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Saturday, 13 December, 2003

EPABX extension carrier board launched at Pazundaung

YANGON, 12 Dec- The opening ceremony of EPABX extension carrier board installed by FISCA Enterprise, under the supervision of the Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs and Yangon City Development Committee, was held at Pazundaung Market in Pazundaung Township. It was attended by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe

Also present were Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, Chairman of YCDC Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Joint-Secretary U Kyi Win and officials, Managing Director U Tin Kha of News and Periodicals Enterprise, officials of Myanma Posts and Telecommunications, No 4 Military Region Commander Col Yan Naing Oo, local authorities, members of Union Solidarity and Development Association, Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Working Committee for Women's Affairs, auxiliary fire brigade and Red Cross and local people.

First, Adviser to FISCA Enterprise U Tin Sein explained the purpose of building the carrier board and implementation.

Next, Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and Managing Director of FISCA Enterprise U Zaw Weik formally launched the carrier board. The commander then unveiled the signboard of the carrier board.

MFPTMA Meeting on Dec

out fail.

YANGON, 12 Dec- The Myanmar Forest Products and Timber Merchants Association will hold the tenth annual general meeting at International Business CenThey then inspected it. Afterwards, Managing Director U Zaw Weik presented commemorative pennants to the commander, the minister, the mayor and officials.

A total of 16 CO lines including 110 extension lines are installed at the carrier board which can serve local and overseas calls at the service rate of Myanma Posts

and Telecommunications. FISCA Enterprise produces equipment of telecommunication exchanges in the country. MNA

Agricultural tasks, regional development projects inspected in Maubin District

YANGON, 12 Dec -Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Chairman South-West Command Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing inspected land preparations for cultivation of summer paddy along Pathein-Maubin road and plantations of cold season crops and beans and pulses and left necessary instructions yesterday.

The commander proceeded to Maubin paper mill near Pantaput village, Maubin Township. An official of Myanma Jute Enterprise reported on implementation of the mill construction project and arrangements for operating of the mill. The commander gave

tre on Pyay Road at 5 pm on

26 December. Members of

the association were invited

to attend the meeting with-

MNA

the mill. The commander looked

into Maubin Government Technological College.

In the afternoon, he met local authorities and departmental officials at the office of Maubin District Peace and Development Council. Speaking on the occasion, the commander gave instructions on greater development of the agricultural sector of the division, tasks to be implemented under supervision of the officials at all levels for exceeding the target of summer paddy cultivation and timely fulfilment of requirements.

Local authorities and officials reported on progress

instructions and inspected | in harvesting monsoon paddy, arrangements for cultivation of summer paddy, measures being taken for meeting the target of sown acreage, requirements, and agricultural tasks being carried out by the companies in wetlands and assistance to be rendered for development of the agricultural sector. The commander attended to the needs.

In the evening, the commander held a meeting with departmental officials at the district General Administration Department and discussed matters on development of the township, rural development and better transportation. He attended to the requirements. - MNA Four political objectives

- Stability of the State, community peace and
- tranquillity, prevalence of law and order National reconsolidation
- Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
- Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution Four economic objectives
- Development of agriculture as the base and allround 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

Commander Mai-Gen Myint Swe formally unveils the signboard of EPABX extension carrier board. — MNA

directors of the department.

In his speech, the minister

said the course was con-

ducted to enhance the com-

petence of staff of the de-

partment in accord with the

objectives of the ministry and to nurture the staff capable of effectively contributing towards the economic devel-

opment of the State. In the world today, wealth and development of a nation is measured by GDP, he said. As the department is responsible for calculation of GDP of the country, all the staff of the department are required to correctly calculate GDP, the most important indicator. The staff are also responsible for compiling the correct statistics and indices

(See page 2)





YANGON, 12 Dec -- The opening ceremony of GDP Calculation Course No 4/ 2003 of the Planning Department of the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development was speech. held at the department this morning. Minister for National Planning and Eco-

nomic Development U Soe

Tha made an opening

Present on the occasion were departmental heads of the departments and organizations under the ministry and directors and assistant



Minister U Soe Tha addresses the opening of GDP Calculation Course No 4/2003. — MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 13 December, 2003

For improvement of **Yangon-Mandalay Union Highway**

The Government, enlisting the strength of the entire national people, is striving for the nation to become a peaceful, modern and developed one.

Head of State Senior General Than Shwe, on one occasion, said that transportation plays a vital role in national development; that only when there is better transportation, will there be progress in the economic and social sectors; and that roads and bridges are being built with the aim of promoting friendship among national brethren residing in various parts of the Union.

In accord with the guidance of the Head of State, measures are being taken to improve the transportation sector after designating 80 Union Highways throughout the nation. As a result, there emerged 173 bridges with the length of 180 feet and above.

To connect the east and the west and the south and the north, new motor roads and railroads have been built. Some new roads were built while the old ones have been renovated.

At present, Yangon-Mandalay Union Highway is being upgraded into a modern facility. The highway is crucial for development of economy, trade, social and other sectors of the State

Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence, on 7 December, inspected the Yangon-Mandalay Union Highway Extension Project and upgrading tasks being carried out at Bago-Nyaunglebin section.

The 48-mile long Bago-Nyaunglebin road section will be expanded by 25 feet. In addition, gravel roads will be built on both sides of the roads and tarring on 24 feet wide road will be carried out.

Private companies are engaged in the Yangon-Mandalay Union Highway Extension Project and Shwe Thanlwin Highway Co Ltd is taking charge of constructing the Bago-Nyaunglebin road section. The company is carrying out the upgrading tasks after collecting gravel, tar and machinery.

In meeting with officials of the company, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than said that as Yangon-Mandalay Union Highway is important one for the State, efforts are to be made for early completion of the project.

We would like to urge those who are engaged in the Yangon-Mandalay Union Highway Extension Project to strive for timely completion of the project meeting the set standard.

Panasonic introduces "Ideas for life convention" the Traders Hotel here yes-

YANGON 12 Dec - The ceremony to introduce Panasonic "Ideas for life convention" organized by the Matsushita Electric Industrial Co Ltd took place at

terday evening. On the occasion, Mr

Yamanishi (Panasonic Singapore) delivered a speech. Chairman of Yangor

City Development Committee Mavor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa formally launched the brand. н



The introducing of Panasonic "Ideas for life convention" in progress. -

Myanmar Buddhist mission arrives back

YANGON, 12 Dec - The Myanmar Buddhist mission arrived back here by air this morning after they had carried out Buddhist missionary and religious tasks in Indonesia and Singapore from 30 November to 12 December. The mission included State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Secretary Abhidhaja Maha RatthaGuru Abhidhaia Agga Maha Saddhama Jotika Sayadaw Magway Bhaddanta Kumara, Director-General U San Lwin of the Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana and wellwishers. They were welcomed



Airport. - ROMAN Sayadaws of SSMNC and Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko,

back at Yangon International member Sayadaws, Deputy Airport by the joint-secretary Minister for Religious Affairs



Sayadaw U Nanda being welcomed by lay disciples at the airport. - MNA

Swe Swe Thant wins gold

YANGON, 12 Dec-The XXII South-East Asian Games continued in Hanoi, Vietnam today.

Myanmar sports contingent won one gold and four bronze in the wushu event.

Swe Swe Thant secured one gold in the women's nanquan (without weapon) event, together with the Vietnamese who won silver and the Philippine, bronze

In the men's nanquan (without weapon) event, Zaw Zaw Moe of Myanmar won the bronze. The Malaysian won the gold and the Vietnamese silver. In the qingshu event, Wai Ye Maung Maung bagged the bronze, Vietnamese gold and Indonesian silver. Thein Htaik Oo secured

bronze in the men's 48-kilo sanshou event and Aung San Yu bronze in the men's 65kilo sanshou event.

Thin Zar Soe will meet with the Vietnamese in the final after beating the Philippine in the semifinal. Similarly, Yan Win Kyi will meet with the Vietnamese in the final after beating the Laotian in semifinal in the men's 52-kilo sanshou event. Ha Hone will play with the Vietnamese in the final after beating the Philippine in the semifinal in the men's 56-kilo sanshou this evening

So far, Myanmar wushu team has bagged two gold, two silver and five bronze and continues to play other events. MNA

Course on...

(from page 1)

of regional economic development in cooperation with the departments concerned every month. In conclusion, he advised the trainees to study information and communication technology and English language to improve efficiency of the department and urged them to enhance the pride of the department and nation.

A total of 43 trainees including assistant directors, staff officers and deputy staff officers of the headquarters and states and divisions offices of the Planning Departments attended the course, which opens till 21 Decem-- MNA ber.

Religious Affairs Department Director-General Dr Myo

YANGON, 12 Dec -Sayadaw U Nanda of Sankassanagor Province, the Republic of India, arrived here by Indian Airlines IC-727 at 12.45 pm yesterday to carry out missionary work.

Myint, Deputy Director-General U Tun Mya Aung of the DPPS and officials. -

Sayadaw U Nanda arrives

The Savadaw was wel-

comed at Yangon Interna-

tional Airport by Shwe Myin Tin U Nyo and lay disciples.

The Sayadaw is temporarily residing at the Pariyatti Monastery in the precinct of the Botahtaung Pagoda in Seikkan Township (Tel: 01-291983 01-545215 and 01-545216). — MNA



Gold medalist Swe Swe Thant (Wushu). — MNA

Medicines and medical equipment donated

YANGON, 12 Dec - The Pharmaniaga of Malaysia donated medicines and medical equipment to the Health Department, the Ministry of Health, at the head office of HD on Theinbyu Road here this morning. The donation was attended by Health Department Director-General Dr Wan Maung, the deputy directors-general, directors, medical superintendents, Myanmar Medicine Entrepreneurs Association Chairman Dr Maung Maung Lay and members, resident representatives of the Pharmaniaga, Managing Director of Aung Cho Tun Co U Aung Min and officials.

U Aung Min, also a representative of the Pharmaniaga, presented K 10.6675 million's worth of medicines and medical equipment to Dr Wan Maung, who in turn presented a certificate of honour and spoke words of thanks of the - MNA donor.



MEDICAL EQUIPMENT DONATED: The Pharmaniaga of Malavsia donated medicines and medical equipment worth K 10,667,500 to the Health Department of the Ministry of Health at the department (Head Office) on 12-12-2003. Photo shows officials of the company presenting the donations to HD Director-General Dr Wan Maung. --- MNA

Blasts near US camp rock Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 12 Dec-Three or four explosions' shook Baghdad late on Thursday but there was no immediate word on casualties. Witnesses said the blasts took place inside the compound that hosts the US headquarters in the city.

A US army spokeswoman inside the compound confirmed theexplosions. Immediately after the explosions

around midnight (21:00 GMT) sirens could be heard coming from the direction of the US headquarters on the west bank of the Tigris river and helicopters buzzed over the area.

The compound is a sprawling complex of palaces and parkland which the US authorities in Baghdad have turned into a heavily defended fortress.

Earlier on Thursday, one US soldierwas killedand 14 others wounded when at least one bomber blew up atruckat an American army base outside Ramadi.

US military officials said the bomb

was concealed in a furniture truck. The vehicle was driven by abomber and it is believed that two other Iragis in the truck also died in the explosion.

At least 196 US troops have been killed in Iraq since US President George Bush declared an end tomajor combat on1 May.

"A very, very loud explosion went off and shook my shop," said Muhammad Hamad Majid, who runs his business 700m from the Ramadi camp where a residential zone begins.

"I went outside and saw a column of smoke rising in the sky from inside the base," said the 35-year-old.

Delivery and construction trucks

are allowed inside the compound, a few km from the town, on the east bank of the Euphrates river. Meanwhile, two journalists from

the US weekly newsmagazine Time and two American soldiershave beenwounded by a grenade explosion while on apatrol in Baghdad.

AUS military official said theattack took place late on Wednesday as the journalists accompanied troops. He declined to name the wounded.

At least 17 journalists have died in Iraq covering the war to topple Saddam Hussein and its aftermath, including at least four killed by US forces.

Internet



Iraq car bombing kills one US soldier, wounds 14

BAGHDAD, 12 Dec- One US soldier was killed and 14 wounded in a suicide car bomb attack on an American military base west of Baghdad Thursday, the US Army said.

In a statement, the army said the vehicle was driven by a suicide bomber. The attack occurred outside a base of the US 82nd Airborne Division near the flashpoint town of Ramadi.

The statement said improvements in barriers and other security measures had minimized injuries.

An army spokesman had said earlier the blast killed three Iragis believed to be in the vehicle.-Internet



Suicides dog US troops in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 12 Dec—Of the more than 450 US fatalities since the beginning of the war in Iraq, 20 have 'reportedly been suicides, or "self-inflicted" deaths, as the military prefers to call them.

of the Hong Kong Special

Administrative Region In-

tellectual Property Depart-

MNA/Xinhua

While officials at the Pentagon say they are looking at these cases seriously, there is no evidence yet to suggest that the stress, fatigue and uncertainty associated with combat environments such as Iraq contribute to an abnormally high rate of suicides, health experts say.

Even so, the United States Army considered the situation disturbing enough to send Lt Col Jerry Swanner, its suicide-prevention programme manager to Iraq in late September as part of a 12-person Mental Health Advisory Team.

The group wasto study the effects of combat stress and extended deployments on US troops. Findings from the study are yet

Virginia Stephanakis, a spokeswoman for the Office of the Army Surgeon-General and the Army Medical Command, said the issue of military suicides in Iraq was a matter of concern, but it "was not the primary reason" the advisory team was dispatched.

"It's always looked at as a problem," Stephanakis said. "Even if it's just one, it's one too many.'

The precise number of troops who have taken their own lives has not even been determined, with some ambiguous cases still under review.

"We have some deaths that we're not sure what the problem was," Stephanakis said.

Internet

Chinese mainland, HK, Macao discuss intellectual property

BELING, 12 Dec — Government officials and intellectual property experts from the Chinese Mainland, Hong Kong and Macao special administrative regions convened here Thursday, to discuss how to protect intellectual property and strengthen law enforcement.

At the opening cer-emony, Li Yuguang, vicecommissioner of the State Intellectual Property Office (SIPO) said intellectual property is becoming more important in economic globalization.

After China's entry into the World Trade Organization. Li said, the Chinese Mainland, Hong Kong and Macao needed to coordinate more closely in protecting intellectual property.

While creating an ecoment, said Hong Kong always attaches great imnomic environment friendly portance to intellectual to innovation, government bodies should encourage property protection. He said enterprises to incorporate the two-day symposium intellectual property stratmight help the three sides egy into their overall develbetter coordinate with each opment plans. other. Stephen Selby, director



An Iraqi child runs between rubbish inside a former Iraqi rocket factory that was damaged in a US bombing mission during the war in Iraq, in Baghdad, on 11 Dec, 2003 —INTERNET

German company builds dialysis centre in China

CHENGDU, 12 Dec-German company Fresenius Medical Care, one of the leading dialysis products and services providers in the world, will invest over 2.42 million US dollars to build a dialysis centre in Chengdu, capital of southwest China's Sichuan Province.

An agreement was signed between the provincial people's hospital affiliated to the Sichuan Provincial Academy of Medical Sciences and the German company on Wednesday.

The first phase project of the centre will have 50 beds with accompanying dialysis sets, and will begin operation in two months. The second phase project will have another 50 sets of dialysis apparatus, said Xiu Ruiling, president of the provincial hospital. Statistics show that China now has more than one million patients suffering from kidney failure.

The Sichuan Provincial People's Hospital now has 20 sets of dialysis equipment, far from enough to meet demand, said Wang Li, a doctor with the hospital.

to be released Auto prices in Vietnam to

increase early next year

HANOI, 12 Dec — Car makers in Vietnam are scheduled to raise prices of their products early next year when the government will increase special consumption and valueadded taxes on automobiles.

The producers will also have to hike the prices to gain benefits because local car market is too small, local newspaper Pioneer on Thursday quoted deputy director of Toyota Vietnam Lam Chi Quang, as saying.

Only prices of vans and buses will remain unchanged in 2004, while those of all under 26-seat vehicles will increase, he predicted. Prices of 5-15 seat automobiles will rise by 16-17 per cent and prices of those under five seats will be up 20 per cent by early next year. The current prices of automobiles in Vietnam are 1.7-2 times higher than those in regional countries, and 2.7 times in Japan, according to the Ministry of Industry .-- MNA/Xinhua

CGI to provide \$2.8b for **Indonesia's budget**

JAKARTA, 12 Dec — The Consultative Group on Indonesia (CGI) will provide 2.8 billion US dollars to support Indonesia's next year budget, according to a release issued by the CGI meeting here on Thursday.

The figure is well within the range the Indonesian Government requested.

The release said that 0.2 billion US dollars of the amount is in the form of grants and the rest in the form of concessionary loans

In addition to the support through the budget, the 30donor countries pledged technical assistance and other support in the amount of 0.6 billion US dollars through other channels, including non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and local government, it said.

During the two-day meeting, the participants expressed their strong support for the macroeconomic achievement and the commitment of the Indonesian people to improving investment climate, fundamentally reforming the court sys tem, said Jemaludin Kassum, chairman of the CGI meeting and World Bank vice-president for East Asia and the Pacific region. - MNA/Xinhua

Australian companies urged to bid for Iraq contracts

CANBERRA, 12 Dec — Australian Prime Minister John Howard urged companies on Friday to bid for reconstruction work in Iraq amid a row sparked when the United States barred nations that opposed the war from the lucrative contracts.

Howard, said there were plenty of opportunities in Iraq for Australian companies, particularly those involved in construction and mining.

"If there is anything in the nature of those two areas in particular, I think we have very strong prospects," Howard told a Melbourne radio station. "I would encourage Australian companies to bid.'

The United States has effectively banned companies from countries that did not support the war against Iraq, such as France, Germany and Russia, from bidding for about 18 billion US dollars worth of US-funded reconstruction contracts.

Washington argues the US-led and funded Coalition Provisional Authority that runs Iraq is not bound by US free trade

US "Apache" catches fire, lands in northern Iraq

BAGHDAD, 12 Dec- A US Apache helicopter made a "controlled landing" south of Mosul in northern Iraq on Wednesday after a fire broke out on board, a spokesman for the 101st Airborne Division told Reuters. The spokesman said he had no information on whether the helicopter had come under fire from guerillas. There were no reports of any casualties

The helicopter did not crash," the spokesman said, "It made a controlled landing, although it was on fire.'

MNA/Reuters

commitments, as it is a multi-national agency and not a government entity that signed onto World Trade Organization (WTO) rules.

But European Commission officials say they are studying the 26 contracts at stake to determine whether the restrictions WTO's violate the government procurement agreement.

Australia, which sent 2,000 military personnel to the war in Iraq, is one of a list of countries that have been cleared to bid for the contracts.

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade said six Australian companies have already secured seven contracts in postwar Iraq. It was unable to disclose the total value of the contracts. MNA/Reuters

Industrial accidents take 165 lives in Beijing this year

BEIJING, 12 Dec Industrial accidents claimed the lives of 165 people in Beijing in the first 11 months of this year, according to a bulletin released Wednesday by the Beijing Municipal Industrial Safety Bureau.

Statistics showed that of the 165 dead, 143 had been migrant workers, accounting for 86.7 per cent of the total and up 36.2 per cent from the same period of last year.

Li Jianwei, the director of the bureau, said that the industrial safety situation in Beijing is alarming, especially in the construction sector, which has witnessed the deaths of 81 workers so far this year, an increase of 44.6 per cent over the same period of 2002. — MNA/Xinhua



No more Iraqi casualty counts?

BAGHDAD, 12 Dec—Iraq's Health Ministry has ordered a halt to a count of civilians killed during the war and told its statistics department not to release figures compiled so far, the official who oversaw the count told The Associated Press on Wednesday.

The health minister, Dr. Khodeir Abbas, denied in an email that he had anything to do with the order, saying he didn't even know about the study.

Dr. Nagham Mohsen, the head of the ministry's statistics department, said the order was relayed to her by the ministry's director of planning, Dr. Nazar Shabandar, who said it came on behalf of Abbas. She said the U.S.-led Coalition Provisional Authority, which oversees the ministry, also wanted the counting to stop. "We have stopped the collection of this information because our minister didn't agree with it," she said, adding: "The CPA doesn't want this to be done.'

Abbas, whose secretary said he was out of the country, sent an email denying the charge. "I have no knowledge of a civilian war casualty survey even being started by the Ministry of Health, much less stopping it," he wrote. "The CPA did not direct me to stop any such survey either.' "Plain and simple, this is false information," he added.

Despite Abbas' comments, the health ministry's civilian death toll count had been reported by news media as early as August, and the count was widely anticipated by human rights organizations. The ministry issued a preliminary figure of 1,764 deaths during the summer. Internet

US soldier shot dead in northern Iraq

Mosul (Iraq), 12 Dec- An American soldier was killed in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul on Wednesday when guerillas fired upon troops guarding a petrol station, the US Army said.

Another US soldier was wounded in the incident.

"One of the two soldiers has died," said Major Trey Cate, spokesman for the 101st Airborne Division in Mosul.

Since US President George W Bush declared major combat in Iraq over on 1 May, 194 American soldiers have MNA/Reuters been killed in hostilities.

US soldiers inspect a house during a raid in the area on the outskirts of Tikrit,

on 11 Dec, 2003.—INTERNET

BP to sell LNG from Indonesian field

JAKARTA, 12 Dec-Anglo-American energy giant BP Plc is expected to sign an agreement next week to sell some 3 million tons per year of liquefied natural gas (LNG) to the USbased Sempra Energy, Indonesian Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Purnomo Yusgiantoro said.

The LNG would come from BP's Tangguh gas field project in Papua Province, he added.

"The plan is to sign the heads of agreement (HOA) sometime in the middle of December in the United States, Purnomo was quoted Wednesday by The Jakarta Post as saying.

If realized, the deal will give a significant boost to BP's Tangguh project, which will have an installed capacity of 7 million tons of LNG per year. But thus far, the project has only secured a contract to supply 2.6 million tons per year to China's Fujian project, starting from 2007. An HOA was also signed earlier with South Korean buyers.

The Indonesian Government has been helping BP to seek buyers for Tangguh LNG so that development of the project can begin next year as scheduled.

The government has been in intense negotiations with Sempra and another US oil firm, Marathon Oil, to sell around 5 million to 6 million tons of LNG per annum to Mexico and the US west coast, starting from 2008. Both companies are planning to construct LNG-receiving terminals and facilities in Mexico.

The LNG to Mexico will come from Tangguh, Bontang LNG facility, East Kalimantan, and possibly from state oil and gas firm PT Pertamina's Donggi gas field, Central Sulawesi.

The Tangguh LNG project will become the country's third LNG plant after Bontang and Arun, Aceh. The last two facilities have a combined installed capacity of 31.6 million tons per year .- MNA/Xinhua

Glial cells play larger role than most people think

SHANGHAI, 12 Dec — Glial cells, which make up 90 per cent of the human brain but are widely believed to play a lesser role than nerve cells, actually prevent the latter from getting overexcited, Chinese scientists have found.

In addition to supporting nerve cells a media that transmits and processes signals in the human brain, glial cells are believed to prevent excessive activities of nerve cells. whose overexcitement can lead to brain damage including epilepsy and stroke.

The recent issue of Neuron, a leading international magazine on neuroscience. carries a thesis on the subject that is the result of studies by scientists with the Institute of Neuroscience of the Shanghai Institute for Biological Sciences, under the Chinese Academy of Sciences. The research team, headed by Duan Shumin, found that when nerve cells get overexcited, nearby glial cells release ATP, a nucleotide that supplies large amounts of energy to cells for various biochemical processes - including muscle contraction and sugar metabolism to protect the nerve cells .- MNA/Xinhua



A US soldier guards a detainee outside his house during a raid in the area on outskirts of Tikrit, on 11 Dec, 2003, 180 kms (110 miles) north of Iraq's capital Baghdad.—INTERNET

Five missing as sand barge capsizes in S China river

GUANGZHOU 12 Dec-Twenty ships have been sent to the Gaoming section of the Xijiang River, in Foshan City of south China's Guangdong Province, to help rescue five people who have been missing since their sand barge capsized early Wednesday morning.

Rescuers said the chance of survival for the missing sailors was very slim.

The provincial and local maritime affairs bureaus planned to salvage the sunken ship on Thursday. The ship, 63-metre long and 12-metre wide, has a loading capacity of over 1,300 tons.

The owner of the ship reported the accident to Foshan sub-bureau of the Guangdong Provincial Maritime Affairs Bureau at 3 a m Wednesday. The owner said he lost contact with the vessel at 11 pm Tuesday.

MNA/Xinhua

IRAQ UNDER US OCCUPATION



Soldiers of the US Army's 4th Infantry Division secure an area during an operation in Buhriz in the town of Baquba in central Iraq, on 11 December, 2003. US troops were attacked by a hand grenade and one soldier was injuried. —INTERNET



A US soldier shouts orders as they raided a house in Baghdad, on 11 Thursday, December, 2003. — INTERNET



US Infantry soldiers detain an Iraqi man during an operation in the town of Baquba in central Iraq on 11 December, 2003.—INTERNET



Iraqi police officers search Iraqi men during a raid searching for weapons and drugs in Baghdad, Iraq on 11 December, 2003.—INTERNET



A US soldier frisks an Iraqi tribesman at a checkpoint in the southern Baghdad suburb of al-Dura. US forces made dozens of arrests as deadly violence claimed more lives and the post-war US combat death toll in Iraq neared 200 on 11 Dec.— INTERNET

A Greek army mine sweeper marks a grid with tape before searching for mines on the outskirts of Hillah, south of the Iraqi capital Baghdad, on 11 Thursday, Dec, 2003. INTERNET



Annan, Schroeder attack US stance on Iraq contracts

BERLIN, 12 Dec — UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan urged the United States on Thursday to reverse a controversial decision to exclude Iraq war opponents from bidding on contracts to rebuild Iraq.

Speaking in Berlin after a meeting with German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder, Annan again questioned the wisdom of the move announced in Washington on Wednesday, which he had already called divisive and unhelpful in stabilizing postwar Iraq.

"It is up to those who took the decision to reverse it or maintain it and I hope something will be done about it," Annansaid.

"I think the decision was unfortunate," he added. "I believe it is time we tried to rebuild international consensus and work together and pool our efforts ... to stabilize Iraq.'

The United States said on Wednesday its decision to bar Iraq war opponents like France, Germany and Russia from 18.6 billion US dollars in US reconstruction projects was appropriate and a reward for US supporters.

The decision renewed bitter trans-Atlantic tensions over the Iraq war just as the United States was beginning a separate effort to gain an international consensus on reliev-

ing Iraq's 125 billion US dollars in foreign debt. Schroeder, speaking next to Annan, said that International Law must apply to the awarding of reconstruction contracts in Iraq and said it was the task of all countries to help with reconstruction in Iraq. "It makes little sense to discuss who can and who cannotindividually participate economically in reconstruction.International Law must apply here and it does not help things tolook backwards and is more directed at the past," he said. Paris, Berlin and Moscow reacted angrily on Wednesday to the US decision, which rattled efforts to rebuild ties damaged by the war, and the European Commission said it was investigating whether the move complies with global trade rules. Washington also faced the risk of a row with its neighbour Canada as well as China, which were also excluded from bidding for 26 contracts worth 18.6 billion US dollars

MNA/Reuters

ခြိုးခြံချွေတာ၊ ထိန်းပါလေလွင့်၊ ထုတ်ကုန်မြှင့်



An unidentified US soldier tells Iraqi children to move on the side, next to a building which was bombed in Baghdad's western Hurriyah district, Iraq on 11 Dec, 2003. The building was bombed Tuesday killing three people.—INTERNET

Two "Time" journalists hurt in attack on US Iraq patrol

BAGHDAD, 12 Dec — A journalist and prize-winning photographer with Time magazine were wounded when a hand-grenade was thrown at US forces they were accompanying in Baghdad, a US military official said here.

The official said the incident happened on Wednesday night as the journalists accompanied troops on a patrol in the Iraqi capital, where US forces are struggling to restore security that collapsed after they invaded Iraq in March.

The magazine identified the two as senior correspondent Michael Weisskopf and James Nachtwey, one of the world's most respected news photographers. "There were two journalists from Time magazine ... They were participating in a patrol in the First AD (Armoured Division) area in Baghdad with US soldiers," the US military official told reporters. "An individual threw a hand-grenade into the Humvee. It occurred last night ... One of the journalists was slightly wounded, the other more severely.

In a statement, Time said the two were in a stable condition and awaiting transfer to a US military hospital in Landstuhl, Germany, It said two soldiers were also wounded

At least 17 journalists have died in Iraq and its aftermath, including at least four killed by US forces. Nachtwey, who has been with Time since 1984, has won numerous prizes including the prestigious Robert Capa Gold Medal, World Press Photo Award and Magazine Photographer of the Year. His work documenting wars and conflicts has taken to him to the West Bank and Gaza, Afghanistan, Somalia, Sudan, Rwanda, Northern Ireland, Bosnia, Chechnya and Kosovo. – MNA/Reuters



A ski jumper flies from the Hochfirst ski-jump in Titisee Neustadt, in southern Germany, during a training jump on 11 Dec, 2003. The Jakobus cathedral is seen behind the jumper. The World Cup ski jumping event takes from on 12-14, December.—INTERNET

Coalition says nearly half of new Iraqi army has quit

BAHGDAD, 12 Dec — About 300 of 700 members of the new Iraqi army have resigned, citing unhappiness with terms, conditions and pay and with instructions of commanding officers, a representative of the US-led coalition said Thursday.

some difficulties," the representative said.

In response to the resignations, the coalition will review the terms and conditions and compare them with other security services in Iraq - the police and Civil Defense Corps, the representative said. The first and only battalion of the new army serves under the US Army's 4th InfantryDivision.

Last month, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said the Pentagon and the Coalition Provisional Authority were discussing recalling some units of the former Iraqi army.

The discussions followed a letter two senators sent President Bush about the "need to speed up the process by which Iraqis assume greater responsibility" for security as the coalition prepares to cede power back to Iragis in July

The letter, from Sens. Carl Levin, D-Michigan, and Richard Lugar, R-Indi-

"It's a new force, and ... we face | being created from scratch, currently has less than 1,000 members. We cannot afford to transfer security functions to Iraqis at that slow a pace. The quicker we get the new Iraqi army in place, the more security we are likely to have and the better off Iraq will be.

Sharp international consternation greeted Washington's decision to bar opponents of the war from bidding on \$18.6 billion worth of reconstruction projects. The move has sparked fierce reactions from countries that didn't back the US-led coalition such as Russia. Germany and France.

At a Cabinet meeting Thursday, Bush defended the decision, saying American taxpayers want the contracts restricted to those countries that "risked lives." "The taxpayers understand why it makes sense for countries that risked lives to participate in the contracts in Iraq. It is very simple," Bush told reporters. "Our people risked their lives, a friendly coalition risked their lives and ana, said the new Iraqi army, "which is | therefore the contracting is going to reflect that. And that is what the US taxpayers expect."

In a written statement, European Union External Affairs Commissioner Chris Patten called the Pentagon move "extremely unhelpful."

"It's not particularly constructive to dredge up these debates and divisions of the past," Patten said. "On the contrary, it's necessary to bring the willing together, not divide them.

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan was also critical of the decision.

"Since the war, we are all trying to bring people together. It is time to rebuild, to work together to stabilize Iraq," Annan said. "Whatever initiative or actions or decisions should be unifying rather than divisive. I would not characterize the decision taken yesterday as unifying." Appearing at a news briefing with Annan in Berlin, German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder said the reconstruction of Iraq "is a task for all people, everyone" and "interna-tional law must apply."—*Internet*

Iran approves signing of protocol on snap n-inspections

TEHERAN, 12 Dec—Iranian Government has authorized its Foreign Ministry to sign an additional protocol to allow snap inspections of the country's nuclear facilities, an Iranian official said here.

"The government has given permission to the Foreign Ministry to sign the NPT (Non-Proliferation Treaty) additional protocol," Vice-President Mohammad Ali Abtahi made the announcement after a Cabinet meeting.

Iran agreed with visiting British, French and German foreign ministers on 21 October to sign up the additional NPT protocol, accept more strict inspections to its nuclear sites, show full transparency of its nuclear programme and suspend uranium enrichment. In accordance with the

agreement, Teheran handed over documentation of its past and present nuclear activities to International



SINGAPORE, 12 Dec -Singapore's Changi Airport handled 2.4 million passengers in November, a 2.3-per-cent increase over the same month last year, local TV reported on Thursday.

This was the first yearon-year increase since the

outbreak of the SARS (severe acute respiratory syndrome) million passengers respecepidemic in March, said tively, said Channel U, citing Channel U, a local Chinese the Civil Aviation Authority language TV station. of Singapore. The number of

passengers at Changi Airport has been growing steadily in recent months, with September and October

Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on 24 October and has suspended its uranium enrichment activities since 9 November. Hassan Rowhani, Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, said last week that the government would authorize its representative to IAEA to sign the protocol. MNA/Xinhua

But the October figure

MNA/Xinhua

was still 4.1 per cent lower

than the same month last

year, it said.

Vietnam to open direct flights to **US in 2005**

HANOI, 12 Dec — The Vietnam Airlines will open its first direct air link with the United States in 2005, instead of 2006, as scheduled, the Vietnam News on Thursday quoted an official of the national flag carrier as saying.

The carrier plans to operate at least seven flights per week to the United States, Deputy General Director of the Vietnam Airlines Pham Ngoc Minh said, adding that San Francisco will be the first destination.

The number of travellers to Vietnam from the West Coast, including San Francisco and Los Angeles, account for 60 per cent of the total US arrivals. MNA/Xinhua

On this centenary of Myanmar novels show

Every year, the Sarsodaw Day was celebrated on the 1st day of the waxing of the month of Nadaw and for this year's Myanmar Era, 1365, it fell on the 24th November, AD 2003. The 1st of Nadaw was designated Sarsodaw Day 59 years ago. This year is therefore the 59th Anniversary. It has thus passed its Golden Jubilee.

This year's Sarsodaw Day celebrated in conjunction with the presentation of the Lifelong National Literary Award to Writer U Htin Fatt (Maung Htin); the National Literary Awards to 11 deserving stalwarts; the Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award to 28 aspiring writers and the 14th National Motto, Literary and Photo Competitions Awards to 21 budding contenders.

It was held at Myanmar's National Theatre in Yangon and was graced by the Prime Minister, Members of the State Peace and Development Council, Dignitaries, the Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association and Social Organisations.

In com-bination, the Centenary of Myanmar Novels Show and the Book Fair marking the 1365 Sarsodaw Day was held by the Ministry of Information at Bo Aung Kyaw Street (Former Yangon Gazette Building).

A unique event at the opening of this year's Book Fair happened to be the handing over of photos of James Hla Kyaw, the late Myanmar doyen writer, to the Minister of Information and the Chairman of the Myanmar Writers Association by James Hla Kyaw's grand and great granddaughters.

It has been contended that James Hla Kyaw was the first Myanmar writer to have made a debut with a Myanmar novel entitled "Maung Yin Maung-Ma Me Ma." It first made its appearance in 1265 (1903 AD) and this year happens to be the centenary year for James Hla Kvaw's novel. Similarly the novel "Chinbaung-ywet-the" by Maung Hmaing (Sayagyi U Lunn) has also reached its centenary, and it might be inferred that this year's "Sarsodaw Day" and Centenary of Myanmar Novels Show" is also a tribute to those two past doyens.

Writer James Hla Kyaw was the offspring of U Sutt and Daw Saing. He was born on Wednesday, the 10th waxing of First Waso, 1228 (1866 AD), at Shwegyin, Bago Division. Both his parents had died while he was still young and he was brought up by his Aunt, Daw Hmyin, and her spouse, U Nyo. His Uncle and Aunt latter converted to Christianity and hence the prefix, James to his name. He began his studies at

Saya Hmat's School (St John's, Yangon), and next moved to the Anglo Vernacular High School, Yangon, from which he passed his Entrance Examination at the age of 20. It was the year 1866 AD, just after the subjugation of the whole of Myanmar, and as a Myanmar versed in English, he had no difficulty landing a job. He accepted a Translator assignment and accompanied a Police Commissioner to Mandalay.

Next returning to Yangon, he continued as a Translator while taking up the study of medicine. In its midst he made attempts for the Lawyers and Township Officers exams, passing both. Subsequently he served as a Personal Officer to the Governor; as a Township Officer in ChaungOo and Budalin, Upper Myanmar; as a Treasury Officer in Hanthawady and again as a Sub-Divisional Officer, Hanthawady and Myinmu. Frail health, however, compelled him to seek invalid pension at the age of only 37. All the same, he faced his adversity with grit and courage by engaging in law practice and opening up a Lawyers School.

Later, he was stricken with paralysis and had to move to Meiktila on his doctor's advice.

He went on to Shwebo on getting better, to resume his literary career and law school activities, while penning many more novels and legal treatises. James Hla Kyaw managed to make a name as an Advocate. And asides his literary inclinations had a keen ear for music also, and was adept at playing the Myanmar Harp and the Crocodile-shaped-threestringed instrument. During his tenure as the Sub-Divisional and Township Officer, he had been instrumental in often having pwes (plays) staged, and came to be dubbed as the "Township Officer-cum-Play Master".

As old age caught up,

Yenanmyay Ko Tin

James Hla Kyaw reembraced his religion by birth, Buddhism. In 1280 (1918 AD), he renovated the "Mya-thein-dan Pagoda" and oversaw the hoisting of the Pagoda's Hti (ornamented finial) in 1281 (1919 AD) renaming the pagoda as "Aung-chan-tha". But the pagoda is more commnly called "Myathein-dan", as it is within the precints of the "Myathein-dan" monastery.

Shwebo. U Hla Kyaw's life was cut short on the 11th waning Tazaungmon, 1281 (1919 AD.), at Shwebo. He was only (52) then.

Another Myanmar novel that can claim centennial affiliations seems to be "Chin-baungywet-the". Its author . Sayagyi U Lunn, with many pseudonym as "Shwedaung Saya Lunn", "Maung Thamadi", "Maung Hmaing" and "Mr Maung Hmaing" was born to parents U San Dun and Daw Ohn at Wale Village, Shwedaung Township Bago Division on the 14th waning of Tabaung 1237 (1875 AD).

His first guru was the Sayadaw of "Kyithe-lay-htat" Monastery, Shwedaung Next he continued his studies at "Mya-taung Monastery", Mandalay, and when King Thibaw was dethroned in 1247 (1885 AD), Mg Lun was only 10 years old. The humbling scenes that he had personally witnessed then, must have undoubtedly given birth to his indomitable spirit and nationalistic fervour. After the demise of the

Myanmar Kingdom, Mg Lunn worked the rounds of ChaungU, Ahlon, Monywa, Kyemon and Budalin Township, etc, as a novice monk and it is believed he had been indulging in sympathetic prone literature even by then.

His father died when he had just attained the age of 19. He was compelled to discard his robes, cut short his religious pursuance and returned home to care for his mother. He secured a job as a composer of lettering in "Zabu-kyet-thaye Press", Yangon and later rose to be Editor of proof reading. He started writing plays under the pen-name of Shwedaung Saya Lunn".

In that midst he was offered a post in the Government Translation Department, but refused and instead moved as Myanmar Editor to the Yangon Times. When that Newspaper

closed down, he joined the Mawlamyine Times and it was there, he once again changed his pen-name to "Maung Thamadi, and started penning classical songs of various themes.

Next in 1273 (1991 AD), he shifted to the "Thuriya Newspaper" as Editor, and reverting to his original name "Saya Lunn" started writing treatises on "Myanmar Handicrafts". And as Editor of the "Thuriya", he also penned numerous articles on politics, education, the economy and political satires. But by that time, his seeds of national fervor and unconquerable spirit, sparked at the time of King Thibaw's humbling departure, had perhaps grown into a burning flame, for in his latter years he came to vigorously take part in anti-colonial movements. He was conferred the tile of "Alingar-Prize", and an Honorary PhD by the East Berlin University.

Sayagyi U Lunn lived to a ripe age of 89 and passed away on the 28th of July, 1964 (1326 Myanmar Era). He was entombed in the U Ottama Gardens (formery Cantonment Gardens), near the tomb of Queen Supayalat.

Sayagyi U Lunn's novel "Chin-baung-ywetthe" was a rebuff and snipe against some students of the colonial days, who liked to prefix their names with Mr, as an honour. James Hla Kyaw's novel a Myanmar version of Alexander Duma's "The Count of Monte Cristo" together with Sayagyi U Lunn's "Chinbaung-ywet-the" have attained centennial status and has significantly coincided with Centenary of Myanmar Novels Show. The Two writers have contributed meaningfully and substantially to Myanmar's literature and we join in the tribute to them on this year's Sarsodaw Day.

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE



27thBlood Donors' Day

Generosity and respectable characters of yours

National Blood Centre Department of Health Ministry of Health

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

နိုင်ငံတော်အစိုးရဌာနပိုင် မော်တော်ယာဉ်များမသုံးစွဲရနေ့ လစဉ်လ၏ ဒုတိယပတ်တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့နှင့် နောက်ဆုံးပတ် တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့တို့သည် ရုံးလုပ်ငန်းအတွက် မဖြစ်မနေသွားလာရန် လိုအပ်သည်ကိစ္စ ရပ်များမှအပင်မော်တော်ယာဉ်များမသုံးစွဲရနေဖြစ်သည်။ ၂၀၀၃ ခုနှစ်၊ ဒီဇင်ဘာလအတွက် (၁၄–၁၂–၂၀၀၃) ရက်နေ့နှင့်

(၂၈–၁၂–၂၀၀၃) ရက်နေ့

You make the difference between life and death .

On behalf of those whose lives have been saved by yours

All-round upgrading of Kandawgyi Park and Zoological Gardens (Yangon) coordinated

YANGON, 12 Dec- The coordination meeting on all round upgrading of Kandawgyi Park and environs and Zoological Gardens (Yangon) was held at Water Plaza construction site in Central Forest Zone of Kandawgyi Park this afternoon, attended by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe. Also present were Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa, departmental heads, military region commanders, the secretary and members of the all-round upgrading committee of environs of Kandawgyi and Zoological Gardens (Yangon).

In his address, the commander said that all-round upgrading tasks are being carried out at Kandawgyi Park and Zoological Gardens (Yangon). There are four zones in the upgrading works. So, drawing of designs and future tasks are to be undertaken with momentum. Then, the commander invited the officials concerned to report progress of work and requirements.

Afterwards, the vicemayor reported on land decoration being made in relaxation zone by YCDC, modern design of fences, construction of wooden bridges between islands, laying of marble slabs with crazy pattern at the viewing plaza and construction of car parking

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe inspects upgrading tasks of Kandawgyi park.— YANGON COMMAND Officials also submitted reports on land decoration and preparation works in central forest zone, arrangements for planting trees, piling works at water plaza and installation of beams, timber decking works, upgrading works at recreation zone. running for cable car, preparations for building aquarium in education zone and con-

struction of flower shop houses. Deputy Director-General U Khin Zaw of Irrigation Department reported on cleaning of water in the lake, Director U Myint Swe of Zoological Gardens (Yangon) on upgrading tasks, Associate Professor U San Kyu on quality control for all-round upgrading tasks and General Manager U

Myint Thein of Wood Land Co Ltd on progress of work. Then, departmental heads participated in the discussions. Next, the commander gave instructions on carrying out of upgrading tasks with added momentum, cooperation of departments concerned in the tasks and emphasis to be paid on durability of the works.

Later, the commander and party inspected installation of concrete beams and construction of timber decking at water plaza construction site, installation of handrails, completion of water fountain, preparations for growing of trees in central forest zone and construction of flower garden shops in education zone.- MNA



New MRTV-4 to telecast entertainment programmes and

education programmes

YANGON, 12 Dec — The Myanma Radio and Television under the Ministry of Information held a coordination meeting on the launching of a new television channel to telecast education programmes of the ministries concerned at the meeting hall of the ministry on Theinphyu Road here this afternoon.

Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan attended the meeting and spoke on the occasion.

In his speech, Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan said that the first coordination meeting on the launching of a new television channel, MRTV-4, to telecast education programmes of the respecitve ministries was held on 3 October, and discussions were also made fully as to the cooperation of respective ministries.

In line with the guidance of the Head of State, the Ministry of Information, he said, is making efforts to expand the scope of media as wide as possible and to reach the border areas, to

penetrate into the world media, to minimize media expenditure, and to make media as fast and effective as possible.

At the same time, measures are being taken to implement four programmes: first, the launching of a new channel MRTV-4, the upgrading of MRTV-3 to attract foreigners and the inserting of advertisements, the upgrading of MRTV-3 programmes and e-Newspaper on the Internet, and the launching of Myanma movies and videos on the Internet with the 'On-Demand' system, he added.

Of these tasks, more important is the cooperation of respective ministries and organizations in the launching of MRTV-4 channel successfully.

Furthermore, it is also necessary to air programmes educating the public and government employees. Therefore, the ministries, schools, training centres and research centres in states and divi-

sions should be equipped with MRTV-4 receivers. For the same reason, the public should also be organized into buying MRTV-4 receivers. Only then will the launching of MRTV-4 channel meet with success, he concluded.

Director of MRTV U Khin Maung Htay reported on programmes being aired by MRTV, the launching of e-Education programmes and e-Newspaper, arrangements for launching MRTV-4 channel, assistance to be offered by ministries concerned and MRTV, and the costs of shooting and production

U Win Maw, Advisor to the Ministry of Information and Director of Forever Group Co Ltd, also reported on matters relating to prospects of launching MRTV-4 channel

Next, deputy ministers and officials of respective ministries and representatives of social organizations reported on arrangements for assistance to be rendered by

their sides and for airing education programmes.

Deputy Ministers U Thein Sein and Brig-Gen Aung Thein also gave supplementary reports.

After hearing the reports, Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan gave concluding remarks

Present at the meeting were Deputy Ministers U Thein Sein and Brig-Gen Aung Thein, deputy ministers of the ministries, directors-general, managing directors, officials, guests, and representatives of social organizations.

will integrate entertainment programmes with education programmes on agriculture, livestock breeding, health and others on dissemination of information data, on tips and techniques, on ways of providing training to departmental employees scattering all over the country, on international affairs. on legal procedures and regulations, on research works, on preservation of

Armed Forces Day commemorative contests to be held

YANGON, 12 Dec — The Work Committee for Organizing Literary and Photo Contests in commemoration of the 59th Anniversary of Armed Forces Day (2004) today announced that it will conduct novel, short story and article contests.

Entries must reflect the 12 fine traditions of the Tatmadaw and contestants are to give suitable titles for respective works. Word count of a novel must be between 50,000 and 70,000, a short story, between 4,000 and 10,000 and an article, between 3,000 and 5,000. Title prescribed for the article contest is "Tatmadaw striving for the interest of the

cultural heritage and Myanma customs, on sport success and development, on crime reduction, on cooperation with NGOs and UN agencies, on disaster cautions, and on diseases common to animals.

The receivers of MRTV-4 channel can receive not only the education pronation at the risk of life".

Entries must be own creations but must not be the ones that have been published before in any publications and must not be prizewinning works either. Contestants are to send two copies of each entry together with a brief biography and two passport photos. And they can send only one entry for each contest. Handsome prizes will be presented to winners.

Entries are to be sent to U Ko Ko Htwe, Secretary of the work committee, Myanma Radio and Television, on Pyay Road, Yangon, not later than 15 January 2004. — MNA

grammes and entertainment programmes but also movies, videos, newspapers and journals programmes.

Therefore, the people can enjoy the programmes of their choice.

Arrangements are under way to air the programmes of MRTV-4 channel soon. MNA

The MRTV-4 channel

Shan State (North) Inter-TS soccer ends soccer fans watched the

YANGON, 12 Dec- The prize presentation of the Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Chairman's Trophy Inter-Township Men's Soccer Tournament was held at the sports ground in Lashio on 10 December afternoon.

Present were Chairman of Shan State (North) Peace

and Development Council Commander of North-East match between Hsipaw and Command Maj-Gen Myint Nawngkhio township teams. Hlaing and wife, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Hla Deputy Commander Brig-Myint, senior military offic-Gen Hla Myint and officials ers, departmental officials, presented prizes to the winlocal authorities, teachers, ners. Later, the commander students and soccer fans and presented championship trophy to Nawngkhio township players. First, the commander and team.-MNA

Minister meets IWT officers

YANGON, 12 Dec-Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe this morning met officers of Inland Water Transport at the meeting hall of IWT on Pansodan Street.

Also present were Deputy Minister U Pe Than, Officer on Special Duty Brig-Gen Myo Tin, departmental heads and regional heads. Speaking on the occasion, the minister gave instructions on implementation of the tasks in their respective sectors for ensuring promotion of gross national product, repair of vessels, transport service for convenience of passengers and ef-

Mr, Miss Myanmar contests on 27 Dec

YANGON, 12 Dec- The Mr Myanmar and Miss Myanmar Contests 2003, organized by Myanmar Body Building and Physical Culture Federation, will be held at Yangon City Hall on 27 December. The contest will include Mr Myanmar (Senior), Mr Myanmar (Junior) and Miss Myanmar (Open). Everybody may participate in the Mr Myanmar (Sr) event. Those who won first, second and third prizes in the Mr Myanmar (Sr) events organized by the federation and that of marking Olympic Day and Defence Services (Army, Navy and Air) Senior Bodybuilding Championship cannot take part in the Mr Myanmar (Jr) event. For Miss Myanmar (open) event, contestants must be above-5 feet and 3 inches and between aged 16 and 30. They must be unmarried. MNA

Development projects coordinated

YANGON, 12 Dec Taninthayi Division Development Affairs Committee held a coordination meeting on accelerated development tasks at Myeik Township DAC on 8 December.

Officials reported on work progress and future plans. The deputy directorgeneral of the DAD dealt with harmonious progress of tasks for beautifying of the region and rural development, and timely completion of road and bridge construction and water supply tasks

forts being made for development of the transport sector. Before concluding the meeting, the deputy minister gave a speech. -MNA

After the final match,

YANGON, 12 Dec — A ceremony to hand over the State Flag to the mountaineers who will climb Mount Fangaran glacier in Putao District, Kachin State, was held at the office of Mandalay Division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee in Chanavethazan Township, Mandalay, on 10 December morning. It was attended by Chair-

man of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint and wife, Chairman of Mandalay City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Yan Thein and wife. Secretary of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Tin Ohn and members, members of the division sports and physical education committee. President of Myanmar Hiking and Mountaineering Federation Dr Paing Soe and executives and wellwishers.

First, the commander made a speech and handed over the State Flag and K 300,000 donated by Mandalay Division Peace and De-

State Flag handed over to mountaineers velopment Council to President Dr Paing Soe. Next, the president accepted K 1,030,000 donated by wellwisher including K 50,000 by the commander and family, K 100,000 by Mandalay City Development Committee and K 50,000 by Mandalay Division Women Sports Federation, and medicine worth K 21,400. Joint-Secretary of Myanmar Hiking and Mountaineering Federation Dr Khin Maung and members including 18 men and 18 women will scale the Mount Fangaran. - MNA



Mawchi national races visit Yangon City

YANGON, 12 Dec-At the invitation of the chairman of Work Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races, study tour members of Mawchi region of Kayah State led by Assistant Director U Myint Than of Progress of Border Areas and National Races Depart-

ment and officials, paid hom-

Abhaya Labha Muni Image on Mindhamma Hill in Insein Township today. viewed They then

Yadana white elephants. Next, the excursion group members visited Hlinethaya Industrial Zone, Yangon Zoological Gardens and Yuzana Plaza. MNA

Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe meets officers of IWT .- TRANSPORT Minister inspects construction works YANGON, 12 Dec - Min-

ister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, accompanied by Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Myint Thein, left here for Pathein by car yesterday morning. Responsible engineers reported to the minister on works being carried out along Yangon-Pathein road. The minister and party arrived at the construction

site of Pathein bridge and heard reports on construction tasks. Next, the minister fulfilled the requirements and inspected the construction works there.

Afterwards, the minister inspected the construction site of the bridge on the other bank and gave instructions on timely completion of the bridge. --MNA



278.4 acres of poppy plantations destroyed

YANGON, 12 Dec — A combined team comprising local Tatmadawmen, members of local intelligence unit, Myanmar Police Force, departmental staff and local people destroyed 278.4 acres of poppy plantations in the nearby valleys of Bawran Village and Lwailon Village in Khaung-ei Village-tract, Pekhon Township, Shan State (North), from 29 November to 2 December.

Up to 2 December during this poppy cultivation season, a total of 2963.42 acres of poppy cultivation had been destroyed. — MNA



278.4 acres of opium plantation being destroyed in Phekhon Township.



Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and Managing Director U Zaw Weik of FISCA Enterprise formally open EPABX extension telephone carrier. — MNA

Drug pushers jailed

YANGON, 12 Dec — A combined team comprising members of Pyu Police Station of Bago Division and the Bureau of Special Investigation, acting on information, searched the house of Tun Tun (a) Yu Nut in north Zaiganai, Bago, on 3 February. The authorities discovered 355 stimulant tablets in the kitchen of the house. They also found Ma Ar May (a) Xilian Jein there and arrested both of them.

In connection with the case, the No 3 Police Station of Bago filed lawsuits against Tun Tun, son of U San Mya of north Zaiganai in Bago, and Ma Ar May, daughter of U Xi Wan Ai of Ward 12. Lashio, under Sections 15/ 19(A)/21 of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. The case was later handed over to the Bago District Court, which sentenced 15 years' imprisonment on Tun Tun under Section 19(A) and 17 years' imprisonment on Ma Ar May under Section 19(A) on 29 October. MNA

YCDC Sewage Treatment Plant

Article and photo by Than Swe (Pabedan)

Under the guidance | lectuals. The retired | over 300,000 people living of the Head of State, the Yangon City Development Committee launched the Sewage Treatment Plant Project on 12 April 2003. It is included in the major projects laid down by the State.

The plant is being built on a 5.66-acre plot on Yangon River bank at Thanlyetsoon, Botahtaung Township, Yangon Division. Up to 9 November 2003, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt has inspected the Sewage Treatment Plant Project for four times.

The Work Committee to Build the Sewage Treatment Plant was formed with YCDC Chairman Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin as its head, and YCDC Joint Secretary U Kyi Win as the secretary. The members included technicians and intel-

professors of Yangon Technological University are the advisers of the body. Sewage system was installed in Yangon in 1888

for a population of only over 40,000. During the time, the population of Yangon was just around 20,000. The present sewerage system in Yangon is the same with the systems of many modern cities of the world. Use of the pipeline system ensures safety from harmful diseases and quick disposing of the sewage.

As Yangon had less population when the installation of the pipeline sewerage system in Yangon started, the city would have a cleaner environment. But now population density and the number of industries in and around the city is getting higher. The sewage treatment plant is built for

in the downtown six townships. The plan includes calculations to extend the capacity of the plant in accord with the growing population. When completed the plant will release clean and fully oxygenated water into Yangon River. The oxygenated water will help Yangon river reach its normal condition. Because of the chemicals that kill harmful gems in the waters of Yangon River its tributries will become safer for human beings. Because of the availability of oxygen, the number of aqua creatures in the river will grow.

The latest technologies of the world are being used in erecting the plant. Oxygenation of the water help activate the friendly gems that will chemically change the solid in silting



YCDC Chairman Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Vice-Chairman Col Maung Pa and Secretary Col Myint Aung inspect the scale model of the Sewage Treatment Plant.

tank for about two hours. A certain amount of contaminated substances are silted at the pond. The water is then channeled into an oxygenated pond where friendly gems chemically changed the sewage for eight hours. Afterwards the water is diverted into second silting tank. In the tank the water becomes cleaner and all the substances destroyed by the gems silt. In the third

tank the water is chlorinated to kill the remaining harmful bacteria. When the water reaches the safety level, it is released into Yangon River. The plant will release 3.25 million gallons of clean and oxygenated water into Yangon river daily. The standard of the safety of water is the same with those of the developed nations. The silt is condensed into solid forms through different

stages of process. As the solidified silt is free from harmful gems and full with nitrogen and hydrogen, it can be used as natural fertilizer.

As the plant is being built by the Myanmar engineers, we can know that the national strength is growing and its qualification developing.

(Translation: TMT) Mvanma Alin: 5-12-2003



Construction of the Sewage Treatment Plant in progress.



BEIJING, 12 Dec — According to the national electricity distribution centre, China's electricity consumption totalled 5.49 billion kilowatt-hour from 8 December to 9 December, a record winter daily consumption, China Central Television has reported.

Electricity consumption rose by 16.5 per cent over the same period last year.

The power shortage in China has affected the lives of ordinary people as well as industrial production, the report said.

In Changsha, capital of central China's Hunan Province, some residents have begun to buy small electricity generators. More than 10 large department

Donate

blood

stores in Xiamen, a port city in east China's Fujian Province, open only five days a week in accordance with the blackout schedule.

The State Electric Power Regulatory Commission attributed the situation to a number of factors, which include:

- Dry spells plagued China this year, and water levels are especially low this winter, and hydroelectric plants are unable to operate to their full capacity;

Many thermal power plants, which constitute the bulk of China's power supply, are operating below their

capacity due to inadequate coal supply;

- Use of electricity in heating systems rose drastically this winter;

- Energy-intensive industries, including the production of steel and nonferrous metals have been growing fast.

The State Grid Corporation forecast China's electricity consumption would grow to 2,091 billion kilowatt hour in 2004, up some 207 billion kilowatt hour over 2003. The power shortage would worsen and more areas would experience blackouts.

MNA/Xinhua



The 2¹⁶ ASEAN+3 Environment Ministers Meeting Yangou, Myaninar 16-19 December 2003

Implementation of irrigation facilities nationwide to boost agricultural sector and to ensure food sufficiency in the country



The Minhla Dam, 132 feet in height and 3,044 feet in length, is situated in Okpo Township and supplies irrigation water to 5,260 acres of farmland in Okpo township and 9,740 acres of cropland in Minhla Township. - PHOTO: MNA



The Zaikkaye Sluice Gate, which was built with the aim of letting rain water flow out rapidly during the rainy season and supplying water to needy areas in summer, lies beside the Zaikkaye canal near Aungkantha Village in Thaton Township in Mon State. It is of reinforced concrete type and has 21 gates, each of which measures 6 feet by 12 feet. It will benefit 20,000 acres of farmland in the area. — Рното: мла



The Zwebat Sluice Gate in Waw Township, Bago Division, was constructed with the aim of preventing floods and flow of brine. The sluice gate is also providing greater assistance to reclaiming wetlands and enough water for cultivation of monsoon and summer paddy and other crops and plants. - PHOTO: MNA



River water pumping projects are being implemented in the country with the aim of supplying irrigation water for agricultural purpose. The photo shows the Lawkananda River Water Pumping Project in NyaungU District, Mandalay Division. PHOTO: MNA



knowledge free of charge

ADVERTISEMENTS

Wen described the estab-

lishment of the diplomatic

relations between China and

Canada in 1970 as "opening

up a new page in the annals of

bilateral exchanges", and said

"the past 33 years have wit-

nessed an ever-growing bond

of friendship and cooperation

between China and Canada"

each other politically, com-

plement and reciprocate for

mutual benefit economically

and learn from each other for

mutual progress culturally,

Wen added, China and

Canada coordinate positions

closely and cooperate on an

relations have set a good ex-

ample for countries with dif-

fering social systems, cultural

traditions and economic de-

velopment levels to live in

peace and engage in friendly

his belief that "the deepening

The Premier expressed

cooperation," he said.

"Indeed, China-Canada

In international affairs,

Wen said.

equal footing

The two countries respect

TRADE MARK CAUTION

Ferrero S.p.A., a Company organised under the laws of Italy, having its registered office at Piazzale Pietro Ferrero 1, 12051 Alba, Cuneo, Italy is the Owner of the following Trade Marks:-

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Win Mu Tin, M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L for Ferrero S.p.A., P.O. Box 60, Yangon: Dated: 13 December, 2003

London police arrest 12 in raids on organized crime

LONDON, 12 Dec-London police arrested 12 people Wednesday morning in its biggest ever coordinated swoop on organized criminals involved in drug dealing, blackmail, extortion and gun crime, Scotland Yard said.

The police searched 15 places, especially in the Turkish Kurdish community, and found drugs, counterfeit currency, stolen mobile phones, equipment for forging passports, firearms and other weapons

More than 500 police officers, some 90 of whom were armed, took part in Operation Tiller, the climax of more than two months of patient intelligence gathering, the police said in a statement.

> economic partnership has MNA/Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE **MV SEA MERCHANT VOY NO (485)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SEA MERCHANT Voy No (485) are here by notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13-12-03 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expences and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER LINE Phone: 256908/378316/376797

Vice-President of MIGA WASHINGTON, 12 Dec- The World Bank announced Wednesday the appointment of Yukiko Omura to the position of Executive Vice-President of the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA).

Wen Jiabao highly comments on trade,

become a key component of

and important driving force

ume between China and

Canada last year reached eight

billion US dollars, up almost

50 times over 1970. China is

na's trading partners.

The two-way trade vol-

for China-Canada relations"

tal.

Omura joins MIGA, a branch of the World Bank, from her most recent post as CEO and Executive Director of AIDS Prevention Fund. a charitable company based in London that aims to raise finances for worldwide HIV/ AIDS prevention, according to the World Bank. Omura will start with

Hong Kong Govern-

ment and Belgium entered

into the Agreement on the

Avoidance of Double Taxa-

tion & the Prevention of Fis-

cal Evasion with Respect to

Taxes on Income & on Capi-

to Hong Kong and Belgian

investors doing businesses in

each other's jurisdictions.

and provide a further level of

It will bring tax savings

the Bank in March and assume her responsibilities in May 2004. "It is with great pleas-

ပြည်တွင်းဖြစ်ကိုအားပေးပါ

HK, Belgium sign agreement

to avoid double taxation HONG KONG, 12 Dec - Hong Kong Wednesday signed its first comprehensive agreement for the avoidance of double taxation with another economy (Belgium).

certainty in tax liabilities,

thus helping promote invest-

ment and trade between the

of comprehensive agreement

for the avoidance of double

taxation will put Hong Kong

on a par with other places in

the region and further en-

hance its competitiveness in

attracting foreign invest-

WB names new Executive

Establishing a network

two places

ment.

ure that I welcome the appointment of Ms. Omura. She brings to the table a unique combination of private sector experience, as well as a commitment to development issues, which will no doubt serve MIGA well," said World Bank President James D Wolfensohn.

Signing the agreement

here, Hong Kong's Secretary for Financial Services

& the Treasury Frederick Ma

said it ensures investors will

not have to pay tax twice on

a single source of income. In

the absence of the agreement,

profits earned by Belgian

residents in Hong Kong are

subject to both Hong Kong

MNA/Xinhua

and Belgian income taxes.

"At the same time, I would like to express my deep appreciation to the current head of MIGA, Motomichi Ikawa, for his dedicated service to the agency over the last five years," Wolfensohn added.-MNA/Xinhua

Black Sea countries condemn international terrorism

BUCHAREST, 12 Dec-The 22nd plenary session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PABSEC) ended Wednesday with the adoption of a declaration condemning international terrorism. "Taking into account the recent terrorist attacks in Turkey and Russia, both of them PABSEC member countries, we have decided to strongly condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations," the document said.

Terrorism is a deep challenge to peace and security and an extremely dangerous threat to the political, social and economic stability of the PABSEC countries and of the international community as a whole, the document said.

It repeats the strong determination of PABSEC members to take all the necessary measures to counterattack terrorism and other related illegal activities, while firmly respecting fundamental human rights and freedom. This plenary session started on Monday at the Parliament Palace in Bucharest. the capital of Romania. At the session, the PABSEC's halfyear presidency was taken over by Russia.

An oil painting on wood, 'Laboureurs', attributed to Dutch painter Vincent Van Gogh is seen at auction house in Portets, in Southwestern France, on 10 Dec, 2003. The small oil on wood painting measures $36 \text{cm} \times 46 \text{cm}$, bears the signature 'Vincent' at the lower left, and was painted in 1883 in Drenthe, Netherlands,-INTERNET

now Canada's third largest trading partner while Canada clear Power Plant has been ranks the 10th among Chiexemplary of mutually beneficial cooperation. Wen said that more and The construction of the third phase of the nuclear power plant, located in east China's Zhejiang Province,

on Thursday, highly commented on China-Canada trade and economic relations and friendship between the two peoples. attracted to Canada by its sound investment environment. Currently, there are 6,740 Canadian-funded projects in China with a total paid-in in-



more Canadian firms have settled down in China and more Chinese enterprises are being

eco ties with Canada OTTAWA, 12 Dec— Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao, at a luncheon held by the Canada-China Business Council here

was completed earlier this year in cooperation with the Candu Technology Corporation of Canada.

In Canada, Chinesemade garments, toys and sports articles are favoured consumer items and Chinesemade colour TV and machinery are sold very well.

"Facts have fully proved that trade and economic cooperation have delivered tangible benefits to both Chinese and Canadians," the Chinese Premier said. -- MNA/Xinhua





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WHO says climate change killing 150,000 a year

MILAN, 12 Dece — Global warming killed 150,000 people in 2000 — and 20,000 this year alone in a European heatwave, the World Health Organization said on Thursday.

Climate change, linked by scientists to human emissions of gases like carbon dioxide from cars and factories, is causing more frequent floods and droughts and melting ice caps.

In a book launched at a UN environment conference in Milan, the WHO estimated climate change was to blame for 2.4 per cent of cases of diarrhoea worldwide, and 2 per cent of all cases of malaria.

"An estimated 150,000 deaths... were caused in the year 2000 due to climate change," it said. A further 5.5 million healthy years of life were lost worldwide due to debilitating diseases caused by climate change.

"The 1990s were the hottest decade on record and the upward trend in the world's

rld Health Organization said on Thursday. temperature does not look like abating," it said. "In Europe this past summer, for example, an estimated 20,000 people died due to extremely hot temperatures."

More rainfall, for instance, can collect and stagnate in pools. "Still water provides additional breeding grounds for mosquitoes and other vectors which transmit diseases such as malaria and dengue fever," it said.

The book, *Climate Change and Human Health*, offers governments guidelines for slowing the adverse impacts of global warming.

The 180-nation conference in Milan is trying to work out ways to slow climate change, mainly via the UN's Kyoto Protocol which seeks to curb emissions of greenhouse gases.—*MNA/Reuters*



A diver dressed as Santa Claus feeds a sea turtle at an aquarium in Beijing on 11 Dec, 2003. Christmas is becoming increasingly popular in China as Chinese are adopting more Western ideas and festivals.—INTERNET



A fossile found in Northeast China of this tiny marsupial, Sinodelphys szalayi, seen in this artist's rendering, is helping scientists determine when mammals split into different groups, one with babies that develop inside their mothers, attached by a placenta, and others that raise their offspring in pouches. This marsupial is depicted as an agile climber, a nocturnal animal active around dawn and dusk, was about 15 centimeters (six inches) long, and weighed about 30 grams (one ounce).—INTERNET

New Ebola vaccine shows promise in mice

Los ANGELES, 12 Dec — US scientists have successfully immunized mice against the deadly Ebola virus which has killed thousands in Africa, according to a study report released on Wednesday. The study report, conducted by the US Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases, is published in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

The vaccine uses proteins called virus-like particles (VLP) that stimulate the body to mount an immune attack against Ebola, the researchers said.

VLPs are created from two Ebola virus proteins. They resemble the outer covering of infectious viral particles, but lack the genetic material necessary to reproduce themselves.

The researchers tested the effects of VLPs in mice. Mice were vaccinated with VLPs three times at three-week intervals and exposed to the Ebola virus six weeks after the last vaccination. The result was 100 per cent protection with no signs of illness in the immunized mice.

In the next stage, the researchers will test the vaccine in primates. — MNA/Xinhua

Yunnan Province set up China's domestic "AIDS" prevention centre

KUNMING, 12 Dec — Southwest China's Yunnan Province is setting up the first domestic AIDS prevention and care centre in China, the provincial AIDS prevention and control office announced here Wednesday.

Located 28 kilometres from Kunming City, the capital of Yunnan Province, the centre will cover an area of 10,000 square metres with 200 beds.

According to the report released by the office, the

centre will serve as China's first special institute providing patients with AIDS consultation, prevention, testing and treatment services.

The report also said the centre would particularly focus on treatment and care for HIV carriers, including anti-HIV treatment, psychological counselling, HIV spread control education and medicine research.

Apart from AIDS sufferers in China, the centre would also accept patients

from overseas, so as to accumulate and exchange experience in international anti-AIDS undertakings.

Statistics released by the office showed that in the first three quarters of 2003, 47.5 per cent of HIV-carriers in Yunnan Province were infected through blood transmission and the ratio of those contracted the virus through sexual intercourse rose to 21.9 per cent.

Experts warned that the HIV virus had become an

epidemic not only within high-risk groups, such as drug abusers and commercial sex workers but also among normal people.

The establishment of the centre is expected to provide treatment and care to a large number of AIDS sufferers, who ordinary hospitals do not have the capacity to care for, and give professional guidance on the usage and research of HIV medicines.

> US to warn women of

mercury in tuna

MNA/Xinhua

Unicef says girls education vital in fighting poverty

UNITED NATIONS, 12 Dec — Some 65 million girls around the world are unable to go to school, increasing the likelihood they will die in childbirth or live in dire poverty, the UN Children's Fund said on Thursday.

In its annual State of the World's Children report, UNICEF said 121 million children worldwide are out of school, nine million more girls than boys.

"We stand no chance of substantially reducing poverty, child mortality, HIV/ AIDS and other diseases if we do not ensure that all girls and boys can exercise their right to a basic education," said Carol Bellamy, UNICEF's executive director.

As mothers, educated women are more likely to have healthy children, and more likely to ensure that their children, both boys and girls, complete school. But illiteracy and ignorance puts women at risk in knowing how to space children and protect them as well as themselves against disease. "When a girl is without the knowledge and life skills that school can provide, there are immediate and long-term effects. She is exposed to many more risks than her educated counterparts and the consequences are bequeathed to the next generation," UNICEF said in the report. In most industrialized

countries as well as large parts of Latin America, there was a "reverse gender gap" with boys dropping out of school or getting low grades while girls did well in academic subjects, the study said.

But the opposite is true in much of Asia and particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, where 24 million girls did not go to school in 2002, an increase of four million since 1990, reflecting in

part a sharp drop in foreign aid.

Somalia scored lowest at 11 per cent when overall primary school enrollment was measured from 1996 to 2002.

In the same period, Tajikistan, the Netherlands and Sweden, for example achieved 100 per cent, while Saudi Arabia was at 58 per cent.

The score for enrollment in the United States was 95 per cent — the same as Vietnam.

Foreign aid, grants and contributions to education in poor countries, with a few exceptions, failed to make the type of investment in education that would enable girls to attend and complete school, the report said. *MNA/Reuters*

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. Second best time is now. e WASHINGTON, 12 Dec e The US Government plans to warn women of childbearing age to limit their consumption of tuna because of

ing age to limit their consumption of tuna because of concerns about mercury poisoning, *The Washington Post* reported on Thursday.

A draft advisory from the Food and Drug Administration and the Environmental Protection Agency cautions pregnant women, nursing mothers, young children and women of childbearing age to limit their intake of tuna and other fish and shellfish to 12 ounces a week, *The Post* said.

The FDA has previously warned pregnant women against eating shark, swordfish, king mackerel and tilefish because of their high levels of mercury, but had not included tuna on that list because it feared women would substitute it with less nutritious food.

Among seafood, tuna ranks second only to shrimp in popularity in the United States. — MNA/Reuters



Els wins European Tour player of the year award

LONDON, 12 Dec- South | year award for the second year running, Tour officials said on Thursday. Africa's Ernie Els has won the European golfer of the

South African Ernie Els has

won the European PGA

Player of the Year award for

the second successive year. INTERNET

won five individual titles on the schedule and finished leading money winner with 3.47 million US dollars despite playing in only 17 tournaments on the circuit including the World Matchplay at Wentworth. It was his first European order of merit. In addition Els won back-to-back on

the US PGA Tour at the start of the year with victory in the Mercedes Championships and the Hawaii Open.

Els, 34, ranked third in the world,

He also won the award last year after clinching the British Open for the first time with success in a play-off at Muirfield.

A panel of golf media representatives and European Tour officials meet annually to decide the prize. - MNA/Reuters

to 10 men after 18 minutes

South Korea dominated for large periods but the 2002

World Cup semifinalists lacked the cutting edge nec-

essary to press home their

numerical advantage in front

Substitute Chung Kyung-

ho almost snatched a winner

in stoppage time but just

failed to make contact with a

right-wing cross from Ahn

Jung-hwan. Japan had al-

most scored against the run

of play in the 69th minute

when striker Tatsuhiko Kubo

headed a corner against the

post and Toshiya Fujita's fol-

low-up was cleared off the

line by South Korea captain

should have been at least two

goals up by that point, Ja-

pan-based Ahn forcing a su-

perb reflex save from goal-

keeper Seigo Narazaki in the

54th minute and defender

Choi Jin-chul coming close

with a powerful header mo-

ments later.-MNA/Reuters

However, South Korea

Yoo Sang-chul.

of 62,000 fans.

Goalless draw gives South Korea East Asian title

the title by virtue of scoring

Yоконама, 12 Dec-South Korea won the East Asian Championship after a 0-0 draw with bitter rivals Japan on Wednesday, taking

when striker Yoshito Okubo, more goals than the hosts in the rest of the four-team touralready booked for scuffling. was shown his second velnament. low card for diving. Japan had been reduced



Japan's captain Tsuneyasu Miyamoto (above C) and defender Yuji Nakazawa defend their goal against South Korea defender Choi Jin-cheul (R) while Choi's teammate Kim Dong-jin looks on, during the East Asian soccer championship at the International Stadium in Yokohama. south of Tokyo on 10 Dec. 2003. The match ended 0-0 draw. South Korea placed first and Japan placed second in the round-robin tournament.—INTERNET

Late penalty books Lyon into ast 16

Lyon (France), 12 Dec- Olympique Lyon's Brazilian midfielder Juninho converted a penalty with just four minutes left to clinch a 3-2 win over Celtic on Wednesday and secure the French team a place in the Champions League knockout stage.

Lvon topped Group A | final minutes. with 10 points ahead of Bayern Munich on nine and Celtic, who go into the UEFA Cup, with seven points.

Two goals from Juninho. who also scored Lyon's second, and an early strike from fellow Brazilian Giovane Elber proved decisive on a night of high-tempo football and total commitment from both sides.

Celtic, full of passion and fight, levelled twice through John Hartson and Chris Sutton, but had no final answer when Swiss referee Urs Meier awarded a penalty against Bobo Balde for handball in a wild melee in the Juninho stepped up, re-

mained calm amid bedlam and stroked a low shot to the right and beyond Magnus Hedman. The Celtic goalkeeper had earlier been deceived and embarrassed when the same player beat him with a bouncing speculative effort from 35 metres to put Lyon 2-1 ahead.

The Brazilian duo's goals and leadership, coupled with the great technical skills and organization of their teammates, enabled Lyon to qualify for Friday's draw. Celtic's physical strength,

courage and enormous passion were not enough in a

game when they were outplayed for long spells by a

movement and ideas. Juninho inadvertently set up Lyon's opening goal when he hit the bar with a terrific shot and Elber rose to head in among a ruck of players after six minutes.

team with superior touch.

Celtic fought back almost immediately and levelled in the 24th minute when Lyon captain Cacapa missed his clearance in defence, Swedish striker Henrik Larsson pounced for a shot that was deflected and Hartson steered in the rebound.

MNA/Reuters

Nedved wins World Soccer Player of Year Award

LONDON, 12 Dec-Czech midfielder Pavel Nedved of Juventus has been named as the World Player of the Year in a poll by readers of the magazine World Soccer.

The 31-year-old gained more than a third of the votes in the magazine's 22nd annual poll after a series of outstanding performances for Juventus as they retained the Italian League title and reached the Champions League Final in May.

Nedved, linked on Thursday by London's Sun newspaper with a move to Chelsea in the transfer window. missed the final through suspension after being booked in the semifinal, when his spectacular performance was a major factor in the defeat of competition favourites Real Madrid. Juventus lost the final on

penalties to AC Milan, winners of World Soccer's Team of the Year award and coached by Carlo Ancelotti, the magazine's World Manager of the Year. Nedved topped the player

poll in front of Ruud van Nistelrooy of Manchester United and the Netherlands and Raul of Real Madrid and

French international striker Thierry Henry of Arsenal, favourite to win FIFA's World Player of the Award next week, finished fifth. MNA/Reuters

Spain.

Lazio's defender Sinisa Mihajlovic (L) vies with Juventus Czech midfielder Pavel Nedved at the Olympic stadium in Rome, during their Italian Serie A soccer match. — INTERNET

Deportivo qualify despite 3-2 defeat at PSV

EINDHOVEN (Netherlands), 12 Dec— Second-half goals from substitute Albert Luque and Walter Pandiani ensured Deportivo Coruna a place in the knockout stage of the Champions League on Wednesday, despite a 3-2 defeat by PSV Eindhoven.

Strikes from John de Jong | Jorge Andrade. in the 14th minute and Arjen Robben just after halftime had given PSV hopes of qualifying but these faded when Luque's 58th minute free kick span into the bottom corner of Ronald Waterreus's net.

Because of the League's head-to-head results rules Guus Hiddink's side then needed to win by three clear goals and that task proved too tough.

Pandiani rubbed salt into Dutch wounds seven minutes from time poking home a goalmouth cross and De Jong's injury time winner made no difference to the qualification outcome.

Deportivo qualify in second place in Group C behind Monaco who drew 0-0 with AEK Athens also on Wednesday.

Hiddink had to go for goals from the start and had strikers Mateja Kezman and Jan Vennegoor of Hesselink supported by attacking midfielders De John, Arjen Robben and Ji-Sung Park.

But they were surprised by Deportivo's attacking mentality and after 11 minutes Lionel Scaloni escaped on the right flank before feeding Diego Tristan who missed from close range.

Three minutes later the ball was at the other end and Arjen Robben combined with Mateja Kezman to offer De Jong the chance PSV needed.

Deportivo reacted immediately and PSV goalkeeper Ronald Waterreus had to make saves from Sergio and

With action switching fast and furiously from end to end, Jan Vennegoor of Hesselink missed a chance for PSV on 32 minutes followed by another fine save Waterreus from bv Scaloni.

After the break Hiddink brought on Dennis Rommedahl to boost pressure on the Spanish defence.

With one of his first moves the Danish winger cut through Deportivo's back row. A throw in from the right reached Kezman, but the Serbian failed to

control the ball and Robben picked it up in the goalmouth melee and calmly slotted it low to the left of the diving Jose Molina for a 2-0 lead. Ten minutes later PSV's

dream was shattered when Luque, who had come on a minute earlier, expertly guided his 25-metre free kick past the keeper.

It was Luque who crossed to Pandiani to level the match, De Jong adding the winner in front of a now subdued home crowd whose team will join the UEFA Cup. MNA/Reuters

Monaco top group despite goalless draw at AEK

ATHENS, 12 Dec- Monaco sealed their place in the last 16 of the Champions League as Group C winners after holding bottom-placed AEK Athens in a lacklustre 0-0 draw on Wednesday.

The free-scoring principality side needed only a draw to guarantee their berth in the next round and rarely ventured into the attacking third of the pitch on a lowkey night in Athens.

Monaco finished top with 11 points ahead of Deportivo Coruna, who lost 3-2 at PSV Eindhoven to finish level on 10 points with their Dutch hosts but still went through in second place because of a better head-to-head record.

With AEK long since out of contention - they finished with just two points and Monaco prepared to defend in numbers, chances were few and far between for much of the 90 minutes.

AEK midfielder Vassilis Tsartas rose above the medicority with a series of testing shots that began with an eighth minute effort that Tony Sylva did well to turn away for a corner AEK dominated possession on the rain soaked surface early on but showed little sign of breaking down a packed defence.

The Greeks had yet to record a win in Europe's top club competition and managed only one goal in five outings thisterm-arecord they rarely looked like improving on Wednesday, It was Monaco's Fernando Morientes who had the best chance to light up the proceedings 10 minutes before the break but the usually lethal Spain forward sliced his close range shot high and wide with the goal gaping.

MNA/Reuters

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Saturday, 13 December, 2003 15 Beauty & Scenic Sights " Myanma Panoin Kyeethe 04:10 Songs On Screen"With

A Journey to research Taron Rance

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5. Nice and sweet song

9. International news

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	Musamon	11:00 1. Ma	am artial Song
	myanmar	11:15 2 Mu	am sical prograr
Sat	urday, December 13	11:30	am
	View today:	3.Nev 11:40	am
7:00 a	m ခူးရှင်မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး၊	4.Gar 12:00	nes for Chil
နိုင်ငံရ	 ဘာီသံဃမဟာမှာယကအဖွဲ့အကိုးတော်		nd-up of the
	င်ရုပ်အဘိဓမေဟာရဋ္ဌဂုရုအဘိဓအေဂ္ဂ သဒ္ဒမ္စဗောတီကတိဝိဋ္ဌကရေဓဋ္ဌဘဏ္ဍာ	loca 1:05 a	l News
ဂါရီက	ဆရာတော်ဘည္အထိတ္တသာရာဘိထာ၏	6. 🕯	ငံခြားစာတိလမ်းဝ
ს წ ძ 7:15 a	င်တရားတော် m	(3 1:35 a	»ֆե՞։–յջ) m
2. თ	ိဋကရေ၊ ဓမ္မဘဏ္ဍာဂါရီက၊	7.ວວດຊິ 1:50 a	းဆိပ်ဘက်စုံရေရေ m
	ျမဟာအပဏ္ဍိတ၊ ဘဒ္ဒန္တသိရိန္အာ သာ (ယောဆရာတော်)	8.	" မြတ်မျိုးမြှင့်မှန်
eut	ဘကြားတော်မူအပ်သော		မှတ်ဦး၊ဖေစန္ဒာစိုးည စောနိုင်–ရှမ်းပြည်
29 7:25 a	ါတသန္အိပါဠိတော် m	2:35 a	m
3. T	o be healthy exercise	9.Dan 2:45 a	ice of nation m
7:30 a 4. N	m Iorning news		ternational 1
7:40 a	-	-	m Iartial Song

4:45 pm

4. 3 ာသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေ

ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ–ပထမနှစ်

(သိပ္ပံအထူးပြုမူားအားလုံး) (ရူပဗေဒ)

			<u>1</u>
16:15	seagull" National News	21:00 21:05	National News Myanmar Traditional
16:20	Myanmar Ramayana "Seeta and Hanumaan"	21:10	Snacks Song "Fetch me in a
16:30	(Part-XIII) (Scene-II) National News	21:12	horse-cart" Kanbawza Thardi Mu-
16:35	Oil Painting Model Demonstration	21:15	seum Wekkly News High-
16:40	Myanmar Cuisine "Monhinga"	21:20	lights Naga Traditional
16:45 16:50	National News Glimpses At Myanmar	21:30	Handicrafts Song of Myanmar
17:00	Movies Weekly News High-		Beauty & Scenic Sights "Myanma Panorama &
17:05	lights Myanmar Traditional	21:35	Myanma Sentiment" Mann Mayway
17:10	Gold Leaf works	21:40 21:42	Headline News Easily Cooked Tasty
	Song "Peace Be with you"		Dishes (Curry of Hilsa)
17:15	Weekly News High- lights	21:45 21:50	A Journey to research
17:20	Glimpses At Myanmar Movies	21:55	Taron Rance Song of the harp at-
17:25	Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic	22:00	tracting love National News
	Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"	22:05	The Mountain with Antique Stone Sculp-
Eve	ening Transmission	22:10	tures Song "To a silvery
19:30	(19:30 - 23:30) Signature Tune	22:12	seagull" Mogok (or) The Ruby
19:32	Greetings Song of Myanmar	22:15	Land of Myanmar National News
	Beauty & Scenic Sights "Mingalabar"	22:20	Myanmar Ramayana "Seeta And Hanu-
19:36	Myanma Artistic Works at Shwedagon	22.25	maan" (Part-XIII) (Scene-II)
19:40	Pagoda Archways Headline News	22:25	Song "We'll greet you in Mon language
19:42	Easily Cooked Tasty Dishes (Prawn and	22:30 22:35	National News Oil Painting Model
19:45	Bamboo Shoot Fry) National News	22:40	Demonstration Myanmar Cuisine "Monbingo"
19:50	Maungmagan, The Sea- side village	22:45 22:50	"Monhinga" National News
19:55	Performance of King Brahminy Bird Dance	22:30 23:00	Gilmpses At Myanmar Movies National News
20:00 20:05	National News Illustrious handiwork	23:00	Myanmar Traditional Gold Leaf works
20:10	in Kyeethe Songs On Screen"With	23:10	Myanmar Modern Song "Peace Be with
20:12	a weak point' Where the Rhododen-	23:15	you" Weekly News High-
20:15	dron Blooms National News	23:20	lights Glimpses At Myanmar
20:20	Kan-PeikTi Border Town in Kachin State	23:25	Movies Song of Myanmar
20:25	Song "You can take me but not my love"	25.25	Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See
20:30 20:35	National News Excursion in Yangon		Myanmar"
20:40	River Myanmar Cuisine	13-1 14	2-2003*(Saturday) & -12-2003 (Sunday)
	"Traditional Moun bine daunt"	Ev	ening & Morning Transmission
20:45 20:50	National News Kengtaung waterfall	23:30	(23:30 - 1:30) Signature Tune
20:55	Long Drum Folk Song and Dance	23:32	Greetings Song of Myanmar
8:45 a	m	5:00 p	
10. G 11:00	rammar made easy	5.Dan	ce Variety
	and artial Song	5:15 p 6.Mus	m sical programme
11:15 2 Mu	am sical programme	5:30 p	m
11:30		7.Gan 5:55 p	nes for Children
3.Nev 11:40		8. 🗖	ာဝနှင့်ရင်း၍"
4.Gan	nes for Children	-	းငွေစိုး၊သူထူးစံ၊ကျော့ကေသွယ် ရိုက်တာ–သိန်းဟန်(ဗီးနစ်)
12:00 5.Rou	am nd-up of the week's TV	6:15 p	m
loca	1 News	9. •2 6:30 j	းကြမယ်မော့ကောင်းကောင်း
1:05 a	m ငံခြားစာတိလမ်းတွဲ အချစ်သံသရာ	-	vening news
	·δę-15)	7:00 p	
1:35 a 7.ໝະຈິ	m ဆိပ်ဘက်စုံရေလှောင်တမံ	7:05 p	eather report m
1:50 a	m	12. D	iscovery
	" မြတ်မျိုးမြှင့်မှန်" ကြီဦး၊မေစန္ဒာစိုးညွှန့်၊ဦးကျော်နိုင်၊	7:25 p 13. 20	m ာဆီယံကလေးသူငယ်များ၏ သနား
	စောနိုင်–ရှမ်းပြည်	œ	င်နာခြင်းအကြောင်းအရာ
	m ce of national Races	ար 7:35 p	ရပန်းဆိုပြပွဲ m
2:45 a		-	"" ပီယိုကင်းစင်ကမ္ဘာတစ်ခွင်
10. In 4:00 p	iternational News m	ءء 1 8:00	ဝူးရွေးခန်းအစီအစဉ် သား
1. M	lartial Song	15. N	
4:15 2. Se	pm ongs to Uphold National		ternational news
S	pirit		/eather report မာဗီဒီယိုခာတ်လမ်း
4:30 3. M	pm Iusical Programme	"	းသွားမှာမိုး" (အပိုင်း–၂)
4:45	om	ବ	မင်း၊အိန္ဒြာကျော်စင်

21.72	Dishes (Curry of Hilsa)
21:45 21:50	National News A Journey to research
21:55	Taron Rance
22:00 22:05	tracting love National News
22:05	The Mountain with Antique Stone Sculp-
22:10	tures Song "To a silvery
22:12	seagull" Mogok (or) The Ruby Land of Myanmar
22:15 22:20	National News
22.20	Myanmar Ramayana "Seeta And Hanu- maan" (Part-XIII)
22:25	maan" (Part-XIII) (Scene-II) Song "We'll greet you in Mon language
22:30	National News
22:35	Oil Painting Model Demonstration
22:40	Myanmar Cuisine "Monhinga"
22:45 22:50	National News Gilmpses At Myanmar
23:00 23:05	Movies National News Myanmar Traditional Gold Leaf works
23:10	
	Song "Peace Be with you"
23:15	Weekly News High- lights
23:20	Glimpses At Myanmar Movies
23:25	Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See
	Myanmar
13-12 14	2-2003 (Saturday) & -12-2003 (Sunday)
Ev	ening & Morning Transmission
23:30	(23:30 - 1:30) Signature Tune
23:32	Greetings Song of Myanmar
5:00 p	m
5.Dan 5:15 p	ce Variety m
6.Mus	ical programme
5:30 p 7.Gan	m nes for Children
5:55 p	m
	၁၀နှင့်ရင်း၍" ငွေစိုး၊သူထူးစံ၊ကျော့ကေသွယ်
	ရိုက်တာ–သိန်းဟန်(စီးနစ်)
6:15 p	m ကြမယ်ဟေ့ကောင်းကောင်း
6:30 p	
10. E 7:00 p	vening news m
11. W	eather report
7:05 p	m iscovery
7:25 p	
	ာဆီယံကလေးသူငယ်မှား၏ သနား င်နာခြင်းအကြောင်းအရာ
æ	ရပန်းဆိုပြပွဲ
7:35 p 14. 8d	။။ ဒီယိုကင်းစင်ကမ္ဘာတစ်ခွင်
eq 8:00 p	ူးနွေးခန်းအစီအစဉ် mm
15. N	ews
	ternational news eather report
18. G	မာဗီဒီယိုဓာတ်လမ်း
"4	းသွားမှာနိုး" (အပိုင်း–၂) ခင်းအိန္ဒြာတျော်ခင်
(a)	ရိုက်တာ–သီဟတင်သန်း)
	he next day's programme
	Ministry of Informa

	Sights "Myanma P rama & Myanma	Sen-
a	timent" 23:36 Mann Mayway	
lu-	23:40 Headline News 23:42 Easily Cooked Ta	stv
gh-	Dishes (Curry of Hilsa)	
	23:45 National News 23:50 A Journey to resea	arch
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,&	23:55 Sound of the harp tracting love) at-
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y of	Antique Stone Sc tures	
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at-	00:20 Myanmar Ramay "Seeta and Hanum (Part-XIII) (Scene	aan'' -II)''
41.	00:30 National News 00:35 Oil Painting Mo	odel
ith lp-	Demonstration 00:40 Myanmar Cuisine	
ery	"Monhinga" 00:45 National News	
by	00:50 Glimpses At Myan Movies	mar
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	01:10 Myanmar Modern Song "Peace Be	with
ou	you"	igh-
lel	lights	0
	01:20 Glimpses At Myan Movies 01:25 Song of Myanmar	
	01:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and	C
nar	Myanmar"	See
al	14-12-2003 (Sunday)	
	Morning Transmissio (03:30 - 07:30) 03:30 Signature Tune	n
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nar	Sights "Mingalabat 03:36 Myanma Artistic	r"
	Works at Shweda Pagoda Archways	igon
lee	03:40 Headline News 03:42 Easily Cooked Ta	sty
5	Dishes (Prawn Bamboo Shoot Fry	and
ż	Bamboo Shoot Fry 03:45 National News	and /)
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	04:25	Town in Kachin State Song "You can take	06:10	Song "To a silvery
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ain with		bine daunt"		maan'' (Part_XIII)
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	07.00	and Dance	06:30	National News
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anumaan"		Snacks	06:40	Myanmar Cuisine
Scene-II)"	05:10	Song "Fetch me in a	06.45	"Monhinga"
ws g Model	05:12	horse-cart" Kanbawza Thardi Mu-	06:45 06:50	National News Glimpses At Myanmar
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ws	05:20	Naga Traditional	07.05	Gold Leaf works
Myanmar		Handicrafts	07:10	Myanmar Modern
vs High-	05:30	Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights		Song "Peace Be with you"
Č I		"Myanma Panorama &	07:15	Weekly News High-
aditional orks	05:35	Myanma Sentiment"	07:20	lights Glimpses At Myanmar
odern	05:40	Mann Mayway Headline News	07.20	Movies
Be with	05:42	Easily Cooked Tasty	07:25	Song of Myanmar
vs High-		Dishes (Curry of Hilsa)		Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See
Č I	05:45	National News		Myanmar"
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Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in the whole country. The night temperatures were 3°C above normal in Taninthayi Division, 3°C to 4°C below normal in Bago, Ayeyawady Divisions and Shan State, 5°C below normal in Yangon and Sagaing Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas

ing areas. Maximum temperature on 11-12-2003 was 35.0°C (95°F). Minimum temperature on 12-12-2003 was 16.7°C (62°F). Rela-tive humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 12-12-2003 was 65%. Total sunshine hours on 11-12-2003 was (8.8) hours approx. Rainfall on 12-12-2003 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and cen-tral Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2003 was 2211 mm (87.05 inches) at Yangon Airport, 2315 mm (91.14 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 2394 mm (94.25 inches) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 12 mph from Northeast at (09:35) hours MST on 11-12-2003. **Bay inference:** Weather is party cloudy to cloudy in the

Bay inference: Weather is party cloudy to cloudy in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 13-12-2003: Weather will be partly cloudy in Kayin, Kayah, Shan States and Magway Divisions and isolated rain are likely in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

State of the seat: seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters. Outlook for subsequent two days: Slight increase of night temperatures in lower Myanmar areas. Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 13-12-2003: Possibility of isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (40%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 13-12-2003:Partly cloudy. Weather outlook for 2nd weekend of December 2003:

During the coming weekend, possibility of isolated rain in Yangon Division and weather will be partly cloudy in Mandalay Division.

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9.45 pm

10.00 pm PEL

(Carpenters)

News/Slogan

**NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Myanmar bags six gold, five silver and nine bronze in XXII SEA Games



Khin Moe Nwe. ---MNA

YANGON, 12 Dec -The Myanmar sports contingent, which is participating in the XXII SEA Games being held in Vietnam, won six gold, five silver and nine bronze today. The secured medals are as follows:

Six gold medalists:

- 1. Men's rowing team in 22-oar 1000-m traditional rowing event
- 2. Women's rowing team in 22-oar 1000-m traditional rowing event
- 3. Khin Moe Nwe in the women's 63-kilo weightlifting event



Mva Sanda Oo. — MNA

- 4. Mya Sanda Oo in the women's 69-kilo weightlifting
- event 5. Cho Cho Win in the women's 75-kilo weightlifting
- event 6. Swe Swe Thant in the women's Tauklu-Nanquan event of Wushu
- competition Five silver medalists
- 1. Pyae Wai Phyo in the men's Tauklu-Ganshu event of Wushu competi-
- tion 2. Women's 400-m relay event
- 2. Aung Si Thu in the men's Wushu competition (Sanshau) 3. Swe Swe Thant in the 3. Shwe Sin Win in the wom-

Cho Cho Win. -

kwondo event

tion

tition

women's Tauklu-Nandao

event of Wushu competi-

4. Thiri Tint Lwin in the

women's 47-kilo Tae-

Silat martial arts compe-

Nine bronze medalists

1. Khin Maung Myint in the

men's 500-m kayak event

of rowing competition

-MNA

Swe Swe Thant. — MNA

en's 58-kilo weightlifting event

- 4. Aung Thura in the men's 5000-m race Thit Lwin in the men's 5. lightweight event of
- 5. Nyein Nyein Aung in the Taekwondo competition women's 50-kilo Pencak 6. Zaw Myo Win in the men's middleweight event of Taekwondo competition
 - 7. Zan Lun Khok in the men's 65-kilo Pencak Silat martial arts competition 8. Zaw Zaw Moe in the men's Tauklu-Nanquan event of Wushu competition
 - 9. Men's team in the volley ball event.-MNA

Liquefied natural gas canister factory and dry cell factory opened in South Dagon industrial zone Swe heard reports presented | chine Tool and Electrical | factories, the commander,

YANGON 12 Dec - The Ministry of Industry-2 held a ceremony to open its liquefied natural gas canister factory and dry cell factory at the factories in the industrial zone of Dagon Myothit (South) Township here this morning.

Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council and Commander of Yangon Command, attended the ceremony and unveiled the signboards of the factories.

Also present on the occasion were Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin, Deputy Minister Lt-Col Khin Maung Kyaw, Commander of No 2 Military Region Brig-Gen Myo Myint, directors-general and managing directors of departments and industries. local authorities and officials. At the briefing hall of the factory, Mai-Gen Mvint by the deputy minister on the industrial zone of U Kyaw Win, Managing Director of the Myanma MaIndustries, also reported on matters related to the newlyopened factories. After the opening ceremony of the

the minister, the deputy minister and officials viewed round the factories MNA

Independence Day All the national people to collectively safeguard the national independence and ensure perpetuation of sovereignty All the national people to be united to ensure non-disintegration of national solidarity

All the national people to strive for the emergence of enduring State Constitution and for the building of a new modern and developed nation

Objectives of the 56th

Anniversary of

All the national people to participate with full sense of Union Spirit and Patriotism in the successful implementation of the sevenpoint roadmap of the State.

Special features in commemoration of **Independence Day**

Independence was regained 56 years ago only after the united struggles of the entire mass of the people of Myanmar sacrificing a large number of lives and much blood and sweat. The 4th of January 2004 is a day of national significance. In honour of the 56th Anniversary Independence Day, The New Light of Myanmar will feature articles, poems, documentary photographs, excerpts from the speeches of the Head of State, etc as of 15th December 2003.



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe unveils signboard of battery workshop of Ministry of Industry-2 in South Dagon Industrial Zone.— MNA

Construction team beat Commerce-A

YANGON, 12 Dec-– The Premier League matches of Myanmar Football Federation continued at Aung San Stadium at 3 pm today

Construction team beat Commerce-A team 2-1. Soe Thein of Construction team won man of the match award.— MNA

Maternal and Child Welfare

Association and Day Nursery School was held in Kyauktan Township this morning. Present were President of MMCWA Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, Vice-President Dr Kyi Soe and executives, Patron of Yangon Division MCWA Supervisory Committee Daw Khin Thet Htay and

Tatmadaw soccer tournament continues

YANGON, 12 Dec- The second round of the Defence Services Commander-in-Chief's Trophy Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) Soccer Tournament continued this afternoon.

At Yangon Command Sports Ground, No 77 LID team drew with North-West Command team 3-3. Padomma sports ground in Sangyoung Township, Yangon Command team beat Tatmadaw (Air) 2-1.—MNA members of the panel of patrons, officials and guests.

Chairman of Dagon International Co U Win Aung explained construction of the buildings.

Next, the cornerstone laying ceremony followed. Later, President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe performed the rituals of golden and silvery showers.



INSIDE Perspectives For improvement of Yangon-Mandalay Union Highway Page 2 **Article** On this centenary of Myanmar novels show Page 7 <u>Byline</u> YCDC Sewage **Treatment Plant** Page 10 Circulation 23,593



President of MMCWA Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe lays cornerstone of Kyauktan Township MCWA building and Day Nursery. ---MNA

Cornerstones laid for Kyauktan Township team 2-1

MCWA Office, Day Nursery YANGON, 12 Dec- A ceremony to lay cornerstones of the office of Township