visitors over 313,593 arrivals in the corresponding period last year.

Arrivals in October this year were also the highest in 33 years, recording an all time high of 49,922 for the month.

"Sustained peace and the resultant increased investor and traveller confidence in the destination was appa-

rent in the industry seeing a revival after a lapse of many years," Lokuge said.

He said that November and December are very decisive months in reaching the half a million target.

Tourism is one of the major industries in the country which contributes tremendously to its economic development.—MNA/Xinhua



Koreans shout slogans during a rally to protest the government's decision to send South Korean troops to Iraq near the National Assembly in Seoul, on 9 Dec, 2003. —INTERNET

Tibet builds up complete education system

LHASA, 10 Dec — Southwest China's Tibetan autonomous region has built a complete education system in local primary and middle schools, due to great support from the central government during the past four decades, said local officials.

Since 1959, the central government has invested a combined 1.3 billion yuan (157 million US dollars) in education development in the region, 445 million yuan (53.6 million dollars) of which was used for 15 big projects during the past decade, said Lu Shicheng, a regional official involved in education facility construction.

Sofar, a six-year-schooling compulsory education system has been put into

practice in 55 of the region's 73 counties, with a nine-year-schooling compulsory education implemented in 18 counties.

Computers have been introduced into more than 1,000 primary and middle schools in the region.

Currently, 360,000 students are enrolled in local primary and middle schools, which have 22,000 teachers and other faculty members.

The illiteracy rate among local adults has dropped

from 95 per cent in 1951 to the current 37 per cent, and as many as 91.8 per cent of local school-age children are in school currently, as against less than 2 per cent half a century ago.

Called by the central government to protect and promote the use of the Tibetan language, Tibet has issued five collections of teaching materials in Tibetan for primary, middle school and higher education.

MNA/Xinhua

Annan wary of security and UN role in Iraq

UNITED NATIONS, 10 Dec—Still reeling from attacks on UN offices, Secretary-General Kofi said his international staff for Iraq would operate from Cyprus and move to Iraq only if a future UN role was worth the enormous security risks involved.

Despite pressure for the United Nations to return senior officials to Iraq, Annan said expatriate staff would go to Baghdad on special visits from the Cypriot capital of Nicosia, or a smaller office in Amman, Jordan, according to a major report to the Security Council, to be released on Wednesday and obtained by Reuters.

"I cannot afford to compromise the security of our international and national staff," Annan wrote in the 26-page report, haunted by the Aug. 19 bombing of UN headquarters in Baghdad that killed 22 people, including his special representative, Sergio Vieira de Mello. He withdrew foreign staff from Baghdad on Nov. 4.

Annan announced the appointment

of New Zealander Ross Mountain, a senior humanitarian affairs official, as director of the UN team, known as the UN Assistance Mission for Iraq, until a replacement for Vieira de Mello is found.

Mountain is currently head of the UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in Geneva, and will serve as the deputy special representative for Iraq after Annan next year appoints a new head of mission.

Annan's report to the 15-member Security Council was the first comprehensive analysis of the situation in Iraq since July and raised as many questions as it answered.

Weighing tasks and risks

He said he needed to ask himself

over the coming months whether any future role allocated to the United Nations was "proportionate to the risks we are being asked to take, whether the political process is fully inclusive and transparent and whether the humanitarian tasks in question are truly life-saving or not."

At the same time, Annan was aware that the United Nations would be the political face of the international community after the US-led occupiers hand over power to an Iraqi national government as scheduled in July. He offered the extensive UN experience in organizing elections, writing a constitution, setting up human rights bodies and continuing humanitarian aid.

Internet

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American soldier killed in Iraq

SACRAMENTO, 10 Dec — Just a few weeks before he was scheduled to leave Iraq, Army Spc Arron R Clark of Chico was killed by a remote-control bomb, the Pentagon reported.

The 20-year-old soldier was ready to come home, said his mother, Lyne Clark. "He wanted out of Iraq so bad. All he was seeing was dead soldiers."

Clark was killed Friday in Baghdad as he was riding through the city in a three-vehicle convoy.

Clark's childhood dream was to become an elite Airborne Ranger, and he had just been accepted to the training school and was planning to attend when he came back from Iraq, his mother said.

Clark had been in Iraq since March, his mother told the *San Francisco Chronicle*. "He kept telling me how bad it was over there." —Internet

Bangladesh ambassador to Baghdad shifts to Jordan

DHAKA, 10 Dec — Bangladesh has temporarily shut down its Iraqi mission in Baghdad in face of overall insecurity, reported the *Daily Star* on Tuesday.

The ambassador to Iraq Sarwar Hossain Mollah was discharged of his duties and moved to Jordan following threats of terrorist attacks, as well as indiscriminate rocket and missile firings in the Iraqi capital, said State Minister for Foreign Affairs Reaz Rahman recently. The Bangladeshi diplomatic staff were in a state of great insecurity, as the overall security situation in Baghdad remains fraught with a fear of uncertainty, added the State Minister.

Embassies of Bulgaria and the Netherlands in Baghdad, meanwhile, have been closed, while strength of some other missions has been drastically scaled down, said the State Minister quoting a recent message faxed from the Bangladesh ambassador to Iraq.

Missions of Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam at ambassadorial level have not yet been reopened after the war. The embassies of Pakistan and the Philippines have been downgraded to "charge d'affaires" (CDA) level with minimum staff.

Embassies are not usually target of attacks except those from countries participating with the coalition forces, but there were some recent threats of attacks on Bangladesh Embassy, said the message from Baghdad. The incidents of abduction for ransom are alarmingly high in Baghdad, said the message, adding the rich businessmen, specially from the Christian community appear to be the main targets. —MNA/Xinhua



An Iraqi is watched by US troops as he rests during a protest in Habaniya, 120 kilometres (75 miles) northeast of Baghdad, Iraq, on 9 Dec, 2003. Protesters demanded release of their relatives held by the US forces.—INTERNET

French Minister optimistic about growth in 2004

PARIS, 10 Dec — French Finance Minister Francis Mer said recently the year 2004 will be a year of growth worldwide and the European economies will benefit from the good climate.

"There has not been such a conjunction of growth for a long time," said Mer. "China develops, Japan takes off again and the United States had a good performance in the third quarter though its growth might not last at 8 per cent."

"All agree that the year 2004 will be a year of growth for the world, including Europe," he said.

"I am totally confident in our collective capacity to overcome our small problems and

continue to advance," said Mer. On France's breach of the European budget deficit rules, Mer said the only difference existing between France and the European Commission is about the measures that France should take to get its deficit within the European limit by 2005. "We have built a law and we are now making it alive," said Mer, referring to the controversial Pact of Stability and Growth that underpins the euro.—MNA/Xinhua

UN says freeing up trade key to poor nations' growth

UNITED NATIONS, 10 Dec — While freeing up trade is not a sure-fire recipe for poverty reduction, there are virtually no cases in which developing economies have thrived while remaining closed, a UN report said on Monday.

"Countries that have performed well as regards economic growth over the past 20 years or so have made opening up part of the reform process," said the UN

World Economic and Social Survey for 2003, weighing in on the contentious issue of whether eliminating trade barriers does more harm than good in poor nations.

"Given today's ever more globalized world economy, it is difficult to imagine that any country hoping to prosper and reduce poverty in the future could do otherwise," the report said.

While certain sectors in both rich and poor nations have taken economic hits during periods of adjustment to the increasing globalization of trade, "there is little evidence of a 'race to the bottom', as a result of increased cross-border trade and investment in the 1990s," the survey added. In terms of trade policy, the main threat to poor nations stems from rich countries' protectionist policies, it found. —MNA/Reuters

APPU executive council conference opens in China

HAIKOU, 10 Dec — The 2003 annual conference of the executive council of the Asian-Pacific Postal Union (APPU) opened Tuesday in Boao, south China's Hainan Province.

Topics high on the agenda are postal cooperation and exchange in the Asian-Pacific Region and reforms to be introduced for APPU structure.

The 2004 budget and accounts plans are to be examined for approval at the four-day conference.

The conference is the highest-level ever held with the largest number of attendees from its member states.

Representatives from the United States, France, Canada and Romania will also attend the conference as observers.

China joined the APPU in 1975, which now has 29 members since its establishment in 1962. Boao is a scenic coastal town and the permanent site for the Boao Forum for Asia annual conference, which is an important platform for exploring Asian issues.—MNA/Xinhua

China's railways sector to expand modern logistics

BEIJING, 10 Dec — As one of its development goals, China's railways sector will further develop its goods transportation logistics sector, a senior official from the Ministry of Railways said here Tuesday.

Fu Xuanyi, deputy director of the Transportation Bureau of the Ministry of Railways, said this at the Second China Senior Logistics Forum, which opened here Tuesday.

Fu said the ministry is planning to take a series of measures to expand its logistics sector, and the initial step is to speed up the construction of the railway network so as to improve its transport capacity. At the same time, more new technologies will be adopted to increase speed and efficiency in the transportation of both passengers and goods, he said, adding that in 2004, the fifth rise in train speed will be effected.

MNA/Xinhua



A fragment (L) of metal from a car lies on the ground as US soldiers guard the entrance to a US military barracks in Talafar, Iraq, on 9 Dec, 2003. A suicide bomber wounded 58 US soldiers and three Iraqis in an attack on the military base in northern Iraq, Tuesday.

—INTERNET

Two Republicans seek audit of US Iraq operations

WASHINGTON, 10 Dec—Two Republican US congressmen just back from a trip to Iraq urged President George W Bush on Tuesday to accept an independent panel to audit US operations there, and called on him to acknowledge mistakes that they said set back Iraq's recovery by months.

Representatives Frank Wolf of Virginia and Christopher Shays of Connecticut also urged the administration to give Iraqis a bigger voice in rebuilding their own country, and to show more "humility" in sharing power and being open to differing ideas.

Wolf and Shays, who said they believed they were the only congressmen to travel in Iraq outside US military auspices, also said Bush should redouble efforts to get more international help in Iraq including creating an alliance modelled on NATO to develop Iraq's law enforcement.

They also called on him to appoint a special envoy — possibly former president George HW Bush — to focus on the Arab-Israeli conflict, saying Mideast peace was key to stemming terrorism worldwide.

Shays said the administration "wasted two months" after the major conflict in Iraq, and the administration should "acknow-

ledge that, be upfront about miscalculations. It gives more validity to what you say afterward because people know you're speaking honestly".

Travelling with non-governmental personnel, Wolf said he and Shays had access to Iraqis who he said "helped give us a better understanding of what we as a nation are facing" and "more of an unvarnished look into the daily life of a country and its people".

The lawmakers said the White House should let an outside team examine the US military operation, look into efforts to rebuild the country and try to determine whether tax dollars were being wasted.

The team should also look at attempts to gain support of the Iraqi people, and what will happen when the US-led provisional authority dissolves as the administration said it will do in early summer, they said.

MNA/Reuters



Soldiers of US Army's 4th Infantry Division search for hidden weapons in the home of a detained Iraqi man, during a night raid in Khadasia, a northern suburb of Tikrit, Iraq, on 9 Dec, 2003. — INTERNET

UN expert says climate talks must focus more on poor

MILAN (Italy), 10 Dec—Climate talks in Italy this week should involve poor states more in slowing global warming because the UN's Kyoto protocol governing rich states does not go far enough, the head of a UN commission said on Monday.

Delegates at a UN climate conference in Milan also said that Sunday's parliamentary elections in Russia, which has an effective veto on Kyoto, could make ratification by Moscow more likely — but not until after presidential polls in 2004.

"We will need stronger measures after Kyoto," Boerge Brende, the chairman of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development, told

Reuters, saying that the 180-nation talks should focus beyond Kyoto despite uncertainties about Russia.

"We need to start involving developing nations. I'm not saying that they have to promise to cut emissions but they have to take more part in the dialogue," Brende, who is also Norway's Environment Minister, told Reuters by telephone. The United States pulled out of Kyoto, which

will last until 2012, arguing that it wrongly excluded developing nations and that its targets were too costly. Putin has also expressed worries that Kyoto will brake Russian economic growth.

Brende noted that China was among the biggest emitters of greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide, blamed by scientists for blanketing the planet and driving up temperatures. —MNA/Reuters

BRUSSELS, 10 Dec—NATO allies France, Norway and Britain said on Tuesday they would procure a remotely operated submarine rescue vehicle for about 167 million euros.

"The three countries are committed to jointly acquiring a submersible rescue vehicle capable of operating to a depth of 1,970 feet to rescue crew from submarines in difficulty," they said in a statement.

The submersible vehicle and its components, which are due to be delivered in 2006, will be based in Scotland.

The 19-nation NATO military alliance, which co-funded a feasibility study for the three-country system, signed an agreement with Russia in February to cooperate on future submarine operations to prevent a repeat of the Kursk disaster. —MNA/Reuters

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US says mass Iraq privatization still way off

WASHINGTON, 10 Dec—A senior US official said on Tuesday it would likely be several years before there was any mass privatization of Iraq's state-owned businesses and the timing would be decided by a sovereign Iraqi Government.

Thomas Foley, director of private sector development for the US-led Coalition Provisional Authority, said he had been discussing privatization plans with Iraq's Governing Council but that it would be a while before action was taken.

Any sell-off of Iraq's state-run industries is a controversial issue, with many ordinary Iraqis fearing international companies will reap the biggest rewards.

"The (privatization) process is a long one and my guess is that it will be several years before any significant privatizations are done and it is also my guess that most of these businesses will end up being owned by Iraqis," he said in a conference call

to reporters.

"The implementation and the timing of the privatization will be in the future and will be the role of a sovereign government in Iraq," he added, without specifying which firms would likely be privatized first.

There are about 200 state-owned enterprises in Iraq, ranging from cement and fertilizer companies to financial institutions and about 50 firms that produced military goods.

Foley said his plan, which was not public yet and was being discussed with the Iraqi Governing Council, included the creation of a quasi-independent Iraqi privatization agency along the same lines of those used in

Eastern Europe.

"This will guarantee the integrity of the process, consistency and transparency," he said.

Asked about the future of the 50 military companies, Foley said about eight of these had already been transferred to the ministries and others had been destroyed.

Foley anticipated most state-owned firms would be sold to Iraqis, adding that selling off these companies in a couple of years would enable Iraqis to build up capital and place competitive bids.

"I'm hopeful that the government will get fair prices for them and they will end up in the hands of Iraqis," he said. —MNA/Reuters

Attention deficit drugs may have long-term effects

WASHINGTON, 10 Dec—Drugs given to children to treat attention deficit hyperactivity disorder could have long-term effects on their growing brains, studies on rats suggest.

Several studies published on Monday show that rats given a popular ADHD drug were less likely to want to use cocaine later in life, but also often acted clinically depressed and behaved differently from rats given dummy injections.

While rats are different from humans, the studies suggest that doctors should watch children for long-term effects, too.

In the United States between 3 per cent and 5 per cent of children are diagnosed with attention deficit disorder, marked by reduced ability to concentrate, difficulty in organizing and impulsive behaviour.

Patients are commonly prescribed stimulants but the practice is sometimes con-

troversial.

William Carlezon of McLean Hospital and Harvard Medical School in Boston and colleagues raised two groups of rats. One was given Ritalin, known generically as methylphenidate, during the rat equivalent of pre-adolescence, while the other was given a salt water injection.

When they matured, the rats were tested for "learned helplessness" — how quickly they gave up on behavioural tasks under stress.

"Rats exposed to Ritalin as juveniles showed large increases in learned-helplessness behaviour during adulthood, suggesting a tendency toward depression," Carlezon said in a statement. —MNA/Reuters

S Africa, Europe hold talks on car exports

JOHANNESBURG, 10 Dec—South African officials held talks with European Union officials on Tuesday on automotive industry in a bid to launch tariff-free car exports to Europe.

Karl Falkenberg, director of trade at the EU Commission, said that the auto sector was the highlight of the sweeping two-day talks.

He said, "We covered a broad range of bilateral and multilateral issues including the prospect of seeing the automotive sector in South Africa opened in return for eliminating tariffs for exports of cars to Europe."

Falkenberg said there was currently a "6.5-per-cent duty for the export of fully built cars to Europe".

He said the present level of South African cars exported to Europe stood at around "50,000 units".

MNA/Xinhua



An unidentified man walks in falling snow in Omaha, Neb, on 9 Dec, 2003. The National Weather Service is calling for about three inches of snow in the area and winds of 20 to 30 miles per hour. —INTERNET

**Britain,
France,
Norway
plan
submarine
rescue craft**



Government to implement...

(from page 16)

10-ton and above truck and 40-passenger bus, he said.

Moreover, he said, farm equipment, hydro-powered generators, fertilizers and other industrial products are being produced with greater momentum.

He also reported on the government's assistance, Ayethaya industrial zone's participation in State-sponsored industrial exhibitions and prize-winning products of the zone at the exhibitions.

Next, Chairman of Industrial Development Committee Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win participated in the discussions. He said the industrial zones were established after region-wise private industries which had prospects for development were constituted. Now there are 18 industrial zones where over 7,000 industrialists produce various kinds of products. There are over 100,000 private industries including the industrial zones in the country.

Out of the zones Yangon, Mandalay, Ayethaya and Monywa industrial zones have developed most. The industrial sector is an important economic sector in Gross Domestic Product (GDP). According to the conditions of the country, efforts are being made for development of industrial and services sectors based on agricultural development. Only when

there is progress in the industrial sector will the country be modern and developed, he said.

In 1988, cultivable lands were just over 19 million acres. Now they increased up to 26 million acres. Tasks for availability of water such as construction of dams and reservoirs and implementation of river water pumping projects are being undertaken in the whole country. Cultivation of crops including double and mixed cropping also increased up to 40 million acres, he said.

Farm implements are used more in the agricultural sector due to increase of cultivable lands and single to triple cropping. The agricultural sector is now being transformed into mechanized farming. The industrial zones are to produce the most wanted power tillers and harvesting and winnowing machines not only for quantity but also for quality. In the country hundreds of thousands of power tillers are needed but they are produced in thousands only.

He said the government has given encouragement to the development of industries of the industrialists. It is necessary for the industrialists of Ayethaya zone to make efforts to become a zone that serves the interest of Shan State and provides industrial requirements to other regions.

Endeavours are to be made for development of en-



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye inspects classroom of Kengtwang Basic Education High School.— MNA

gines of the power tiller and other advanced equipment with the technical assistance of the Ministry of Industry-2.

Now some industrial zones are trying to build 10-ton and above trucks and 40-passenger buses with the encouragement of the Government. The zone gained experience on assembling the light trucks.

Therefore, he said, he would like to urge the industrialists to try to produce passenger buses. He called on them to make efforts with the use of advanced equipment in the private industries to produce quality goods on a commercial scale.

By doing so, he said the

private zones can produce farm equipment, machines and import-substitute equipment on a commercial scale.

With the production of quality equipment in the respective zone, Myanmar industrial sectors will develop with greater momentum and a modern developed nation will emerge in a short time.

U Sai Ohn Khaung of the zone reported on the assembling of 10-ton and above trucks and 40-passenger buses and U Saw Naing on the assembling of Shan Star Jeeps.

In his address, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye said Myanmar has a population of over 53 million. The most basic requirements for all

citizens are food, clothing and shelter. The government is making efforts for development of agriculture by taking into consideration the present population and growing population in the future.

He said the government has given encouragement to increase the sown acreage of paddy, beans and pulses and maize and per acre yield and development of fish and meat sector with the intention of fulfilling food, clothing and shelter needs for the people in the long run and sufficiency of rice and fish and meat. In other words, the government is building basic foundation for food, clothing and shelter needs,

he said.

He spoke of the need to ensure a basic foundation on food, clothing and shelter needs. To be prosperous and developed, the country must be built to be an industrialized one. Therefore, efforts are to be made for development of the industrial sector based on satisfying basic needs of food, clothing and shelter.

The government has to implement the tasks in co-operation with the private sector in harmony for development of the industrial sector with added momentum, he said.

He said the industrialists should not be complacent with the zones and urged them to make endeavours to their zone become a reliable industrial zones that can support the nation-building tasks.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye cordially greeted the industrialists.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party inspected folio fertilizer, spare parts of farm machinery, parts of automobile, leather goods, paper, plastic wares, small generators, transformers, maize threshers, paddy threshers, Taungpawkywe Brand power tillers, Shan Lon May paddy harvesters and others in the zone.

Officials concerned reported on pilot production of 10 tons and above automobiles and other types of cars.

(See page 8)



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye hears reports on Kengtwang hydel power project by Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut.— MNA

Government to implement...

(from page 7)

They also inspected the machines used in assembling Shan Star jeeps, assembled Shan Star jeep frames and arrangements for production of other models and Maung Myanmar jeeps.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party viewed the production process of Shan Star jeeps and other cars and assembled cars and gave necessary instructions.

Next, they proceeded to Taunggyi by car.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party flew to Kengtawng, Mongnai Township, Loilem District, from Taunggyi on 7 December morning.

On arrival, they were welcomed there by senior military officers of Kengtawng Station, local authorities and departmental officials, local people, teachers and students.

At the guest house of Kengtawng, Col Tint Lwin of Kengtawng Station reported on matters related to the Station and regional development measures. Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and Commander Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint gave supplementary reports.

Local authorities and departmental officials also reported on administration of the town, education, health, communication, development activities, agriculture, livestock breeding, and transport. After hearing the reports, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye gave necessary instructions.

Next, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party inspected the construction of Myonan Pagoda in Kengtawng.

They later went to the basic education high school in the town, where the headmaster and teachers conducted them round the



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party pose for documentary photo in front of Kengtawng Waterfalls.— MNA

school.

After inspecting the two-storey school building under construction, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye gave necessary instructions.

In the afternoon, they visited Kengtawng Waterfalls, 31 miles east of Mongnai, where they were welcomed by Deputy Minister for Electric Power U Myo Myint, Brig-Gen Myo Lwin of Kengtawng Station and officials.

At the briefing hall, the deputy minister reported on the purpose of implementing the Kengtawng hydel-power project on Namtein creek near the waterfalls by the No 1 Construction of the Hydroelectric Power Department, preparatory measures for the project, and the amount of electricity to generate.

Minister Maj-Gen Tin Htut also reported on arrangements for distribution of electricity to be generated by the project to the areas in Loilem District and for distribution of surplus electricity to the grid, and

the estimated cost of the project.

In response to the reports, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye gave instructions, saying that Myanmar engineers were to make efforts to implement medium hydel-power projects like the Kengtawng hydel-power project, making the most of their know-how and experiences.

He continued that plans were also to be drawn to create human resources capable of handling the construction work, adding that the project should be completed in the targeted time.

Later, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party looked into the place chosen for the project. The Kengtawng hydel-power project will be able to generate 54 megawatts of electricity and is expected to complete in the 2005-2006 fiscal year.

The Ministry of Electric Power is implementing hydel-power projects with the aim of fulfilling electricity requirement of the State.

The implementation of the Kengtawng hydel-power project will be under the charge of Myanmar engineers themselves of the No 1 Construction of the Hydroelectric Power Department.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party arrived back here yesterday evening by Tatmadaw aircraft via Heho.

Member of the Central Panel of Patrons of USDA Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe

Win, member of the entourage, together with USDA Secretariat Member Maj-Gen Tin Htut, CEC members Col Thein Nyunt, Brig-Gen Ohn Myint and Brig-Gen Thein Aung, met with secretaries and executives of USDAs of Mongpan, Loilem, Namhsan, Mongnai and Langkho townships in Mongpan on 7 December.

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win and party also met with secretaries and executives of Taunggyi Township USDA

Sein, member of the entourage, together with Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Kyi Min, Vice-Chairman of the COC and Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun and Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing, met with members of the WVOs of Mongpan, Loilem, Namhsan, Mongnai and Langkho townships on 7 December and gave instructions.

Next, the Secretary-2,



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win inspects e-library of Shan State (South) USDA.— MNA

at Shan State (South) USDA office in Taunggyi on 8 December afternoon. At the get-together, the secretary of Shan State (South) USDA reported on measures being taken by the association and matters related to implementation of the five rural development tasks.

After hearing the reports, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win, Maj-Gen Tin Htut, Brig-Gen Ohn Myint and Col Thein Nyunt gave necessary instructions. Next, the Secretary-1 and party inspected the e-library of the association.

Likewise, Chairman of the Central Organizing Committee for Myanmar War Veterans Organization Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein

together with Vice-Admiral Kyi Min, Maj-Gen Saw Tun, Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Brig-Gen Thein Aung and Col Tin Hlaing, also met with officials from Shan State and Taunggyi District WVOs at Panglong Hall-1 of the Eastern Command in Taunggyi on 8 December evening and left instructions.

Similarly, Col Thein Nyunt, Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs, met with staff of the development affairs departments of Mongpan, Mongnai, Maukmai and Langkho townships and gave instructions on urbanization and rural development tasks.

MNA



Various types of motor vehicles assembled in Ayethaya Industrial Zone of Taunggyi Township.— MNA

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than...

(from page 16)

agricultural conditions of the village; Headmaster U Saw Wa on academic matters; and Col Zaw Win Myint of Shwekyin Station on water supply to the village.

After fulfilling the requirements, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party inspected the development of Kunseik Village and cordially greeted the villagers.

Altogether 1,080 acres of monsoon paddy, 250 acres of summer paddy, over 600 acres of beans and pulses, 250 acres of groundnut and 50 acres of sunflower have been cultivated in Kunseik Model Village tract, Shwekyin Township in Bago Division.

On arrival at Thayethamein Village in Waw Township, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party were welcomed by departmental personnel, members of social organizations and local people.

At Thayethamein Village Station Hospital, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than in-

spected male and female wards, surgical wards, maternity ward and the medical store.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than gave instructions to officials on establishing funds for the hospital, collection of medicines and providing better health care services to local people.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party next proceeded Thayethamein Village Affiliated Basic Education School.

The authorities of Waw Township and Village reported to Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than on social, economic, agricultural, health matters, water flow of the Sittoung river and construction of motor roads from Thayethamein Village to Myitkyo; the education officer of the township and the headmistress on strength of students and staff, academic matters and requirements.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than fulfilled their requirements.

Altogether 4,011 acres of monsoon paddy, 50 acres

Thitagu Sayadaw hoists Htidaw atop Shinlainggu Pagoda in Shwedaung

YANGON, 10 Dec—A ceremony to hoist Htidaw atop Shinlainggu Pagoda on the bank of Ayeyawady River near Hsinmakyat Village, Shwedaung Township, was held at the venue on 8 December morning, attended by Chancellor of Thitagu World Buddha University Ashin Dr Nanissara.

Also present were members of Bago Division (West) Sangha Nayaka Committee, Deputy Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Aung Tun and wife, Chairman of Bago Division (West) Peace and Development Council Col Hla Min and officials.

Thitagu Sayadaw administered the Nine Precepts.

Then, the deputy minister and officials donated Seinbudaw, Hngetmyatnaw and Shwehtidaw to the Sayadaws.

Next, Thitagu Sayadaw delivered a sermon and the congregation shared merits gained.

At the auspicious time, Seinbudaw, Hngetmyatnaw and Shwehtidaw were hoisted atop the pagoda. Afterwards, the Sayadaws consecrated the pagoda.

The pagoda was renovated by Shwedaung Advanced Textile and Finishing Plant Manager Lt-Col Soe Hlaing and staff and other wellwishers.

MNA

of summer paddy, 3,543 acres of beans and pulses, 350 acres of sunflower and 118 acres of groundnut have been grown in Thayethamein Village Tract, Waw Township in Bago Division.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party next arrived

at Winkan Village in the township and inspected the site chosen for building a bridge that will link Winkan Village of Shwekyin Township and Winkan Village of Kyaikheto Township in Mon State spanning the Kyonmange Creek.

MNA

The 57th Anniversary Union Day objectives

- for all national races to safeguard the national policy— non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty
- to keep the Union spirit ever alive and dynamic among the national people
- for all national people to defend and safeguard the Union for its perpetual existence
- to prevent, through national solidarity, the danger of internal and external destructive elements undermining peace and stability of the State and national development, and
- for all national races to make concerted efforts for successful implementation of the seven-point future policy programme.

Five SEA Games gold medalists



Khin Maung Myint.— MNA



Aung Kyaw Moe.— MNA



Phone Myint Teza.— MNA



Kan Shwe.— MNA

Myanmar wins five silver, four bronze

YANGON, 10 Dec— The Myanmar sports contingent won five silver and four bronze in the XXII SEA Games today.

Five silver winners were:

Swe Swe Thant in Nanquan (Tauklu) event of Wushu Contest, Swe Swe Win in women's 53-kilo weightlifting event, Phyu Wah Thet in women's 5000-m, Moe Thu Aung in 200-m free style and 100-m butterfly swimming events.

Four bronze winners were: Aung Aung Htoo in men's 69-kilo weightlifting event, Kyaw Zin Oo in men's shuttlecock kicking event, Sai Zarni Aung in 51-kilo boxing event and Aung Thura in men's 10000-m race. — MNA



Kay Thi Win who wins gold in weightlifting event of XXII SEA Games. — MNA

Swe Swe Thant wins silver

YANGON, 10 Dec — The XXII South-East Asian Games continued in Hanoi, Vietnam, this afternoon.

In the Nandao event of Wushu Contest, Ma Swe Swe Thant of Myanmar won silver, the host Vietnamese gold and the Philippine silver.

Wushu events will be held on 12 and 13 December.

MNA



Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone formally opens Thailand Exhibition 2003. — MNA

Thailand Exhibition 2003 opened

YANGON, 10 Dec — The opening of Thailand Exhibition 2003 was held at Yangon Trade Centre on Upper Pazundaung Road in Mingala Taungnyunt Township here this morning.

It was attended by ministers, deputy ministers, departmental heads, Thai Ambassador Mr Oum Maolanon, officials of foreign embas-

sies in Yangon, entrepreneurs and guests.

Assistant Director-General of Ministry of Commerce of Thailand Mr Suwipan Thisyamongdol spoke words of thanks. Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone formally opened the exhibition.

Those present viewed booths round the fair.

The exhibition will be kept open till 13 December from 10 am to 6 pm daily. Entrepreneurs can visit the exhibition by ticket on 10 and 11 December and the people, on 12 and 13 December.

Available at the exhibi-

tion are construction materials, household utensils, computer and spare parts, chemicals, medicines, machines and accessories, foodstuff, electrical apparatus, toys, cosmetics, leather goods and furniture.

MNA

Myanma Investment and Commercial Bank inspected

YANGON, 10 Dec— Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun, accompanied by Deputy Minister Col Hla Thein Swe, Governor of Central Bank of Myanmar U Kyaw Kyaw Maung and officials, met with instructors of the General Banking Course No 2 (Officer Level) at Myanma Investment and Commercial Bank on Bo Aung Kyaw Street this afternoon.

Then, the minister and party inspected the bank where Managing Director U Mya Than and officials reported on local and foreign banking services.

Later, the minister called on the managing director and officials and gave instructions on banking service to be carried out in accord with rules and regulations.

MNA



Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun meets instructors of General Banking Services (Officer Level). — MNA

DRIVE SAFELY



Swe Swe Thant who wins two silvers in Nandao event and Nanquan (Tauklu) event of Wushu Contest.

MNA

Trains running on Kalay-Gangaw Railroad

Article and photos by Kalay Win Thu

Yaw region made up of Gangaw, Htilin and Saw townships is situated between Pondaung Ponnya mountain range in the east and Chin Yoma mountain range in the west. Being endowed with mountains and defiles of rivers, the region was a sparsely populated one with poor transportation.

In the past, local people had to rely only on Myittha River that flows from south to north to travel in the region, and except the waterway, local people could travel only on foot or by bullock cart.

In order to overcome the difficulty and to ensure smooth transport in the region, respective governments constructed Pale-Gangaw road in 1962 and Kalay-Gangaw-Pakokku-ChaungU railroad in 1995 and Kalay-Gangaw road was upgraded.

There are 410 small and big bridges along the 82.99-mile Kalay-Gangaw railroad opened on 5 February 1996 with 19 stations. In 2003, the railroad was extended up to Myetmyaung and so its length increased to 107 miles with 29 stations. The Kalay-Gangaw train runs between Kalay and



The Kalay-Gangaw regular train.

Yaymyetni once every two days.

Apart from Kalay-Yaymyetni train between Kalay and Myetmyaung, there are also Kalay-Gangaw train that runs between Kalay and Gangaw (82.99 miles), Kalay-Natchaung rail car between Kalay and Natchaung (14.12 miles), Kalay-Hanthawady rail car between Kalay and Hanthawady (40 miles) and Mwele-Kalay rail car between Kalay and Mwele (60 miles).

The Kalay-Yaymyetni train leaves Kalay at 8 am

and arrives at Yaymyetni station at 6.15 pm. Kalay-Gangaw train leaves Kalay station at 5.30 am and arrives at Gangaw station at 12.10 pm. Yaymyetni train spends the night at Yaymyetni station and leaves the station at 7.30 am on the next day morning and arrives back at Kalay station at 5.30 pm.

The Kalay-Gangaw train arrives at Gangaw at 12.10 pm and it leaves the station at 1.30 pm and arrives back at Kalay at 8.20 pm.

The Kalay-Natchaung rail car leaves Natchaung

station at 6.30 and arrives at Kalay station at 7.40 am. It returns at 12.20 pm and arrives back at the starting point at 1.20 pm. The rail car runs four trips a day. Consequently, the students from Natchaung can attend Kalay University.

Hanthawady-Kalay rail car leaves Hanthawady Village at 5.45 am and arrives at Kalay station at 10.05 am. It returns to Kalay at 1.30 pm and arrives back at 2.05 pm.

The Mwele-Kalay rail car leaves Mwele station at 6.30 am and arrives at the destination at 12.20 pm. It leaves Kalay station at 3 pm and arrives back at Mwele at 8 pm.

Now, local residents have enjoyed the fruits of better transport and a swift commodity flow. The passengers from Yaw and Chin hilly region travel to and fro and they can travel to Yangon, Mandalay and Pakokku in comfort.

On completion of the railroad in the course of construction through Pondaung-Ponnya, the people from Yaw and Chin State can travel Yangon or Mandalay in a day.

Translation: MS
Kyemon: 8-12-2003

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

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now.



Regular rail service at Kalay Station.



စတုတ္ထအကြိမ်မြောက် အရှေ့တောင်အာရှ ဦးစီးဌာန အထွေထွေညီလာခံ
အာဆီယံ အဆင့်မြင့်အရာရှိများအစည်းအဝေး
၂၀၀၃ ခုနှစ်၊ ဒီဇင်ဘာလ (၁၅-၁၆) ရက်၊ ရန်ကုန်၊

**4th ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting
on
Rural Development and Poverty Eradication
15-16 December 2003
Yangon, Myanmar**



**The 9th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Environment
and
The 2nd ASEAN+3 Environment Ministers Meeting
Yangon, Myanmar
18-19 December 2003**

Advancement of communication system vital for national development drive



The communication sector plays a pivotal role in exchange of information from one place to another.

The Panglong Telephone Exchange

which is one of the development projects for Panglong region, now enables the local people to have easy access to modern communication system.

PHOTO: MNA

In the world today, science and technology, especially information and communication technology, are advancing with phenomenal acceleration. At such a time, there emerged another Myanmar Information and Communication Technology (MICT) Park of international standard in Mandalay, the capital of Upper Myanmar, on 16 August 2003.

PHOTO: MNA



The construction of MICT Park in Hline Township, Yangon, started in 2001 and was opened with grand ceremony on 21 January 2002. The photo taken on 31 January 2003 shows the posh Myanmar Information and Communications Technology Park.

PHOTO: MNA

The Government has been striving for enabling the nation to keep abreast of the world's nations in terms of development. In this process, the Government, laying down national development projects and drawing development plans, is making relentless efforts to bring about harmonious development in economic, health and education sectors across the nation by narrowing the development gap between one region and another. The photo shows the Myanmar Aerospace Engineering University in Meiktila. — PHOTO: MNA



Warmly Welcome to ...

Thailand Exhibition '2003

10-13 December 2003
Yangon Trade Center
Yangon, Myanmar

၁၀-၁၃ ဇန်နဝါရီလ ၂၀၀၃

10-11 DEC 2003 : Trade Days(with entrance ticket)
12-13 DEC 2003 : General Public Days
Open hours : from 10:00 AM to 06:00 PM daily

Organized by Department of Export Promotion, Ministry of Commerce,
Royal Thai Government



KAMPALA, 10 Dec — Ugandan Minister of State for Transport Andruale Awuzu has disclosed that at least 1,250 people died in road accidents from January to September this year.

Speaking at launching the national road safety campaign week with a theme of “road disciplines save life” here on Monday, Awuzu said Uganda could have lost about 150 million US dollars in 2002 due to road accidents, adding that the figure arose out of a road safety audit which calculates the cost of accidents in terms of

paign week with a theme of "road disciplines save life" here on Monday, Awuzu said Uganda could have lost about 150 million US dollars in 2002 due to road accidents, adding that the figure arose out of a road safety audit which calculates the cost of accidents in terms of

He was quoted by local media as saying on Tuesday that it does not include the grief, trauma and suffering which people get due to the loss of their beloved.

ပြည်တွင်းဖြစ်ကိုအားပေးပါ

လူ့စွမ်းအားအရင်းအမြစ်ဖွံ့ဖြိုးမှုဌာန
(ရန်ကုန်နိုင်ငံခြားဘာသာတက္ကသိုလ်)

နိုင်ငံခြားဘာသာစကားသင်တန်းသားလျှောက်လွှာခေါ်ယူခြင်း

၁။ လူ့စွမ်းအားအရင်းအမြစ်ဖွံ့ဖြိုးမှုဌာန (ရန်ကုန်နိုင်ငံခြားဘာသာတက္ကသိုလ်)တွင် တရုတ်၊ အင်္ဂလိပ်၊ ပြင်သစ်၊ ဂျာမန်၊ ဂျပန်၊ ကိုရီးယား၊ ထိုင်းဘာသာစကား၊ ပြင်သစ်(ဘာသာပြန်/စကားပြန်)နှင့် မြန်မာဘာသာစကား(နိုင်ငံခြားကျောင်းသားအတွက်) ညနေသင်တန်းများ ဖွင့်လှစ်မည့် ဖြစ်ပါသည်။

၂။ သင်တန်းစတင်ဖွင့်လှစ်မည့်ရက်မှာ (၂၀၁၁-၁၂-၂၀၀၃) ရက်နေ့ ဖြစ်ပြီး သင်တန်းဝင်ခွင့်လျှောက်လွှာများကို (၁၁-၁၂-၂၀၀၃) ရက်နေ့မှစတင် လက်ခံပါမည်။ သင်တန်းဝင်ခွင့်နှင့်ပတ်သက်၍ အသေးစိတ်သိလိုပါက ရှု-ချိန်အတွင်း ရန်ကုန်နိုင်ငံခြားဘာသာတက္ကသိုလ်တွင် လာရောက်စုံစမ်းမေးမြန်းနိုင်ပါသည်။

ဖုန်း- ၅၁၄၃၇၁ (လိင်းခွဲ-၁၂၃)

DAR-ES-SALAAM, 10 Dec — Tanzanian Health Minister Anna Abdallah has said that the government's goal of health-for-all cannot be achieved without good quality medicines with suitable price, local newspaper *Daily News* reported on Tuesday.

The minister was quoted as saying on Monday that the goal for good health-for-all required that all people including those in rural and semi-urban areas get quality health services, such as essential drugs, within reach at all the time and at affordable prices.

While, the minister admitted that the situation in rural areas is pathetic because

the price of the drugs are sold at exorbitant prices.

She urged that experts attending the on-going two-day international conference on strategies for enhancing access to medicines can exchange and share experiences and efforts in finding access to drugs by rural population.

She said that Tanzania would present for discussion on the government's recent efforts in improving access to quality medicines.

Most of the daily medicines in Tanzania were imported from other countries, so the price of drugs cannot be afforded by most Tanzanians.

MNA/Xinhua

CHANGCHUN, 10 Dec—A runaway tiger on the way of shipping near Changchun, capital of northeast China's Jilin Province was captured at around 2:20 Tuesday morning after enjoying four hours at large.

Anesthetic was used to tame the tiger and no people were injured, according to Lu Qingrui, deputy general director of the provincial traffic police team of Jilin.

The truck was carrying

the male Siberian tiger, 18 years old, and its three companions back to a tiger zoo in Harbin, capital of northeast China's Heilongjiang Province, after their rental term by a zoo in Shenyang, capital of Liaoning Province, ended.

The truck was running on the expressway between Changchun and Siping, a city in Jilin, on Monday night when the tiger tried to break the cage.

Noticing the tiger's attempt, the driver reported the danger to the provincial traffic police authorities of Jilin at about 22:10, which at once sent police cars to tail the truck and watch over the situation. Armed police and forestry police in Jilin also took part in the capture.

The tiger jumped off the truck 20 minutes later, roaming in a 200-metre sphere near its landing spot.

MNA/Xinhua



Labrador's of the Indian Army dog squad exhibit their skills as their master looks on during the 52nd Calcutta Horse show in Calcutta, India, on 9 Dec, 2003. — INTERNET

ပညာရေးနှင့် ခေတ်မီပို့ဒ်းတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်ဖို့

Afghanistan, Uzbekistan agree to strengthen economic ties

KABUL, 10 Dec — Afghanistan and Uzbekistan recently agreed to increase bilateral economic and trade relations, as the Uzbek Embassy was officially opened for the first time in the Afghan capital.

Senior officials of the two governments signed two agreements respectively on trade and transit cooperation at the Foreign Ministry here.

Visiting Uzbek Foreign Minister Sadik Safaev, his Afghan counterpart Abdullah Abdullah and Afghan Commerce Minister Syed Mustapha Kazimi were present at the signing ceremony.

"The agreements on trade and transportation signed today would facilitate the two neighbouring countries to strengthen their economic and trade relations," Kazimi told reporters.

It was the first time that such agreements were signed between the two sides, he added.

Safaev termed his visit to Afghanistan as a sign of Uzbekistan's support to the Karzai Government, saying that "the aim of my visit here is to back President Karzai's policies, his Cabinet and government."

"We support a united and a progressive Afghanistan, and would extend any possible support to help rebuild it," he said.

The Uzbek Foreign Minister, who earlier had separate meetings with President Hamid Karzai and Foreign Minister Abdullah, said that matters of mutual interests, including the expansion of political and economic relations, were discussed during the meetings.

Abdullah welcomed the signing of the two agreements, saying "the accords will be a positive step in boosting relations between the two sides in all fields."

Safaev said he hopes the new agreements could significantly increase bilateral trade volume, which is at around 60 million US dollars each year currently.

Uzbekistan, one of Afghanistan's northern neighbours, has been helping Afghanistan in rebuilding some bridges along highways linking Kabul with the Hairatan Port on the border between the two countries, officials said.

Later in the day, the Uzbek Embassy here was officially inaugurated.

MNA/Xinhua

OECD urges better communication of science advances

PARIS, 10 Dec — Governments must do more to educate people about scientific and technological advances to counter misinformation and often unfounded fears of risks to health and the environment, a free-market forum said on Monday.

Innovation in areas like e-commerce, nuclear power, stem cell research and genetically modified crops offers huge growth potential, but public confidence is vital, Donald Johnston, secretary-general of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), told a forum on investment.

"To preserve the vast potential of science to better the human condition, governments must do much more to ensure the maintenance of public confidence. Fears abound, stoked often by claims of some NGO activists who exercise media power without...shouldering responsibility," Johnston said.

"Governments need to take back the initiative on

science issues — through transparency, education and broad consultation. The public must understand that noisy protests have greeted recent innovations like genetically modifying crops to make them immune to disease or improve their quality, or advances in the use of stem cells as potential treatments for diseases like cancer.

Opponents of GM foods say tinkering with the genetic make-up of crops could upset the natural balance of the environment with serious consequences. Others worried about the effect on human health have labelled such crops "Frankenfoods".

Controversy is also raging over research into the use of stem cells because al-

though they are found in adult tissue, the most flexible stem cells are found in very young embryos. Johnston said the economic potential of electronic commerce would never be fully realized unless national and global regulatory frameworks were put in place to provide consumer protection and give people the confidence to use the Internet commercially.

"Governments must be able to satisfy the public that they are equipped and able to identify and manage the risks which might otherwise place the safety, security and sometimes privacy of the public in jeopardy," he said.

MNA/Reuters

Annan calls for bigger int'l involvement in Afghanistan

UNITED NATIONS, 10 Dec — The deteriorating security situation in Afghanistan and the intensifying attacks on UN staff and aid workers highlighted the urgent need to increase international involvement, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan said in a just released report.

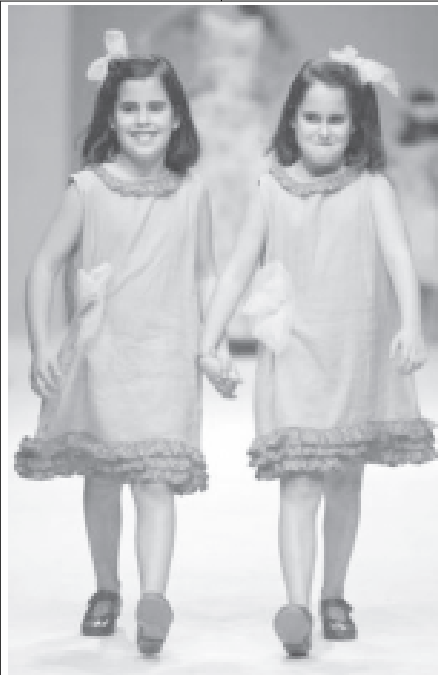
In his report to the UN General Assembly, Annan said that it is indispensable that international support must be significantly increased and sustained. "Above all, the international community needs to strengthen its commitment to provide security," said the UN chief. "Unchecked criminality, outbreaks of factional fighting and activities surrounding the illegal narcotics trade have all had a negative impact on the Bonn process," he said. He added that critical political processes have been delayed or are at risk because of security problems.

"It has been more than 12 months since the establishment of the Transitional Administration. In this time, the initial euphoria of peace

has been replaced by the complex legacies of two and a half decades of armed conflict," he said.

Meanwhile, there are some bright spots in the war-torn country, according to the report. The country's economy has enjoyed growth, the primary education system has been re-established and one of the largest ever UN-assisted refugee repatriation schemes is proceeding. Some four million children are now going to school, according to the report.

Annan said that he has begun consultations on arranging a follow-up conference to the Bonn Agreement, which would bring together a representative spectrum of the Afghan population, in partnership with the international community. — MNA/Xinhua



Child models present clothes from the Maravillas collection, during a fashion show at Wedding Accessories and Services Trade Fair in Seville, Spain, on 8 Dec, 2003. — INTERNET

China provides Malaysia with good market

KUALA LUMPUR, 10 Dec — The emergence of China as an economic powerhouse provides Malaysia with a good market, Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi has said.

"It is something that we'd like to see as a good opportunity. China can provide us with a good market," the Prime Minister said Tuesday in an interview with a group of Japanese journalists on the eve of his departure to Japan. "Of course we'll have to make sure that we develop our own niches and products that will be suitable and wanted by the China market," he said. Therefore, the rising China should not create fear, he added. The value of two-way trade between China and Malaysia stood at some 14 billion US dollars in the January-October period 2003, compared with a total of 10 billion US dollars for the whole year of 2002.

On bilateral relations with Japan, Abdullah said, "I would like to continue not just with the good relations we have but to continue making efforts to deepen and ex-

pand bilateral relations between Japan and Malaysia."

Abdullah is travelling to Japan to attend the ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit on Thursday, his first appearance abroad after becoming Malaysia's fifth Prime Minister on October 31. The Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), set up in 1967, now groups Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. He is also expected to have talks with his Japanese counterpart. Discussions with Koizumi, Abdullah said, might also touch on matters pertaining to the enhancement of bilateral trade and investment. Japan, the major trade partner of Malaysia, invested some three billion US dollars in various economic sectors of the country in the first six months this year. — MNA/Xinhua



An Airbus A-310 MRTT converted into an in-flight refuelling plane stands in a hangar of the EADS 'Elbe Flugzeugwerke' company in Dresden, eastern Germany, on 9 Dec, 2003, prior to the roll-out ceremony. This first of four A-310 multi-role transport aircraft for the German Air Force, and two for the Canadian Air Force, has now been completed. — INTERNET

Two die in plane crash in S Africa

JOHANNESBURG, 10 Dec — Two men died when their light aircraft crashed shortly after take-off from the Bapsfontein Aerodrome in the Welbekend area southeast of Pretoria on Tuesday morning. Flight instructor Sandy Kirkpatrick and trainee pilot Johan Vosloo died in the crash around 8.20 am (0620 GMT), said Pretoria police spokesman Inspector Percy Morokane.

Preliminary investigations suggested that the Wild Hawk aircraft developed mechanical problems shortly after take-off, police said in a statement. — MNA/Xinhua

Trade deficit with China not cause for US job losses

NEW YORK, 10 Dec — Trade with China is helping create jobs in the United States rather than contributing to its unemployment problem, said China's Vice-Commerce Minister Ma Xihong here on Monday.

"Facts have proved conclusively that the sound development of the China-US economic and trade relations have created much room for job creation in the United States, rather than leading to job losses," Ma told reporters.

"The prospects for the creation of more jobs (in the United States) as a result of exports to China remain very bright," added Ma, who is accompanying Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao on a four-day official visit to the United States. The trade deficit the United States has with China does not mean jobs are lost in the United States and China's products do not pose a threat to the development of US industries, she stressed. — MNA/Xinhua

SPORTS

Zidane called to give evidence at Juventus doping trial

PARIS, 10 Dec—Former world footballer of the year Zinedine Zidane has been called to give evidence at the trial of two Juventus officials accused of sporting fraud. General Manager Antonio Giraudo and club doctor Riccardo Agricola are accused of administering banned drugs to players between 1994 and 1998.

The Frenchman played for Juventus from 1996 to 2001. Raffaele Guariniello, the Turin-based magistrate whose three-year probe into drug use in Italian soccer prompted the start of the trial in January 2002, hoped to call other players associated with the Serie A club.

"I have asked him to attend a hearing on December 19," Guariniello told French newspaper Le Monde on Monday. "I want to hear from other players. From Zidane and the others I expect the truth."

"They are witnesses in these legal proceedings and must tell exactly what happened in their club." Last October Professor Gianmartino Benzi, a pharmacologist at the University of Pavia, told the trial that Juventus had a store containing 281 medicines. At least five anti-inflammatory drugs were prohibited. Giraudo and Agricola face six to eight months in prison, if enough evidence is found against them.—MNA/Xinhua

Relaxed Real clinch top spot

MADRID, 10 Dec — Real Madrid eased through to the second phase of the Champions League as Group F winners with a relaxed 1-1 draw at home to Porto on Tuesday.

With both sides assured of a place in the last 16 and Porto needing a hefty victory to knock Real off top spot, there was little urgency on a damp night at the Bernabeu.

Santiago Solari put Real ahead in the ninth minute after Luis Figo's run had opened up the Porto defence. Porto equalized 10 minutes before halftime when Deco was bundled over in the penalty area by Michel Salgado, Derlei smacking the penalty into the roof of the net.

The second half was of limited appeal, as both sides appeared to settle for a result that left Real, nine-time European Cup winners and favourites again this year, assured of avoiding the other group winners in the next round.

With little at stake, Real coach Carlos Queiroz opted to leave David Beckham, Raul, Ivan Helguera and Iker Casillas out of his starting lineup but there was still plenty of quality on show.

The 28,000 fans who braved the Madrid weather for the final group game were almost rewarded with a spectacular goal after five minutes as Real took up where they had left off in Saturday's 2-1 win over arch-rivals Barcelona at the Nou Camp. French playmaker Zinedine Zidane, a surprise presence in the side given Real's punishing schedule, produced a precise pass for Ronaldo to collect and smash just over the bar.—MNA/Reuters

Bruges shock Ajax but neither side qualifies

BRUGES (Belgium), 10 Dec— Club Bruges upset four-time European champions Ajax Amsterdam 2-1 in their final Champions League match on Tuesday but both clubs exited the competition after Celta Vigo won at AC Milan.

Norwegian substitute Bengt Saeternes scored an 84th-minute winner to give Bruges a deserved victory after a Wesley Sonck penalty for Ajax had cancelled out Rune Lange's opener for Bruges in the first half.

All German samples re-tested for THG returned negative

BERLIN, 10 Dec — All 731 samples from German athletes re-tested for tetrahydrogestrinone (THG) have proven negative, the German Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) said on Monday. NADA said no positive tests had been reported for the samples taken from a variety of sports analyzed in International Olympic Committee-accredited laboratories in Kreischa and Cologne after the discovery of the new designer steroid.

The two German laboratories also tested samples from athletes from other countries who had competed in Germany. But NADA declined to say whether any samples from non-German athletes had been positive.

MNA/Xinhua



Sergio Garcia of Spain, left, tries to protect himself from Oscar Diaz of Paraguay during a match for the World U20 Soccer Championship at the Sheikh Khalifa Stadium in Al Ain, United Arab Emirates, on 9 Dec, 2003.—INTERNET

Van Nistelrooy equals record as Man Utd cruise

MANCHESTER, 10 Dec— Manchester United striker Ruud van Nistelrooy equalled his club's European scoring record as they cruised to a 2-0 win over VfB Stuttgart to seal top spot in Champions League Group E on Tuesday.

The English champions qualified for the next stage ahead of the German side who beat them earlier in the campaign thanks to goals from van Nistelrooy and acting captain Ryan Giggs either side of the interval.

Van Nistelrooy broke the deadlock with the final touch of the first half when he headed home his 28th European goal for United to move level with Denis Law, the man known as the "King" of Old Trafford.

The Dutch international took three less games to reach Law's mark, doing so with his fourth goal in this Champions League campaign and 15th in all this season.

United had initially found it hard to break down Stuttgart, who have conceded only three goals this season on the way to top spot in the Bundesliga.

Goalkeeper Timo Hildebrand had to make one tumbling save to turn a deflected Gary Neville shot round the post and Giggs also fired over the crossbar.

But the visitors defended well and looked dangerous on the counter-attack, with midfielder Alexander Gleb causing problems, until a flash of brilliance from Giggs opened up the Stuttgart rearguard for van Nistelrooy to climb well and head home his

left-wing cross.

Stuttgart started the second half positively as they looked for the goal they now required to regain top spot and secure a potentially easier draw in the last 16.

Timo Wenzel tested Roy Carroll with a powerful shot following a short free kick but United made the game safe with their second goal after 58 minutes.

Van Nistelrooy was this time the provider with some neat footwork inside his own half and a perfect pass for Giggs who raced through before side-footing the ball past Hildebrand. It was his 20th goal in Europe, moving him up to joint fourth on United's all-time list.

United manager Alex Ferguson was then able to withdraw both goalscorers and England midfielder Paul Scholes, who gave an excellent performance in his first start since October 22 following groin surgery, in preparation for Saturday's Premier League derby against Manchester City. Captain Roy Keane did not even have to leave the bench as a comfortable win put United where they wanted to be going into Friday's draw for the knock-out phase.

MNA/Reuters

Marseille hang on to claim draw in Belgrade

BELGRADE, 10 Dec — Olympique Marseille survived a late onslaught to clinch a 1-1 draw against Partizan Belgrade in Champions League Group F on Tuesday and secure a UEFA Cup spot.

The French side finished third in the group on four points and qualified for the UEFA Cup, while Partizan came bottom with three points from six matches to end their interest in Euro-

pean competition this season. The Serbian side dominated the match but missed a hatful of sitters before falling behind against the run of play on the hour.

Egyptian striker Mido

was left unmarked in the heart of the penalty area to head home a long cross from midfielder Stefan Vahousek and silence the passionate 30,000 home crowd.

Partizan, needing a win to leapfrog over the visitors into third place, refused to accept their fate and scored a deserved 79th-minute equalizer through Andrija Delibasic. The Serbian Under-21 international headed a deflected Nikola Malbasa cross over advancing keeper Jeremy Gavanon for his third Champions League goal, remaining Partizan's only scorer in the competition.

MNA/Reuters



Real Madrid's Oscar Miambres, right, collides with FC Porto's Ricardo Costa during their UEFA Champions League soccer match in the Bernabeu Stadium in Madrid, Spain, on 9 Dec, 2003. The match finished in a 1-1 tie.—INTERNET

Chelsea dump Besiktas out of Champions League

GELSENKIRCHEN (Germany), 10 Dec— English Premier League leaders Chelsea dumped Besiktas out of the Champions League on Tuesday, beating the Turkish champions 2-0 with second half goals from Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink and Wayne Bridge. The London side, needing only a draw for top spot in Group G, ignored a hostile 55,000 crowd at the AufSchalke Stadium to put on an authoritative display of possession football.

Besiktas, who needed to win to be sure of progressing, had their hopes dashed when Sparta Prague qualified after scoring a last-minute goal to beat Lazio 1-0 in the other Group G match. Besiktas's only consolation is a place in the UEFA Cup.

Although the game had been moved to a neutral venue because of security concerns after a series of bomb attacks in Turkey last month, Gelsenkirchen's big Turkish population ensured Besiktas enjoyed a home atmosphere.

But as Chelsea, who brought fewer than 400 fans, took control of the game the crowd started pelting the pitch with missiles and the match was held up for more than six minutes after halftime while stewards cleared dozens of toilet rolls that had rained down from the stands.

Besiktas fans were angry the match had been moved out of Turkey and responded with banners criticising European soccer's governing body UEFA and by lighting flares.

The disturbances failed to unsettle Chelsea, who played a tight defensive system marshalled by France captain Marcel Desailly to neutralize any counter-attacks from the Turkish side who had scored a shock 2-0 win at Stamford Bridge in October. Chelsea threatened to score throughout the second half but made the breakthrough in the 77th minute when substitute Damien Duff fed Hasselbaink who poked the ball past Colombian keeper Oscar Cordoba.

Eight minutes later left back Wayne Bridge, who joined Chelsea alongside a host of top players after the club was bought by billionaire Roman Abramovich last July, scored his first goal for the club from a Hasselbaink pass.

MNA/Reuters



11-12-2003 (Thursday)
(Programme Schedule)
Morning Transmission
(9:00 - 10:00)

9:00	Signature Tune
	Greetings
9:02	Song of Myanmar
	Beauty & Scenic
	Sights "Mingalabar"
9:06	The Beauty of
	Zwegabin and Livi-
	hood of Kayin Na-
	tional
9:10	Headline News
9:12	Easily Cooked Tasty
	Dishes "Chicken with
	gourd curry bachelor
	style"
9:15	National News
9:20	The Reh Lake (The
	Greatest attraction in
	Chin State)
9:25	National Dance "Vram
	Naga Harvest Dance "
9:30	National News
9:35	Lifestyles along the
	Ayeyawady (Manda-
	lay to Pyay) (Part-IV)
9:40	Song "Mesmerize your
	longing wish"
9:45	National News
9:50	Myanmar Ramayana
	"Seeta Rejecting
	Dasagiri's Courtship"
	(Part-XIII)
9:58	Song of Myanmar
	Beauty & Scenic
	Sights
	"Come and See
	Myanmar"

11-12-2003* (Thursday)
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 "Myanma Pan-
orama & Myanma Sen-
timent"

15:36 The Beauty of
Zwegabin and Livi-
hood of Kayin Na-
tional Hill Resort
Town (Thandaung)

15:40 Headline News

15:42 Easily Cooked Tasty
Dishes "Chicken with
gourd curry bachelor
style"

15:45 National News

15:50 The Reh Lake (The
Greatest attraction in
Chin State)

15:55 National Dance "Vram
Naga Harvest Dance"

16:00 National News

16:05 Lifesyles along the
Ayeayawady (Manda-
lary to Pyay) (Part-IV)
16:10 Myanmar Modern
Song "Mesmerize your
longing wish"
16:15 National News
16:20 Myamma Ramayana
"Seeta Rejecting
Dasagiri's Courtship"
(Part-XIII)
16:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic Sights
"Mingalarab"
16:30 National News
16:35 Nan-Thae Model Plan-
tation (Inlay Lake)
16:40 Myanmar Cuisine
"Fish Soup"
16:45 National News
16:50 Myeik, a Town in the
Southern part of
Myanmar
16:55 Culture Stage "Taking
Shower at Mandalay
Hill"
17:00 National News
17:05 Usefulness of the
whole Toddy Palm
17:10 Myanmar Modern
Song "Golden Myan-
mar Golden Welcome"
17:15 National News
17:20 Myanmar's Ancient
City Bagan
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"
19:36	Traditional Chin House
19:40	Headline News
19:42	Easily Cooked Tasty Dishes "Short headed Fish with Roasted Rice Soup"
19:45	National News
19:50	Myanmar Traditional Pickled Tea Leaf
19:55	Music for your Ears (Sweet Sounding Musical Piece)
20:00	National News
20:05	Lifestyles along the Ayeeyawady (Mandalay to Pyay) (Part-III)
20:10	Song "Young Love"
20:15	National News
20:20	Pa-O Nationals Traditional Long Drum
20:25	Song "Flower Lover"
20:30	National News
20:35	Travelogue "Saginga"
20:40	Myanmar Cuisine "Peppery Mohinga"
20:45	National News
20:50	Myanmar As Told By History
20:55	National Dance "Khamé Traditional

20:58	Cultural Dance "
21:00	Welcome to Bagan
21:00	National News
21:05	Intricate Art of Silver-smith
21:10	Song on Screen "Horse Cart"
21:15	National News
21:20	Drug Eradication Movement in Myanmar
21:25	Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Myanna Panorama & Myanna Sentiment"
21:35	The Beauty of Zweigabin and Livelihood of Kayin National
21:40	Headline News
21:42	Easily Cooked Tasty Dishes "Chicken with gourd curry bachelor style"
21:45	National News
21:50	The Reh Lake (The Greatest attraction in Chin State)
21:55	Vram Naga Harvest Dance
22:00	National News
22:05	Lifestyles along the Ayeeyawady (Mandalay to Pyay) (Part-IV)
22:10	Song "Mesmerize your longing wish"
22:15	National News
22:20	Myanna Ramayana "Seeta Rejecting Dasagiri's Courtship (Part-XIII)"
22:25	Song "Flourishing"
22:30	National News
22:35	Nan-Thae Model Plantation (Inlay Lake)
22:40	Myanmar Cuisine "Fish Soup"
22:45	National News
22:50	The Town in the Southern part of Myanmar, Myeik
22:55	Culture Stage "Taking Shelter at Mandalay Hill"
23:00	National News
23:05	Usefulness of the whole Toddy Palm
23:10	Myanmar Modern Song "Golden Myanmar Golden Welcome"
23:15	National News
23:20	Myanmar's Ancient City Bagan
23:25	Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"
11-12-2003'(Thursday) & 12-12-2003 (Friday) Evening & Morning Transmission (23:30 - 1:30)	
23:30	Signature Tune Greetings
23:32	Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Myanna Panorama & Myanna Sentiment"

23:36	The Beauty of Zwegababin and Livelihood of Kayin National Hill Resort Town (Thandaung)
23:40	Headline News
23:42	Easily Cooked Tasty Dishes—"Chicken with gourd curry bachelor style"
23:45	National News
23:50	The Reh Lake (The Greatest attraction in Chin State)
23:55	National Dance "Vram Naga Harvest Dance"
24:00	National News
00:05	Lifestyles along the Ayeeyawady (Mandalay to Pyray) (Part-IV)
00:10	Song "Mesmerize your longing wish"
00:15	National News
00:20	Myanma Ramayana "Seeta Rejecting Dasagiri's Courtship" (Part-XIII)
00:25	Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Mingalabar"
00:30	National News
00:35	Nan-Thae Model Plantation (Inlay Lake)
00:40	Myanmar Cuisine "Fish Soup"
00:45	National News
00:50	A Town in the Southern part of Myanmar, Myeik
00:55	Culture Stage "Taking Shelter at Mandalay Hill"
01:00	National News
01:05	Usefulness of the whole Toddy Palm
01:10	Myanmar Modern Song "Golden Myanmar Golden Welcome"
01:15	National News
01:20	Myanmar's Ancient City Bagan
01:25	Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"

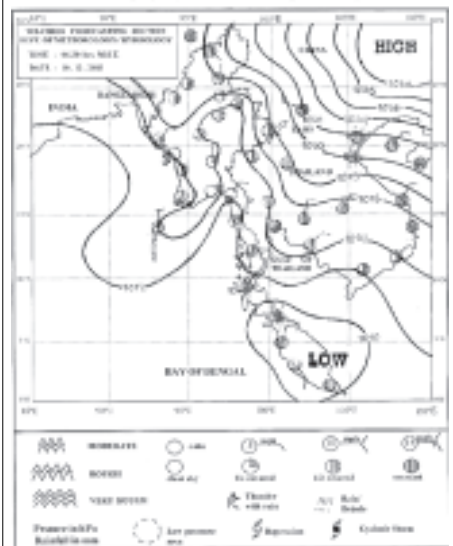
12-12-2003 (Friday)
Morning Transmission
(03:30 - 07:30)

03:30	(03:30 - 07:30) Signature Tune
	Greetings
03:32	Song of Myanmar
	Beauty & Scenic
	Sights "Mingalabar"
03:36	Traditional Chin House
03:40	Headline News
03:42	Easily Cooked Tasty
	Dishes (Short headed
	Fish with Roasted Rice
	Soup)
03:45	National News
03:50	Myanmar Traditional
	Pickled Tea Leaf
03:55	Music for your Ears
	(A Sweet Sounding
	Musical Piece)
04:00	National News
04:05	Lifestyles along the
	Ayeyawady (Manda-

04:10	lay to Ppay) (Part-II)
04:15	National News
04:20	Pa-O Nationals Traditional Long Drum
04:25	Song "Flower Lover"
04:30	National News
04:35	Travlogue "Saging"
04:40	Myanmar Cuisine "Peppery Mohinga"
04:45	National News
04:50	Myanmar As Told By History
04:55	National Dance "Kхам Traditional Cultural Dance"
04:58	Welcome to Bagan
05:00	National News
05:05	Intricate Art of Silver-smith
05:10	Song on Screen "Horse Cart"
05:15	National News
05:20	Drug Eradication Movement in Myanmar
05:25	Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Myanma Panorama & Myanma Sentiment"
05:35	The Beauty of Zweigabin and Livelihood of Kayin National (Thandaung)
05:40	Headline News
05:42	Easily Cooked Tasty Dishes "Chicken with gourd curry bachelor style"
05:45	National News
05:50	The Reh Lake (The

	Greatest attraction in Chin State)
05:55	Vram Naga Harvest Dance
06:00	National News
06:05	Lifestyles along the Ayeyawady (Mandalay to Pyay) (Part-IV)
06:10	Song "Mesmerize your longing wish"
06:15	National News
06:20	Myanma Ramayana "Seeta Rejecting Dasagiri's Courtship" (Part- XIII)
06:25	Song "Flourishing"
06:30	National News
06:35	Nan-Thae Model Plantation (Inlay Lake)
06:40	Myanmar Cuisine "Fish Soup"
06:45	National News
06:50	The Town in the Southern part of Myanmar, Myeik
06:55	Culture Stage "Taking Shelter at Mandalay Hill"
07:00	National News
07:05	Usefulness of the whole Toddy Palm
07:10	Myanmar Modern Song "Golden Myanmar Golden Welcome"
07:15	National News
07:20	Myanmar's Ancient City Bagan
07:25	Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Wednesday, 10 December, 2003

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:
During the past 24 hours, rain has been isolated in Kachin, Shan States, Taninthayi Division and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Night temperatures were 3°C to 5°C below normal in Chin, Rakhine States, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions, 7°C below normal in Bago Division, 5°C to 6°C above normal in northern Shan State, upper Sagaing Division and about normal in the remaining areas.

Maximum temperature on 9-12-2003 was 35.0°C (95°F). Minimum temperature on 10-12-2003 was 16.0°C (61°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 10-12-2003 was 68%. Total sunshine hours on 9-12-2003 was (8.2) hours approx. Rainfall on 10-12-2003 was nil at Yangan Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangan. Total rainfall since 1-1-2003 was 2211 mm (87.05 inches) at Yangan Airport, 2315 mm (91.14 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 2394 mm (94.25 inches) at central Yangan. Maximum wind speed at Yangan (Kaba-Aye) was 11 mph from Northerly at (11:20) hours MST on 9-12-2003.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 11-12-2003: Except for the possibility of isolated rain in Taninthayi Division, weather will be partly cloudy 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: Continuation of isolated rain or thundershowers are likely in Southern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 11-12-2003: Partly cloudy. **Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 11-12-2003:** Generally fair weather.



Thursday, December 11

View today:

7:00 am

1. ကော;ဇူးရင်မပီးကွနွဲးဆရာတော်
ဘုရားကြီး၊ နိုင်ငံတော်သံဃမဟာ
ရာဇဂုဏ္ဍာတို့ အကျိုးတော်ဆောင်ရွက်ပါ။
အဘိဓမ္မောရဋ္ဌာရဋ္ဌာ၊ အဘိဓမ္မာ
မဟာသမ္ဘုမ္မာတော်က တိရိစ္ဆာန်ရေ
ဓမ္မဘဏ္ဍာ ဂါရုဏ၊ဆရာရတော်
ဘန္တန်မိတ္တသာရာဘိဝံသ၏ရိတ်
တရားတော်
- 7:15 am
2. တိရိစ္ဆာန်ရေ ဓမ္မဘဏ္ဍာဂါရုဏ၊
အဂ္ဂမဟာဋ္ဌာတို့၊ ဘဒ္ဒန္တသီရိဉာ
ဘိဝံသ (ယောဆရာတော်)
ဟောကြားတော်မူဆဲသော
ဥပ္ပါတသန္တုမိဗ္ဗိတော်
- 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. Dance of national races
8:10 am
 7. Dance variety
8:20 am
 8. ရွှေလိုက်တား
8:30 am
 9. International news
8:45 am
 10. Let's Go
4:00 pm
 1. Martial song
4:15 pm
 2. Songs to uphold National Spirit
4:30 pm
 3. English for Everyday Use
4:45 pm
 4. Musical programme
5:05 pm
 ၄ အစောဆုံးတည်းလုပ်သောအခါ

ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ-
- ပထမနှစ် (အထူးပြုအားလုံး)
(အင်္ဂလိပ်စာ)

5:25 ppm

6. Cute little dancers
5:45 pm
 7. Musical programme
6:30 pm
 8. Evening news
7:00 pm
 9. Weather report
7:05 pm
 10. Millo success in soccer
7:10 pm
 11. ထင်ရှားတဲ့အဖို့၊ မကွဲသေးပါဘူး၊
 သိနဲ့မိလိကနဲ့၊
7:25 pm
 12. Musical programme
8:00 pm
 13. News
 14. International news
 15. Weather report
 16. “အဆိုအကန့်တင်ချွန်စရာအသွင်”
 (အစိုး၊ -၂)
 17. The next day's
 programme



Thursday, December 11

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 - Love's in our hearts on X'mas (B'sync) - Unpretty (TLC)
9.00 pm	Aspects of Myanmar - Banana cake
9.10 pm	Article/Music
9.20 pm	Independence Day talk: To perpetuate sovereignty
9:30pm	Favourite songs chosen by "Ma Ma San" - I love you because (Jim Reeves) - I love you more & more every day (Al Martino) - I'll buy that dream (Dean Martin)
9.45 pm	News/Slogan
10.00 pm	PEL



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye inspects a vehicle produced at Ayethaya Industrial Zone in Taunggyi Township.—MNA

Government to implement tasks...

(from page 1)

departmental officials, arrived at Ayethaya industrial zone in Ayethaya Myothit in Taunggyi Township and met

industrialists.

Taunggyi industrial zone in-charge Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi reported on the industrial zone.

He said the zone was established in 1999. Over 800 industrialists are now engaged in general industries and production of foodstuff and per-

sonal goods and the zone is famous for assembling of Shan Star Jeep and light trucks. Arrangements are being made for assembling of Maung Myanmar Jeep, (see page 7)

Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye looks into the site chosen for Kengtawng hydel power station project near Kengtawng falls. — MNA



Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than tours Shwekyin and Waw Townships in Bago Division

YANGON, 10 Dec—Member of the State Peace and Development Council, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Bago Division PDC Commander of Southern Command Brig-Gen Ko Ko, on 8 December, inspected thriving winter groundnut plantations in Shwekyin Township Manager U Myint Thaung of Myanmar Agriculture Service reported on work done.

Altogether 8,000 acres of land have already been put under winter groundnut in Shwekyin Township.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party next went to Seikkalaymin Village in the township and inspected 160 acres of monsoon paddy and 120 acres of summer paddy

cultivated by local people. He gave instructions on extension of summer paddy cultivation.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than proceeded to local battalion and met with Tatmadawmen and their families and gave instructions on conducting agricultural and livestock breeding tasks on a manageable scale, extension of commodity production and matters relating to education and health.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than next went to Donzayit Village in the township and met with the chairman of Village PDC and members of social organization.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than also inspected male wards, theatre and female wards at Donzayit Station hospital. He was conducted

round the hospital by Head of Division Health Department Dr Maung Maung Myint and Dr Win Naing of the station hospital.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than gave instructions on establishment of the funds for development of the hospital, opening of drug store, providing better health care services to the public and

building maternity ward.

At Donzayit Village Affiliated Basic Education School, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than was briefed on academic matters and strength of students and staff by Division Health Officer U Thu Kha and Headmistress Daw Mya Mya. They also reported to Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than on require-

ments in building new school building. Commander Brig-Gen Ko Ko made a supplementary report. After fulfilling the requirements Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspected the school.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party next inspected Donzayit Police Station.

At Kunseik Model Village in the township, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than met with members of Village PDC and social organization and local people.

At the meeting, the chairman of the Village PDC reported to Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than on social, education, economic and (see page 9)

INSIDE

Perspectives

Towards perpetual existence of the Union

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Byline article

Trains running on Kalay-Gangaw Railroad
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Article

Observance of 57th Anniversary of Union Day coordinated
Page 2

Foreign News
3,4,5,6,12,13,14,

Circulation

23,567



Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspects the station hospital in Thaye Thamin Village, Waw Township.—MNA