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Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, heads of State/Government of ASEAN nations attend Japan-ASEAN Exchange Year 2003 reception

YANGON, 14 Dec — Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt and heads of State/Government of the ASEAN nations on 12 December evening arrived at Tokyo International Forum in Tokyo where Japan-ASEAN Exchange Year 2003 reception was to be held. They were welcomed by Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi and their Imperial Highnesses Prince and Princess Akishinomiya.

Next, Japan-ASEAN Exchange Year 2003 reception was held, and Organizing Committee Chairman Mr Hiroshi Okuda extended greetings. The Japanese Prime Minister spoke words of thanks. On behalf of the ASEAN countries,

Indonesian President Madame Megawati Soekarnoputri spoke words of thanks.

Traditional cultural dance troupes of ASEAN nations and Japan presented those present with 'rainbow dances'. Bagan dances and marionette performance of the Ministry of Culture of Myanmar were also presented. —MNA

National Duty

Today, in guarding against the independence, which has been regained, it must always be borne in mind of all nationalities that it is their inborn national duty to shoulder tasks with the convictions for vitalization of the spirit of national unity, nationalism and the Union Spirit and safeguarding of independence and sovereignty at the risk of their lives.

(Message sent to the 53rd Anniversary of Independence Day on 4-1-2001 by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe)



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt meets Japanese Prime Minister Mr Junichiro Koizumi at the Prime Minister's Office in Tokyo on 12-12-2003. — MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt meets Japanese counterpart Mr Junichiro Koizumi

YANGON, 14 Dec — Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt met with Prime Minister of Japan Mr Junichiro Koizumi at the Prime Minister's Office in Tokyo at 4 pm on 12 December.

Also present at the call were Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung, Deputy Ministers U Khin Maung Win and U Kyaw Thu, Myanmar Ambassador to Japan U Saw Hla Min, Director-General U Soe Tint of the Government's Office, Director-General Thura U Aung Htet of the Protocol Department and Director-General U Thauang Tun of Political Department.

The Japanese Prime Minister was accompanied by Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Yuji

Miyamoto and high-ranking officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan.

The two Prime Ministers cordially exchanged views on cooperation in Myanmar-Japan relationship and promoting mutual interests.

Speaking on the occasion, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt praised the Japanese Prime Minister for organizing the ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit successfully. He said that Myanmar and Japan have been friendly countries in the history. Next, General Khin Nyunt expressed his thanks for getting a chance to discuss the situation in Myanmar.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt continued to say that technology and grassroot assistance provided by Japan

contributes towards development of Myanmar to some extent. Then, he said that he would like to see promotion of relationship between the two countries. In addition, he wished flourishing of economic cooperation between them, he added.

Then, the General explained in detail the seven future policy programme of Myanmar, preparations for convening the National Convention and endeavours for national reconsolidation in the country.

In his address, Japanese Prime Minister Mr Junichiro Koizumi said that people of Japan have an attachment to people of Myanmar. They are always thinking to enhance relationship between the two countries, he added. Then, the Japanese Prime Minister said that he thanked so much for discussions on the situation in Myanmar at

(See page 8)

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt meets Malaysian counterpart

YANGON, 14 Dec — Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt met Malaysian Prime Minister Dato Sri Abdullah bin Ahmad Badawi at the Imperial Hotel, Tokyo at 10.30 pm on 11 December. Together with the Myanmar Prime Minister were Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung, Deputy Ministers U Khin Maung Win and U Kyaw Thu, Myanmar Ambassador to Japan U Saw Hla Min, Director-General of the Government's Office U Soe Tint,

Director-General of the Protocol Department Thura U Aung Htet and Director-General of the Political Affairs Department U Thauang Tun. Together with the Malaysian Prime Minister were Minister of Foreign Affairs Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Syed Jaafar Albar, Minister of Trade Dato Seri Rafideh Aziz and high-ranking officials. During the call, they cordially discussed matters on enhancing cooperation between the two countries. — MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt meets Malaysian Prime Minister Dato Sri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi at Imperial Hotel in Tokyo on 11-12-2003. — MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives members of House of Representatives and Councillors, Japanese friends

YANGON, 14 Dec — Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt received Myanmar Economic & Management Institute President Mr Tomo Takahara at the Imperial Hotel in Tokyo at 8 am on 11 December.

At the call, they discussed enhancement of Myanmar-

Japan friendly ties that have existed for a long time throughout the history, cooperation in development of ICT in Myanmar, successful organizing of 6th Myanmar-Japan Chamber of Commerce Meeting, cooperation in education sector of Myanmar and holding of World Buddhism Summit in

Myanmar in 2004.

At 8.30 am, the Prime Minister received member of House of Councillor Mr Hideo Watanabe at the hall of Imperial Hotel. They discussed promotion of Myanmar-Japan friendly relations and cooperation in economic and health sectors.

(See page 8)

Independence Day commemorative features on pages 6, 7 and 11.

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

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 15 December, 2003

For promoting cooperation between ASEAN and Japan

At the invitation of His Excellency Mr Junichiro Koizumi, Prime Minister of Japan, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt, together with the Heads of State/Government of ASEAN countries and Japan, attended the ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit in Tokyo, Japan, on 11 and 12 December.

The opening of ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit and the first session of the summit were held at the Geihinkan State Guest House in Tokyo on 11 December afternoon, attended by Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt.

In his opening address, Prime Minister of Japan Mr Junichiro Koizumi said that the summit will have to be put on historic record as it was the first of its kind held outside the ASEAN region. He added that Japan wishes to further strengthen Japan-ASEAN relations.

Alternate Chairperson of ASEAN nations President of Indonesia Madame Megawati Soekarnoputri said that the ASEAN-Japan relation strengthened during the past 30 years and the ASEAN was grateful to the Japanese government for its assistance to ensure development of ASEAN region.

Leaders of ASEAN nations and governments also expressed their views on ASEAN-Japan relations.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt said that it was encouraging to witness the development of ASEAN-Japan relations during the past 30 years; that Japan remained as a main trade partner of ASEAN and ASEAN was also a main trade partner of Japan; that Japan was the biggest investor of the ASEAN region; and that he hoped that Japan will further widen its cooperation in economic alliance and development with ASEAN in the years to come.

The pledge to provide assistance for development of infrastructures and information and communication technology and human resource development of Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam by Japan will contribute much to the whole ASEAN region.

As the ASEAN and Japan were actively cooperating in dealing with the problems of terrorism, trafficking in narcotic drugs, disarmament and transborder crimes, they will further strengthen their cooperation owing to latest international developments and changes.

There were many sectors of possible cooperation between ASEAN and Japan. The living standard of the people will be improved through enhancing cooperation in economy and development undertakings. Human resource development is of paramount importance for ASEAN nations. It is hoped that Japan will offer more scholarships.

Myanmar has made a resolve to eliminate narcotic drugs in the country. Cultivation of poppy-substitute crops are very important in the fight against narcotic drugs. Myanmar is paying serious attention to cultivation of poppy-substitute crops. It is learnt that Japan will cooperate in the tasks.

As Japan remains not only a major trade partner of ASEAN but also the biggest investor of the ASEAN region, we firmly believe that ASEAN and Japan will be able to cooperate more actively in international affairs.

Okkan BEHS to mark its golden jubilee

YANGON, 14 Dec—The golden jubilee of the respect-paying ceremony of Okkan Basic Education High School will be held at the school on 28 December (Sunday). Old students and retired teachers are invited to attend the ceremony.

Contact for information and donation to the schoolhead Ph-651363/107, Dr Aye Thet (Okkan) Ph-651363/43, Kaung Thant Library in Okkan, Kaung Thant Publishing House Ph-722053 and U Myint Soe (Yangon) Ph-548331.—NLM Source



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe offer provisions to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Naninda at the Sayadaw's 89th birthday ceremony.—MNA

General Khin Nyunt attends birthday ceremony of Thiri Lanka Rama Monastery Presiding Sayadaw

YANGON, 14 Dec—The 89th birthday ceremony of State Ovadacariya Agga Maha Pandita Local and Foreign Missionary Myanmar Thiri Lanka Rama Monastery Presiding Sayadaw Bhaddanta Naninda was held at the monastery in Natchaung Ward, Tamway Township here this morning.

Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt graced the ceremony and presented offerings to the Sayadaw.

Present at the ceremony were State Ovadacariya Sayadaws, State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee member Sayadaws, members of the Sangha, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, ministers, the Yangon Mayor, deputy ministers, the Sri Lankan Ambassador, officials of the State Peace

and Development Council Office, departmental heads, wellwishers, lay persons and guests. The ceremony was opened with the three-time recitation of *Namo Tassa*, and Sayadaw Bhaddanta Naninda invested the congregation with the Five Precepts. The Sayadaws and members of the Sangha recited the *parittas*.

Next, the Prime Minister and wife presented offerings to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Naninda. The commander, ministers and party also do-

nated provisions to the monks. State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Secretary Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Magway Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kumara delivered a sermon, followed by sharing of merits gained. Later, the ceremony concluded with three-time recitation of *Buddha Sasanam Ciram Titthatu*.

The Prime Minister and wife offered 'soon' to the Sayadaws and members of the Sangha.—MNA

MEB Thandwe branch opened

YANGON, 14 Dec—A ceremony to open Thandwe branch of Myanmar Economic Bank of the Ministry of Finance and Revenue was held at the bank building on Bogoyoke Road in Thandwe this morning, attended by Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Commander of Western Command Maj-Gen Maung Oo, Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun and officials.

First, the commander and the minister gave speeches. Next, the general manager of MEB (Head Office) and officials formally opened the bank branch.

The commander and the minister met with departmental organizations under the ministry. Officials of MEB, Internal Revenue Department, Myanmar Insurance, Customs Department and Myanmar Small Loans Enterprise reported on their respective sectors.

The commander and the minister inspected Livestock and Fishery Development Bank in Thandwe.

Later, they toured Myanmar Economic Bank and offices of Internal Revenue Department, Myanmar Insurance, Customs Department and Myanmar Small Loans Enterprise in Thandwe.—MNA

Regionwise National Immunization Days launched in Sagaing

YANGON, 14 Dec—A ceremony to launch the Regionwise National Immunization Days was held at the city hall in Sagaing at 9 am today, attended by Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye and Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint.

Also present were Director-General of Health

Department Dr Wan Maung, officials of the Health Department, senior military officers of North-West Command and No 33 LID, UN officials, social organizations and local people.

First, the commander and the minister launched the ceremony. Then, the commander delivered an address.

Next, the commander and the minister visited the exhibition marking the Regionwise National Immu-

nization Days. They then gave oral polio vaccine to children under five and presented gifts to them.

Afterwards, they inspected the places where OPV will be given to children and gave the vaccine to children.

Later, the commander and the minister proceeded to the combined team of No 33 LID and gave OPV to under-five children of families in the division.—MNA

Chinese Assistant Minister of Commerce calls on Minister U Soe Tha

YANGON, 14 Dec—Visiting Assistant Minister of Commerce of the People's Republic of China Mr Cheng Jangs, together with Chinese Ambassador Mr Li

Jinjun, called on Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha at the Ministers' Office this evening.

Also present at the

call were Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Khin Maung Win and officials of the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development.—MNA



Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun attends opening ceremony of Thandwe branch of Myanmar Economic Bank.—F&R

German Minister says US troops in Iraq ill-prepared

BERLIN, 14 Dec — German Defence Minister Peter Struck said on Saturday American soldiers were inadequately prepared for their current Iraq mission and need “nation building” training to help the country on the road to democracy.

While lauding the battlefield abilities of the US military in Iraq, Struck said in an interview with *Welt am Sonntag* newspaper that American forces in Iraq did not have the training and were not doing enough to prepare the country for democracy.

“The US soldiers are good combat troops but are not sufficiently prepared for the tasks associated with ‘nation-building’ — setting up democratic and economic structures,” Struck said.

He said German soldiers sent to Afghanistan on a peace-keeping mission get special training. There are about 2,000 German soldiers in the 5,700-strong International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan.

“They are clearly prepared for (nation-building),” Struck said. “Our soldiers that go to Kabul are schooled about the mentality and history of the country, and also know the differences between the different population groups.”

A total of 312 US soldiers have been killed in action since

US-led forces invaded Iraq in March to oust Saddam Hussein, 197 of them in guerilla attacks since President Bush declared major combat over on May 1. Washington blames the attacks on Saddam supporters and foreign Islamic militants.

Struck also said German troops would probably stay in Afghanistan beyond the scheduled end of the mission. “We will not be able to leave next year — there is no end in sight.” He also criticized a US move to bar Iraq war opponents from reconstruction contracts while asking them to write off its debts. European leaders have urged the U.S. to reconsider the decision which opened a new transatlantic rift on Iraq.

“This was not a wise decision,” Struck said. He said he was optimistic a resolution could be found and welcomed Bush’s move to dispatch former Secretary of State James Baker to Europe to discuss Iraq and restructuring its \$120 billion of foreign debt.

Internet



An Iraqi woman looks at a female US soldier atop a military vehicle after a suspicious package was found in Baghdad, on 13 Dec, 2003. A US soldier and an Iraqi were killed and the fortified headquarters of the US-led coalition in Baghdad was attacked on Friday, as Britain’s top envoy to Iraq warned more major suicide bombings were inevitable.

INTERNET

US officer relieved of command, fined for assaulting Iraqi detainee

TIKRIT, 14 Dec — A senior US officer was relieved of his command and fined 5,000 dollars after being found guilty of assaulting and threatening an Iraqi detainee, but will not face a full court martial, the US military revealed.

“While his crimes could merit a court martial, mitigating factors involved were considered, including the stressful environment our leaders and soldiers face daily,” the US Army’s 4th Infantry Division (ID) said in a statement issued Saturday at its Iraq headquarters in Tikrit, 180 kilometres (110 miles) north of Baghdad.

During a hearing last month Lieutenant-Colonel Allen West admitted to firing a gun near the man’s head, allowing soldiers to beat the detainee, and threatening him but said he did it for the safety of the troops he commanded. The 4th ID’s commander, Major-General Raymond Odierno on Friday evening ordered West to forfeit 2,500 dollars a month from his salary for two months, according to the statement.

The general also relieved West of his command of about 700 troops and forwarded his request to retire in the spring of 2004.

West, the most senior officer reported to have faced a military judicial hearing in Iraq, was found guilty on three counts of aggravated assault and one count of communicating a threat during interrogation of a detainee on August 20 in Taji, near Baghdad.

“The incident reflects a brief lapse in

judgment by an officer with an otherwise good record and performance,” the statement said, adding that West had “disobeyed laws, ignored orders, and disregarded values for which we fight.”

“Frustration and anger overcame his professional ethics and personal values, and he performed what he knew to be illegal and immoral acts,” the statement said.

During his hearing on 19 November, West said he was trying at the time to get information about an alleged plot to kill him and some of the men he commanded and which he believed the detainee, Yahya Jhondri Hamoody, was involved in. — Internet

Flu vaccine frenzy continues in Singapore

SINGAPORE, 14 Dec — Hundreds of Singaporeans flocked to hospitals and clinics to take flu vaccine jabs as a new shipment of vaccines arrived here on Friday, a local TV report said.

No one seemed to mind that the new vaccines are 30 per cent more expensive, said Channelnewsasia, a local English language TV station, on its web site. Some 130 people turned up at the local Tan Tock Seng Hospital’s Travellers’ Clinic for the shot, it said.

MNA/Xinhua

Stamps for Year of Monkey to be issued in HK

HONG KONG, 14 Dec — The fifth Chinese Lunar New Year special stamp in the third series for the Year of the Monkey will be issued on Sunday in Hong Kong, Postmaster General Allan Chiang announced here Friday.

Different species of monkeys are featured in this set of colourful stamps to highlight the lively spirit of these fascinating creatures. The set also incorporates traditional Chinese paper cutting techniques as a toast to the festive spirit of the Lunar New Year.

The stamps are designed by Bon Kwan and printed in lithography by Joh Enschede BV, the Netherlands.

This is the fifth Lunar New Year special stamp issue in the third series released by Hong Kong Post. The first and the second set of special stamps for the Year of the Monkey were issued in 1968 and 1992 respectively. A gold and silver stamp sheetlet on two of the 12 signs of the Chinese horoscope — the Ram and the Monkey — will be issued on the same day.

MNA/Xinhua



Technicians try to fit the propeller on a life-size replica of the Wright Flyer at the Visvesvaraya Industrial and Technological Museum in Bangalore, India, on 11 Dec, 2003. — INTERNET

Two US soldiers, one Iraqi killed

BAGHDAD, 14 Dec — Two US soldiers and an Iraqi have been killed in separate incidents and the fortified headquarters of the occupation forces in Baghdad has been attacked.

In central Tikrit, US troops shot dead an Iraqi who they said had been shooting at them from a speeding car.

The driver of the car said they were not shooting at the troops but merely firing an AK-47 rifle in the air after celebrating at a wedding party.

A US soldier was killed and two others injured in a blast near the flashpoint Iraqi town of Ramadi, west of Baghdad. One of the injured soldiers later died of his wounds.

The three soldiers were in a convoy when the attack occurred around 6:30 am local time on Friday.

Resistance fighters also bombarded the occupation headquarters in Baghdad earlier on Friday, the first attack on the compound since US forces launched a large anti-resistance offensive in November.

The US military could not say what sort of weapons were fired at the 5 sq.km area, known as the Green Zone, on the banks of the Tigris river. In another attack on a military convoy, south of Baghdad, a roadside bomb exploded wounding two Polish soldiers. — Internet

Japanese PM hails China’s development

TOKYO, 14 Dec — Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi repeated Friday his stance that China’s development provides opportunities for neighbouring countries.

“We should consider development in China favourably as it will lead to the development of Japan and ASEAN,” Koizumi said at a Press conference after the two-day special summit meeting between Japan and the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN).

He also vowed to continue to push forward relations with the ASEAN, which includes Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. “Our such stance has been welcomed by the ASEAN members,” said the Prime Minister with Indonesian President Megawati beside.

Referring to Japan’s pledge to sign the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia, Koizumi described it as “an expression of our determination that we will move along with the ASEAN members”. — MNA/Xinhua

Saddam Hussein arrested in Tikrit

TEHERAN, 14 Dec — Former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein has been arrested in his home town of Tikrit, according to Jalal Talabani, head of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, the official IRNA news agency reported on Sunday.

The news agency report was from Qasr-c Shirin in Iran. There was no independent confirmation of the report.

MNA/Reuters

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

BAGHDAD, 14 Dec—As of Friday, 12 Dec, 452 US service members have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq, according to the Department of Defence. Of those, 311 died as a result of hostile action and 141 died of non-hostile causes, the department said. The department did not provide an update Saturday.

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

On or since 1 May, when President Bush declared that major combat opera-

tions in Iraq had ended, 314 US soldiers have died — 196 as a result of hostile action and 118 of non-hostile causes, according to the Defence Department's figures.

Since the start of military operations, 2,231 US service members have been injured as a result of hostile action, according to the Defence Department's figures

as of Friday. Non-hostile injured numbered 360.

The latest identifications reported by the military and family members:

Army Sgt. Marshall Edgerton, 26, Dalton Georgia; died Thursday in an attack by suicide bombers on the headquarters of the 82nd Airborne Division west of Baghdad; assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division.

sion, Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

Army Sgt. Jarrod Black, 26, Peru, Indiana; died Friday when a bomb exploded alongside a US military convoy in Ramadi, about 60 miles west of Baghdad; assigned to 1st Battalion, 34th Armoured Regiment, 1st Infantry Division; Fort Riley, Kansas.

Internet

Vietnam's cashew nut export soars

HANOI, 14 Dec—Vietnam has so far this year exported 77,000 tons of cashew nuts worth 259 million US dollars, year-on-year increases of 35.5 per cent in volume and 36 per cent in value. More than a half of the volume was shipped to China and the United States, up 16.6 per cent and 28.4 per cent, respectively, according to the Trade Ministry on Friday.

The country shipped 63,000 tons of the nuts worth 214 million US dollars last year. Its major market included China, the United States, the European Union and Australia. It now has 350,000 hectares of cashews with annual combined output of around 230,000 tons, and 72 cashew processing plants.—MNA/Xinhua



South Korean protesters march during a protest against the government's decision to send troops to Iraq. Hundreds of activists took to the streets of Seoul to protest against the troop deployment and the US occupation of the Middle East country.—INTERNET

International fund for Iraq becomes operational

UNITED NATIONS, 14 Dec—The International Reconstruction Fund Facility for Iraq, a combination of two trust funds through which governments can contribute to the rebuilding of Iraq, was inaugurated Thursday by the United Nations Development Programme and the World Bank.

"The joint UN/World Bank fund for Iraq is operational today," UN spokesman Fred Eckhard told a Press briefing at the UN Headquarters in New York. "The fund, which will go by the official name of the International Reconstruction Fund Facility for Iraq, is being inaugurated by the UN Development Group and the World Bank."

"Now that it is up and

running, interested governments can contribute to the rebuilding of Iraq's economy and infrastructure through projects managed by UN agencies and the World Bank," he said.

According to the spokesman, the fund is made up of two individual trust funds. "One of these is managed by the World Bank which will focus on technical assistance, infrastructure support and

feasibility studies. The other will be handled by the UN Development Group and it will focus on quick impact projects and transition activities," he said.

On Iraq's side, two entities will supervise the spending of contributions. The Iraqi Strategic Review Board will guide donors and make the final decision on recommendations from the Ministries of Planning and

Finance.

The Iraqi Ministry of Planning will serve as the Interim Iraqi Administration's primary link to the facility and will ensure that funds are equitably distributed.

MNA/Xinhua

တိုက်ပွဲများအား ခေတ်ကျော်လွှား

South Koreans protest against sending troops to Iraq

SEOUL, 14 Dec—Hundreds of activists took to the streets to protest against South Korea's plan to send troops to Iraq.

Some 500 protestors, most of them student radicals, marched Saturday from a public park to another public park some two kilometres (1.25 miles) away, chanting "no troop dispatch, no war" and carrying banners.

Police did not attempt to break up the demonstration, which was largely peaceful.

Hardly has a weekend passed without anti-war protests since South Korea decided to accept a controversial US request to send more troops to Iraq in addition to some 460 military engineers and medics who are already there.

Divided public opinion over the deployment was further polarized after a deadly ambush in northern Iraq a week earlier in which two South Korean construction workers were killed and two others injured.

Despite the first fatal attack by Iraqi insurgents against South Koreans, South Korean President Roh Moo-Hyun vowed to honor his promise to comply with the US request to send troops.

He said he would consider sending around 3,000 troops, mostly non-combatants, to Iraq — far fewer than the United States requested.—Internet

China receives 550,000 exchange students by 2002

BEIJING, 14 Dec—China received about 550,000 foreign students from 170 countries and regions around the world from 1950 to 2002, with 100,000 gaining scholarships granted by the Chinese Government, according to the Chinese Ministry of Education (MOE).

This revealed to more than 240 foreign exchange students from nearly 80 countries and regions, and foreign ambassadors to China from over 70 countries and regions who attended an evening ball for exchange students held by the MOE and the Beijing municipal government, here Friday.

According to the organizers, educational exchanges and cooperation have seen rapid progress in the past decade, with a big increase in the number of exchange students. So far, nearly 500 higher education institutes in China have been given permission to receive foreign exchange students.

Statistics show that in 2002 China received 86,000 exchange students from 170 countries and regions, among whom students from North Korea, Japan, the United States, Indonesia and Vietnam ranked first to fifth largest in number, respectively.

MNA/Xinhua

Use tigers as umbrella to protect forest, save eco-system

MUMBAI, 14 Dec—Terming the tiger as a "rival predator" to humans, Save Tiger Movement protagonist Billy Arjan Singh said the wild beast should be used as an umbrella to protect the forest and save eco-system.

"Using tigers as an umbrella will help to save the forest, which will further lead to maintaining of water levels and prevention of soil erosion," Singh, who would be presented the ABN-Amro Sanctuary Lifetime Service Award for protecting the Dudhwa Tiger Reserve in western Indian region and its wildlife, said here.

The 86-year-old activist, responsible for closing down 26 hunting companies four decades ago, said the biggest predator was the human being and hence tiger was a rival predator. So the mountain ranges have to be saved for these tigers, he added.

MNA/PTI



An Iraqi youth chants anti-American slogans during a demonstration calling the release of his relatives held by US forces, during a march at Baghdad, Iraq, on 12 Dec, 2003.

INTERNET

IRAQ UNDER US OCCUPATION



An Iraqi policeman aims his handgun at a driver who did not stop his car on first warning, while a US soldier looks on at a checkpoint in Baghdad, on 13 December, 2003. A US soldier and an Iraqi were killed and the fortified headquarters of the US-led coalition in Baghdad was attacked on Friday, as Britain's top envoy to Iraq warned more major suicide bombings were inevitable. — INTERNET



A soldier of US Army's 4th Infantry Division guards a suspected guerilla in Saddam Hussein's hometown of Tikrit, north of Baghdad, early on 13 December 2003. One person was killed and another arrested in a shootout with US troops that patrol and secure Saddam Hussein's volatile hometown.

INTERNET



Retired officers of the Iraqi army set fire to barricades at the entrance of the British army headquarters during a protest in the southern city of Basra on 13 December, 2003. — INTERNET



US soldiers secure the perimeter of Baghdad's Zoo during a search for weapons recently. —INTERNET



Families of Iraqis detained by the US authorities protest in front of Abu Gharib prison, 20 kms north of Baghdad. The placard in Arabic reads, 'US army where did you bring our men?' — INTERNET



A US soldier guards outside the Convention Centre during a protest by former employees of Iraqi government in Baghdad on 13 December, 2003.

INTERNET

Hailing the 56th Anniversary Independence Day:

Myanmar, sovereign nation with own historical cultural heritage

Than Tun (IPRD)

The nation where we live is named the Union of Myanmar. Altogether over 100 national races such as Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Bamar, Mon, Rakhine and Shan have been living in the Union. The national races have settled down in the land since the time immemorial. According to the anthropological research done, the evidence confirmed that the people in the stone age, the ancestors of the present generation national races, lived in the motherland aeons ago.

Fossils of Myanmar primitive men were excavated in Pondaung region in the Upper Myanmar. It can be said that the earliest human beings were from Myanmar according to Pondaungia and Amphipithecus unearthed in the region. Moreover, successive historical linkages indicate that Myanmar have lived in the land ever since. Primitive men of early and late stone age, bronze age and iron age were found successively

in Myanmar. Based on these facts, we can say that successive ancestors of we Myanmar lived in this land and they handed down the historical and cultural heritage and territorial heritage to later generations. It inculcates us with the awareness that those who lived in this land at that time were Myanmar.

At the Graduation Parade of the 40th Intake of the Defence Services Academy on 7 April 1999, Head of State Senior General Than Shwe delivered a speech, saying that **Union Spirit is the spirit that binds all citizens in unity no matter in which section, which region they may reside. Union Spirit is built on the spirit of nationalism that engenders nationals to love, cherish and value a single motherland, our mother nation, and work for its prosperity. In a way, Union Spirit is that oneness and unity of nationals who have descended from kin who have lived**

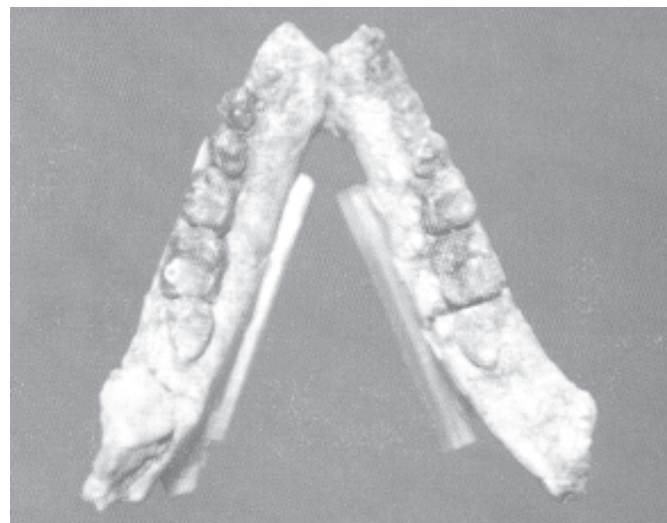
together with affection, in weal and woe on the same land, drinking the water from the same source for a very long time.

So, Union Spirit is the spirit that the people consistently regard the Union as a single family or home. It is also the spirit that one is willing to safeguard and serve the interest of one's national people, with attachment to the lineage and regions.

The Union Spirit is based on the spirit that the citizens help each other, provide assistance for those in need and build up understanding, patience and forgiveness among the nationals.

In retrospect, in the Union of Myanmar, there were a great deal of historic incidents that reflected Union Spirit. In the course of Myanmar's history, it can be distinctly seen that Myanmar was very powerful during the periods of the First Myanmar Empire, the Second Myanmar Empire and the Third Myanmar Empire.

If one makes a review of why Myanmar was very strong in the past, one can be aware of the fact that it was



Fossil primates excavated in Pondaung region.



the period in which Myanmar nationals were united. In other words, at that time, Myanmar national races such as

Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Bamar, Mon, Rakhine and Shan were united by friendship and there flourished patriotism and nationalistic spirit among the national brethren. At the time when Union Spirit flourished, the nation was prosperous and the people enjoyed fruitful results of food and clothing in abundance.

The study of the periods of the collapse of the First, Second and Third Myanmar Empires will reveal the lack of patriotism and Union Spirit. It was also the time when Myanmar were in disunity.

More apparent was rivalry for gaining power among themselves. At that time, there also existed alien intrusion, resulting in falling into the servitude of the colonialists in Konbaung Era.

Therefore, it is important to draw lessons from the past history so that the Union of Myanmar we cherish cannot relapse into alien domination. Thus, the flourishing of patriotism and Union Spirit must last as long as the world exists.

The older generation must continuously hand down the practice of upholding Union Spirit to the new generation.

In this regard, a question as to whether Union Spirit needs to be implanted in the new generation has to be raised.

The answer to the question is crystal clear. It is necessary to constantly kindle Union Spirit. It is essential to make sustainable efforts for perpetuity of the independence with the might of Union Spirit.

(Translation: MS)



Myanmar-Japan Joint Association conducts field survey in November 1999 at the site where fossil primates are found.

Hailing the 56th Anniversary Independence Day:

Myanmar, the origin of man

Conducting research is one of the most effective ways to make Myanmar known to the world. Thanks to the research, the argument on the origin of man has ceased. Myanmar had been able to present the fact that Myanmar was the origin of man. In consequence of it, Myanmar received an invitation from the United States of America to hold a seminar concerning the matter. The revelation about the finding of the fossils in Myanmar made her stand proud among the international community. The findings therefore prove to be something in which Myanmar can take pride.

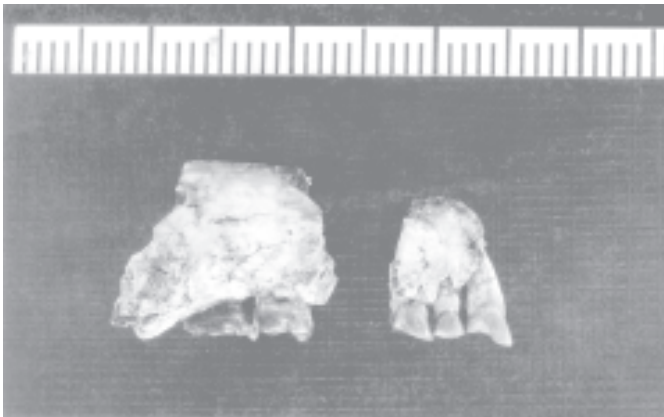


Upper jaws and teeth of primitive homosapiens.

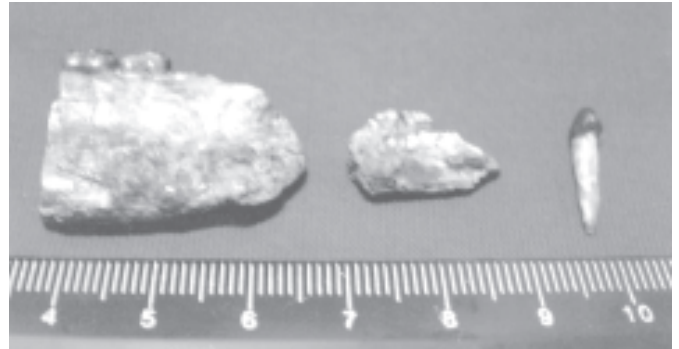
The finding of fossils of the primates in Pondaung region enhanced the prestige of Myanmar, enabling her to declare that man originated in Myanmar. These research findings are the ones of which the entire people of Myanmar should be proud. The generations to come should continue to carry out such research work.

Myanmar civilization has existed for years countable by the thousand. Since the dawn of the Earth, there have been historical evidences identifying the existence of primitive men. Myanmarans have lived on their own soil with own style and own literature and culture. The era of Myanmar was established with firm evidence.

It may be acknowledged that the fossils excavated in the Pondaung region indicated the higher stage of man. So, they may be described as the fossils of the primates. They have been classified as *Bahinia* which were over 40 million years old. In fact, they are historical evidences that can trace the early history of man.

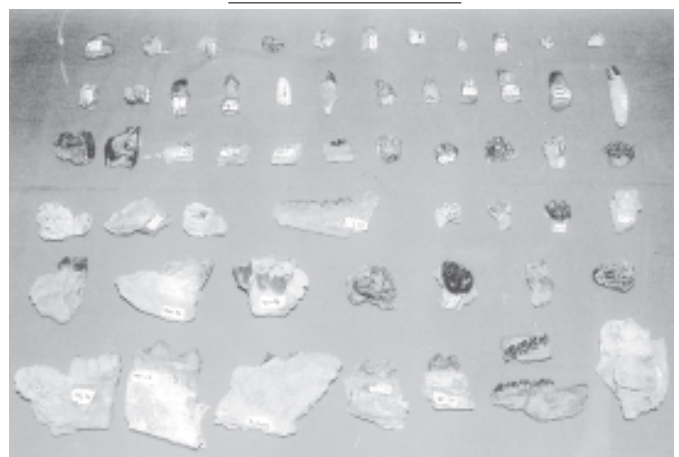
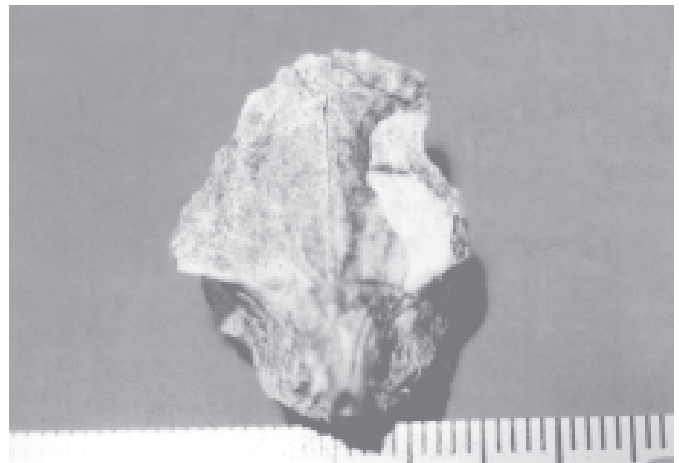


Lower jaw fossils of primitive homosapiens.



A piece of left lower jaw with molars and a loose tooth found in Pondaung region.

Primate fossils that bring glory to the Union of Myanmar



Fossils of animal jaws with teeth.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt meets...

(from page 1)

length. He realised that Myanmar is striving for flourishing of democracy despite difficulties and wished Myanmar success. He added

that Japan, on its part, will provide assistance for flourishing of democracy in Myanmar. After the call, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and Minister

for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung answered the queries related to the programme for building Myanmar as a democratic country raised by correspondents. — MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives...

(from page 1)

Similarly, the General received member of House of Representatives Mr Koichi Kato and Senior Adviser to Liberal Democratic Party of Japan Mr Iwakura at the Imperial Hotel at 9 am.

At the call, they held a discussion on endeavours for drugs elimination of Myanmar, cultivation of opium-substitute buckwheat for drugs elimination and joining hands of the Government with national race leaders in undertaking drugs elimination tasks.

At 9.30 am, the Prime Minister received the Nippon Foundation President Mr Yohei Sasagawa at the hall

Myanmar-Japan friendly relationship and economic cooperation. Likewise, the General received former Japanese ambassador to Myanmar NGO Asian Maternal and Child Welfare Association President Mr Yoichi Yamaguchi at the same venue. They discussed assistance provided to social sector of Myanmar including Maternal and Child Welfare Association.

At 11.30 am, General Khin Nyunt received the Japan-Myanmar Economic Cooperation President Mr Chigemoto Okuda at the same venue. They discussed promotion of air transport between the two countries and development of Myanmar

Director-General Thura U Aung Htet of Protocol Department and Director-General U Aung Bwa of ASEAN Affairs Department.

Maj-Gen Shusuke Kayanuma of the Ministry of Defence of Japan and wife and Col Hirofumi Yusa who discharged duty of military attachés of Japan, together with Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Yuji Miyamoto, called on Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt at the same place on 10 December evening.

Also present at the call were Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung, Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Win, Myanmar Ambassador U Saw Hla Min, Military Attaché Col Hla Myint and departmental heads.



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt greets Prime Minister of Japan Mr Junichiro Koizumi. — MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt meets with Malaysian Prime Minister Dato Sri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi. — MNA



Japan House of Representatives Mr Koichi Kato and Senior Adviser to Japan Liberal Democratic Party Mr Iwakura call on Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt. — MNA

of Imperial Hotel. They discussed cooperation of Sasagawa Foundation in Myanmar, implementation of seven-point future programmes of Myanmar, peace talks negotiated between the Government and national race armed groups and enhancement of

tourism industry.

Also present at the calls were Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung, Deputy Ministers U Khin Maung Win and U Kyaw Thu, Myanmar Ambassador to Japan U Saw Hla Min, Director-General U Soe Tint of Government's Office,

At the call, the former military attachés said while in Myanmar, they thanked so much for the convenience in discharging their duties because of cooperation and assistance of Myanmar authorities. So, they cannot forget the period when they lived in Myanmar. — MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives Japan House of Councillors Mr Hideo Watanabe at Imperial Hotel on 11-12-2003. — MNA

Workshop on establishment of model forest villages held

YANGON, 14 Dec — Workshop on setting up of model forest villages for rural area development took place on 12 December at Mingala Garden Hall in Pyay, Bago Division (West).

It was attended by Deputy Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, Pyay District and

Thayawady District Peace and Development Council Chairmen, officials of the Forest Department and local people.

At the workshop, three papers were submitted. Next, those present grouped in three and made discussion.

The deputy minister went to the forest village in

Bawbin Forest Reserve in Nattalin Township yesterday and inspected the school, library and clinic in the village. At the briefing hall of the teak special plantation, an official of the Forest Department reported on preparation for teak plantation for 2003-2004 and extraction of timber. — MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives...

(from page 16)

Military Attaché Col Hla Myint, embassy staff and their families and gave instructions. He said that the delegation under his leadership attended the ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit held in Japan; that the summit is the first of its kind in 30 years after forming of ASEAN; that matters related to united cooperation between Japan and ASEAN were discussed;

that the summit is a successful one as Japan will provide assistance for economic, social, science and technological development of ASEAN nations; that he held a meeting with the Japanese Prime Minister and was able to discuss matters related to promoting of relations between the two countries; that he also met with officials responsible for political, economic and social sectors

of Japan and was able to clarify political, economic and social conditions of Myanmar and was thus able to build the constructive relations; that they will cement Myanmar-Japan relations and urged the embassy staff in Japan to make earnest efforts for further strengthening mutual interest and friendship in addition to their original protocol tasks and keep in touch with Myanmar citizens in Japan and give aid to them and create

(See page 10)



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives Myanmar Economic & Management Institute President Mr Tomo Takahara at Imperial Hotel on 11-12-2003. — MNA

Delegation of Malaysian armed forces arrives

YANGON, 14 Dec — The Malaysian delegation led by Under-Secretary Dr Hj Ismail bin Hj Ahmad of Policy Division of Malaysian Armed Forces arrived here by air this morning.

They were welcomed at Yangon International Airport by Deputy Commandant of National Defence College Brig-Gen Than Maung of the Ministry of Defence, senior military officers and Malaysian Defence Adviser Col Hj Abbas Hj Mat. At 1.45 pm, the Malaysian delegation called on Vice-Chief

of Armed Forces Training Maj-Gen Aung Kyi at the hall of NDC. Also present at the call were Vice-Chief of Armed Forces Training Brig-Gen Nyan Win, Deputy Commandant of NDC Brig-Gen Than Maung and senior military officers, Malaysian Defence Adviser Col Hj Abbas Hj Mat and officials.

After the call, senior Myanmar military officers and the guests discussed matters related to military training courses between the two countries.

Next, Commandant Maj-

Gen Moe Hein of NDC extended greetings and explained the history of the college.

Afterwards, the commandant and the Malaysian Under-Secretary exchanged souvenirs. Then, the leader of the Malaysian delegation spoke words of thanks.

The guests then visited the college. In the evening, Vice-Chief of Armed Forces Training Maj-Gen Aung Kyi hosted a dinner in honour of the guests at the Karaweik Palace.

MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attends...

(from page 16)

Prime Minister on arrangements and upgrading tasks of hotels and restaurants in the park. Afterwards, Deputy Minister for Science and Technology U Nyi Hla Nge reported to the Prime Minister on formation of a committee for completion of the upgrading tasks of the park and gardens and requirements.

Next, Managing Director U Win Aung of the Wood Land Co Ltd reported to the Prime Minister on landscaping tasks, construction of a convention hall, arrangements for cable car and landscaping tasks in the Central Forest Zone.

Those present also reported to the Prime Minister on cooperation of departments concerned in upgrading the park and the gardens.

After hearing the reports,

the Prime Minister fulfilled the requirements and made a speech. He said as Myanmar is a country with abundant natural resources, it is required for the government to develop these national resources with innovation and diligence. By doing so in every sector, economic life and living standard of the people can be raised. The Prime Minister, pointing out some countries of the world that stand shoulder to shoulder with others and enjoying prosperity due to the making best use of resources of their countries, urged responsible personnel at different levels to make efforts with the determination to realize the goals of the respective departments based on their technological know-how, experience, goodwill and diligence. The key to success and prosperity is the ef-

forts with innovation and diligence, the Prime Minister said.

In conclusion, the Prime Minister urged the committees responsible for upgrading Yangon City into international standard one, to exert efforts with goodwill and duty consciousness for the success of the respective sectors.

After the meeting, the Prime Minister inspected the tasks being carried out in the park including construction of the Water Plaza and water fountains, laying of granites in Khemadepa Island, landscaping tasks in Pale and Maha Myaing islands, and earth works for construction of an aquarium for sharks in Myaypadetha island and fulfilled the requirements. The Prime Minister left the park in the afternoon.

MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives the Nippon Foundation President Mr Yohei Sasagawa at Imperial Hotel on 11-12-2003.—MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives NGO Asian Maternal & Child Welfare Association President Mr Yoichi Yamaguchi at Imperial Hotel on 11-12-2003.—MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives Maj-Gen Shusuke Kayanuma of Ministry of Defence of Japan at Imperial Hotel on 11-12-2003.—MNA

Myanmar sports contingent arrives back

YANGON, 14 Dec—Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint and leader of the Myanmar sports contingent Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye

Myint Kyu and members arrived back here by air this morning. They were welcomed back at the airport by Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing, Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein

Zaw, Vietnamese Ambassador Mr Pham Quang Khon and officials.

The Myanmar sports contingent bagged 16 gold, 43 silver and 50 bronze in the XXII SEA Games.

MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party being seen off at the airport by Japanese Deputy Foreign Minister Mr Shogo Arai and officials.—MNA



Gold medalist Khine Khine Maw being seen with Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint and President of Myanmar Wushu Federation U Khin Maung Lay.—NLM

L&F Minister inspects hatcheries in Ayeyawady Division

YANGON, 14 Dec—Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein on 12 December inspected the Pathwe Fish Hatchery of the Fisheries Department in Pantanaw Township. An official con-

cerned reported to the minister on arrangements for hatching. Next, the minister urged the officials to produce the fingerlings to exceed the target.

Afterwards, the minister also saw over the Ayeyawady

hatchery of Yuzana Group in Patheingyi.

During his tour, the minister met with staffs of the division/district/township fisheries departments in Ayeyawady Division.

MNA

Commander opens 2nd Computer Technology Exhibition in Mandalay

YANGON, 14 Dec — Jointly-organized by Madalay Division Computer Scientists Association and Computer Industry Association, the 2nd Computer Technology Exhibition was opened at the city hall of Mandalay City Development Committee in Chanayethazan Township on 12 December morning.

Present at the ceremony were Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint, Chairman of Mandalay City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Yan Thein, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Nay Win, Deputy Chief Justice of Supreme Court (Upper Myanmar) U Khin Maung Latt, Secretary

of Mandalay Division Lt-Col Tin Ohn and departmental heads, Chairman of the Madalay Division Computer Scientists Association U Thein Htut and members and guests.

Under the programme, U Thein Htut of the MDSCA explained the purposes of holding the exhibition.

Next, the commander

and the mayor formally opened the exhibition and viewed round it and attended to the needs. The exhibition will continue up to 14 December.

At the exhibition, Bagan Cybertech and Computer Companies of Yangon and Mandalay Divisions displayed hardware and software in 53 booths on technology. — MNA

Eighth Thailand Exhibition concludes

YANGON, 14 Dec—The Eighth Thailand Exhibition, organized by the Ministry of Commerce of Thailand and the Trade Section of the Thai Embassy, concluded at Yangon Trade Centre on Upper Pazundaung Road in Mingala Taungnyunt

Township yesterday evening.

Altogether 150 companies opened 180 showrooms from 10 to 13 December. More Thailand exhibitions will be held here in coming years.

MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives...

(from page 8)
official opportunities for them.

On arrival at Haneda Airport where they are going to depart, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party were seen off by Deputy Minister of Foreign

Affairs of Japan Mr Shogo Arai, Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Yuji Miyamoto and members, Myanmar Ambassador to Japan U Saw Hla Min, Military Attaché Col Hla Myint, embassy staff and their families. Next, Prime

Minister General Khin Nyunt and party arrived at Chak Lap Kok International Airport in Hong Kong where they were welcomed by Senior Consultant Ms Luis Tam of Protocol Department of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and

members, Consul-General U Myo Chit of Consulate-General of Hong Kong and staff. Next, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party took a break at the special lounge of the airport. Afterwards, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party left Hong Kong and arrived back here



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt being seen off at the airport by staff of Myanmar Embassy in Japan.—MNA



Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung meets with Japanese Foreign Minister of Ms Yoriko Kawaguchi at the Imperial Hotel. (News on page 16)—MNA

Mayor inspects construction of pump station

YANGON, 14 Dec — Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, together with committee member Col Tin Soe, yesterday morning arrived at the construction site of the pump station for Gyobu pipeline near Pyawbwe Village in Hmawby Township.

An official reported to the mayor that more 12 to 15 million gallons of water would

be distributed to the Yangon City, especially the townships of South Oak-kalapa, North Oakkalapa, Thingangyun, Thuwunna and Thakayta in addition to regular supplies of water on completion of the pump station construction. And he said the construction would complete in March 2004. The mayor and party inspected the maintenance of Phugyi pipeline near the construction site. —MNA

Guna Visittha Puja for Nyaungganaye Sayadaw held

YANGON, 14 Dec—The Agga Maha Kammathanacariya Guna Visittha Puja for Nyaungganaye Sayadaw Bhaddanta Indaka was held at Nyaungganaye Sasana Yeiktha in Insein Township this morning, attended by Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung.

Also present were members of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee, Director-General Dr Myo Myint of Religious Affairs Department, officials and wellwishers.

Secretary Sayadaw of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Magway Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kumara administered the Five Precepts.

Then, Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, officials and wellwishers donated provisions to the Sayadaws.

Next, the minister and officials accepted cash donations totalling K 30,584,940 for construction of Sasana Sitala Dhamma Beikmandaw donated by wellwishers.

Later, the Guna Visittha Puja for the Nyaungganaye Sayadaw followed.

MNA



Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin gives instructions at construction site of the pump station for Gyobu pipeline in Hmawby Township.—YCDC

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

The 57th Anniversary Union Day objectives

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

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

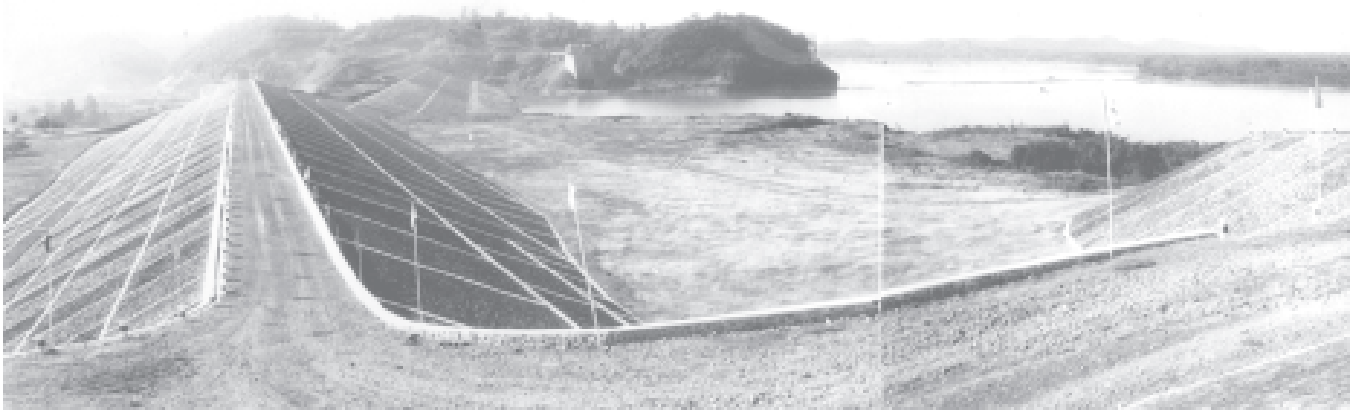
Donate blood

Hailing the 56th Anniversary Independence Day:

Images of irrigation projects

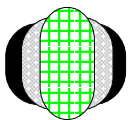
Hinywet Dam in An Township, Rakhine State.

Mone Creek Dam Project being constructed two miles south of Sedoktara Township, Minbu District in Magway Division.

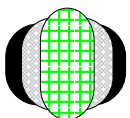


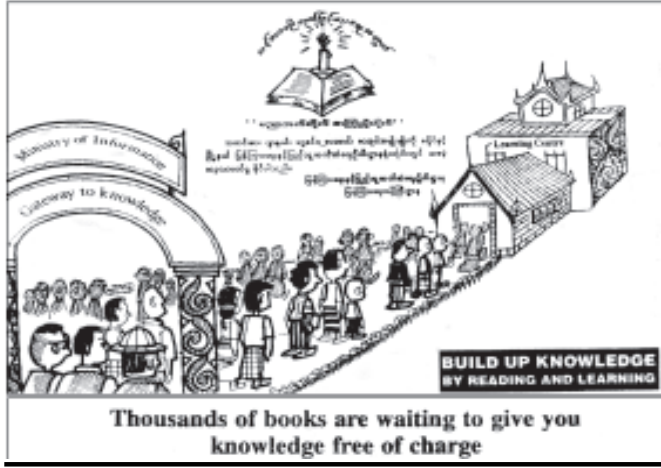
Irrigation facilities and river water pumping projects implemented in the time of the State Peace and Development Council

Subject	Before 1988	From 1988 to November 2003
Irrigation facilities	138	153
River Water Pumping Projects	—	265
Cultivated acreage	1,336,199	over 2,000,000
Irrigation facilities under construction	—	39
Projected Irrigation networks	—	84
Funds spent on irrigation facilities	K 1,454 million	over K 80,000 million



Nankathu Dam constructed at a cost of K 1,422 million in Ingapu Township, Ayeyawady Division, was inaugurated as the first dam of the division on 29 November, 2000.





ADVERTISEMENT

FREE ENTRY

WELCOME TO VISIT
The First
KOREAN PRODUCTS SHOW 2003
18-20 December
Yangon Trade Center
Upper Pazundaung Road
Yangon

LUCKY DRAW PROGRAM INCLUDED

Organized by ;
The Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Myanmar
KOTRA < Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency >

VARIETY OF KOREAN PRODUCTS WILL BE ON DISPLAY

မြန်မာ့ရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန

မြန်မာ့အသံနှင့်ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား။

မြန်မာ့ရေးနှင့်ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားဆက်ဆံရေးဦးစီးဌာနတို့တွင်
အသုံးပြုရန်လိုအပ်သော

စက်ပစ္စည်းများဝယ်ယူရန်တင်ဒါခေါ်ယူခြင်း

၁။ မြန်မာ့အသံနှင့်ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား၊ မြန်မာ့ရေးနှင့် ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား ဆက်ဆံရေး ဦးစီးဌာနတို့အတွက် အောက်ဖော်ပြပါ စက်ပစ္စည်းများကို ဝယ်ယူလိုပါသည်။

(က) မြန်မာ့အသံနှင့်ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားအတွက် ဝယ်ယူမည့်ပစ္စည်းများ

- (၁) MRTV-3 New Studio Complex ဆောက်လုပ်ရေးတွင် Power Distribution ပင်မလိုင်းဆွဲခြင်း လုပ်ငန်းအတွက် လိုအပ်သော ပစ္စည်းများ
- (၂) NEC TV TX (PCN-1213 BH/4) Spare ပစ္စည်းများ
- (၃) Earth Tester များ
- (၄) China TV TX Spare for 9 Base TV TX Station စက်အရန်ပစ္စည်းများ

(ခ) မြန်မာ့ရေးနှင့် ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားအတွက် ဝယ်ယူမည့် ပစ္စည်းများ

- (1) Camera (28 to 90 mm Wide Zoom Lens With Case)
- (2) Flash Gun
- (3) Nikon Camera F 5 (Body Only)
- (4) Nikon Lens 28 to 105 mm
- (5) Nikon Flash Gun
- (6) Air Conditioner (1 HP) (Window Type)
- (7) Generator 2 KVA, BSK (120 X KDN 5 B)
- (8) Television Receiver (29")
- (9) Television Receiver (21")
- (10) Radio Cassette Recorder
- (11) Video Cassette Player
- (12) Safe Guard (TV, Video)
- (13) TVRO & LNB
- (14) SET-TOP BOX

၂။ တင်ဒါခေါ်ယူခြင်းမူကွဲ (၂၆-၁၂-၂၀၀၃) ရက်နေ့ (၁၆:၃၀) နာရီတွင်ပိတ်သိမ်းပါမည်။

၃။ တင်ဒါပုံစံနှင့် အသေးစိတ်အချက်အလက်များကိုအောက်ပါ လိပ်စာတွင် လာရောက်ဝယ်ယူနိုင်ပါသည်။

ပြည်တွင်း/ပြည်ပ ပစ္စည်းများ
ဝယ်ယူရေးနှင့်ထုတ်ကုန်ရေးရာဇဝတ်

မြန်မာ့ရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန

အမှတ် (၂၂၀)၊ သိမ်ဖြူလမ်း၊ ဗိုလ်တောင်းမြို့နယ်၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့။

အမှတ်၊ ၂၄၅၆၃၊ ၂၄၅၆၂၄၂၄၅၆၃

Chinese Premier arrives in Mexico

MEXICO CITY, 14 Dec—Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao arrived here Friday on his first official visit to Mexico since he took office in March.

In a written statement issued upon his arrival, Wen said the purpose of his visit is to enhance trust, expand understanding, deepen cooperation and seek mutual development of the two countries.

Wen expressed his confidence that his visit would help further promote the friendship between the two peoples and boost the development of all-around friendly and co-operative ties in the new century. During his two-day visit, Wen is to hold talks with Mexican President Vicente Fox and meet Mexico's congressional leaders.

Wen arrived in Mexico City after a five-hour flight from Canada. Mexico is the third leg of his four-nation tour, which also took him to the United States early this week. The Chinese Premier will set out for Addis Ababa to pay a visit to Ethiopia. In the Ethiopian capital, he will also attend the opening ceremony of the second ministerial meeting of the China-Africa Cooperation Forum.

Wen was greeted at the airport by Mexican Vice-Foreign Minister Enrique Berruga and Chinese Ambassador to Mexico Ren Jingyu.—MNA/Xinhua

ပြည်တွင်းပြင်ကိုအားပေးပါ

INVITATION FOR TENDER

No. 006/TRT/2003-2004

Sealed Tenders from eligible suppliers are invited for the supply of the following Tyre Sizes, prices to be quoted in Myanmar Kyats - Yangon.

Tyres With Tubes And Flaps.

Size: 9.00 x 20 x 14 PR — 2100 Sets

7.50 x 16 x 12 PR — 345 Sets

(a) Tender Documents are available at the Office of Procurement & Stores Department Head Office, Road Transport, No. 375, Bogyoke Aung San Street, Yangon Myanmar, Commencing on the 15th December 2003.

(b) Tender will be closed on 31st December 2003 at 16:00 hours.

(c) The Road Transport reserves the right to reject any or all Tenders.

(d) Detailed information will be available at the Office of the Procurement & Stores Department, or contact Phone Nos. (01) 252574 or (01) 376549.

Managing Director,
Road Transport.

Indonesian Vice-President urges free education for poor

JAKARTA, 14 Dec—Indonesian Vice-President Hamzah Haz said in South Sulawesi Province here that the country's school-age children should be spared from paying money to their schools.

"We should dare to free people from paying financial contributions to schools so that we can improve the quality of the people's education," he was quoted as saying by the official Antara news agency.

Hamzah said he made the suggestion because most Indonesians have quite low incomes and the quality of education in the country is still poor.

Most children in Indonesia, such as those in the provinces of West Java, East Java and South Sulawesi, only finish junior high school, he said.

Hamzah asked concerned parties to help improve the quality of education in the country so that Indonesia's human resources would not lag even further behind their counterparts in neighbouring countries, such as Malaysia.

Governors, mayors and district heads should help improve the curriculum of elementary, junior high and senior high schools, he said, adding that the curriculum should consist of 50 per cent theory and 50 per cent practice.

Separately in Jakarta, Sri Rejeki Sumaryoto, Minister for Women's Empowerment, told reporters that Indonesian girls need wider access to the country's education system, noting that illiteracy rate among girls is three times as high as that of boys.

"Neglecting girls' right for education would put them at the risk of poverty, violence, harassment and other kind of human right abuses," the minister said.

To overcome the problems, she said, the government needs to build more schools, grant more subsidies and protect schoolchildren from threats of violence.

MNA/Xinhua

Beijing urban rail line to be put into trial operation

BEIJING, 14 Dec—The No. 4 rail line between Sihui and Tongzhou in eastern Beijing will be put into operation on a trial basis December 28, officials with the Beijing subway company said here. The rail line is connected with the No. 1 rail line, which runs under Tiananmen Square, at Sihui. With an investment of 3.4 billion yuan (about 410 million US dollars), the double-track, 19-kilometre rail line is an overground extension of the current subway to form a major west-east artery in the city.

The provisional price for a single ticket on the new rail line is three yuan (36 US cents), and for the passengers who wish to change to the No. 1 or No. 2 rail lines, five yuan (60 US cents), according to the officials.

Beijing now has 95 kilometres of urban rail transport in operation, of which subways make up 54.15 kilometres.

In addition, the No. 5 rail line is now under construction, and the government will launch the construction of another two new rail lines by the end of this year.

By 2008, when Beijing is to host the Olympic Games, the length of the city's urban rail transport is expected to reach 300 kilometres.—MNA/Xinhua

TRADE MARK CAUTION

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Win Mu Tin,

M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L.

for Mundipharma AG

P.O. Box No. 60, Yangon.

Dated: 15 December, 2003

China's biggest freight airline company established

BEIJING, 14 Dec — With a total investment of 3.5 billion yuan (about 44 million US dollars), China's biggest cargo airline company, AirChina Cargo, was established here Friday.

The new company was jointly organized by AirChina, CITIC Taifu and Beijing Capital Airport, which respectively supplied 51, 25 and 24 per cent of the total investment. AirChina Cargo has plenty of cargo capacity, wide-ranging air route network and skilled personnel.

The establishment of the new company reflected the demands of China's growing economy and trade volume. AirChina Cargo aims to become a comprehensive cargo airline company which can compete with foreign airlines.

In recent years, China has become renowned as a major trading nation. In 2002, China's gross domestic product surpassed 10 trillion yuan (about 1.25 trillion US dollars), with the export and import volume ranking fifth in the world. Experts said that a big trading nation should have a matchable transportation system and cargo company.

The establishment of the new company also accords with the trend of "aviation globalization" and "open skies".—MNA/Xinhua

မညာရေးဖြင့် ခေတ်မီဖွံ့ဖြိုးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့

Vietnam opens up telecommunication market for US firms

HANOI, 14 Dec— Vietnam is to gradually open up its posts and telecommunications market to US companies from 12 December, pursuant to the country's commitments in the Vietnam-US Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA).

Joint ventures will be able to operate in the value-added services sector from December 2003, in Internet services from December 2004, and basic communications and mobile phone services from December 2005, Deputy Minister of Vietnam's Posts and Telecommunications Ministry Mai Liem Truc was quoted as saying by Friday's local newspaper *Investment*.

Despite the limited access, US firms would create fiercer competition, reducing market shares of local enterprises, experts said. The requirement in the BTA that all companies compete for tenders or supply contracts on an equal footing is a major threat, directors of local companies said.

However, no US firms have so far registered to set up joint ventures in the value-added services, although the ministry is

making documents on offering them guidelines to do so, the paper said. Foreign companies are operating in the telecommunications industry in Vietnam via business cooperation contracts, the ministry said.

Taking effect from December 2001, the BTA has created a great leap in trade turnovers between the United States and Vietnam. Thanks to lowered tariffs and removal of other trade barriers, local exports to the United States increased 127.6 percent to 2.39 billion US dollars last year.

Vietnam's Trade Ministry estimates export turnovers to the market will increase to 3.8-4.19 billion US dollars this year, with key items being seafood, garments, textiles and footwear.

MNA/Xinhua

Singapore researchers design cheaper fuel cell

SINGAPORE, 14 Dec— Singapore researchers have developed a fuel cell which costs less than half the usual price, local Press reported on Friday.

The researchers from Singapore's Institute of Materials Research and Engineering began working on fuel cells three years ago, said Channelnewsasia, an English-language television on its web site.

In developing the fuel cell, they used a special kind of membrane called Proton Exchange Membrane, said the TV broadcast report. The patented plastic-like conductive membrane, which feels like a contact lens, is also developed in Singapore, it cited a researcher as saying.

With the membrane, "the price (of the fuel cell) will be much cheaper than that available from the market", said Professor Gan Leong Ming, principal research fellow of the institute.

Singapore's research focus is on providing a viable alternative power source for small appliances like pedal scooter, said Channelnewsasia.

In the future, it is hoped that fuel cells will be able to power household items like televisions, radios, laptops and even mobile phones, it said.

Unlike engines that run on fossil-fuels like petrol or diesel, the only by-products of fuel cell are heat and pure water.

MNA/Xinhua

Hearing, smelling differ in people, chimps

WASHINGTON, 14 Dec — Genes that fine-tune the sense of hearing and smelling in people may be important in separating humans from chimpanzees, US researchers reported on Thursday.

A comparison of the gene maps of humans and chimpanzees supports the idea that language is a key factor that makes us human, the team at Cornell University in New York and Celera Genomics found. "Speech is considered to be a defining characteristic of humans," they wrote in their report appearing in Friday's issue of the journal *Science*. They noted differences in genes believed to be involved in the development of speech.

"Several genes involved in the development of hearing also appear to have undergone adaptive evolution in the human lineage, and we speculate that understanding spoken language may have required tuning of hearing acuity," they wrote.

The team additionally found differences in genes that control production of receptors — molecular doorways — into cells involved in smell. "It seems likely that the different lifestyles of chimps and humans might have led to divergent selection pressure on these receptors," they wrote.

Genes involved in fertilization and pregnancy were different as well, they found. Scientists think chimps and humans diverged from a common ancestor 5 million years ago. Humans and chimps share more than 99 percent of their genes, and scientists are eager to find out how tiny differences can be so important.

MNA/Reuters

Chinese Vice-Premier urges int'l cooperation on environment

BEIJING, 14 Dec— Chinese Vice-Premier Zeng Peiyan Saturday called for a further tripartite cooperation in the environmental sector among China, Japan and South Korea.

China attaches great importance to ecological construction and environmental protection, and hopes that the cooperation can help improve regional ecological conditions and realize the harmonious co-existence between man and nature, Zeng said, when meeting with Japanese Environment Minister Koike Yuriko and South Korean Environment Minister Han Myung-sook.

The two ministers were here in Beijing attending the fifth environmental ministerial meeting for China, Japan and the South Korea.

Zeng said in recent years China has basically curbed the deteriorating tendency of its national environment while maintaining rapid economic growth.

He said China will get rid of the old developing model, which was built on mass consumption of natural resources and sacrifice of the environment, and look for a new scientific and economical industrialization model which can produce less consumption and pollution, and make full use

of human resources.

Zeng said Chinese, Japanese and South Korean leaders signed a joint declaration at the fifth consultation in Bali, Indonesia, this October, and reached broad consensus on cooperation on environmental protection.

The Chinese Government is willing to actively join in international environmental cooperation based on mutual respect, mutual benefit and enhanced communication, Zeng said.

He said China, Japan and the South Korea have achieved fruitful results in research into sand storms, the monitoring of acid rain, environmental education and human resources development.

He said he hopes that the environmental departments of the three countries can explore more cooperation areas, and improve consultation and exchanges, so as to improve the regional environment and make greater contributions to worldwide sustainable development.

MNA/Xinhua

US, China launch market-based programme to control acid rain

BEIJING, 14 Dec— "The lesson and the challenge for both the United States and China are to harness our respective entrepreneurial energies for the benefit of the environment, rather than against it," US environmental economist Daniel Dudek said here.

Dudek made this remark at a seminar of the China-US emission trading pilot programme.

This programme is designed to reduce sulphur dioxide released by China's coal-based power plants.

Dudek's organization, Environmental Defence, a US-based non-profit environmental non-governmental organization, is its major sponsor.

According to Zhang Lijun, director of the pollution control office of China's State Environmental Protection Administration (SEPA), these plants are the No 1 contributor to China's sulphur dioxide emission, which has

eroded one third of the country's land.

Dudek convinced Chinese environment officials three years ago that allowing the plants to trade their emission rights will ultimately lower the total cleaning cost. The programme started in March 2001. It has covered 727 plants so far in the worst places for acid rain, such as Shandong and Jiangsu provinces, and Shanghai.

In this programme, plants which do not use up their emission quota can sell it to those who need it. However, all the trades have to be done on condi-

tion that the total emission volume remains under SEPA's control and will not threaten the local environment.

"That's the way we unleash powerful market forces for environmental protection," said Dudek.

Dudek said the US's experience in integrated management and enforcement may help China to achieve its goal. "It took the United States more than 13 years to cap national sulphur dioxide emission in the acid rain programme," said Dudek, "We would like to share our experiences with China."

MNA/Xinhua

AT&T to expand Internet telephone service

LOS ANGELES, 14 Dec— AT&T, the No 1 US long-distance phone company, announced Thursday that it will sell Internet telephone service (VoIP) to consumers at a lower cost than conventional phone service next year.

The company has already provided phone services using Internet technology to businesses. Now it plans to expand the service and offer a consumer equivalent in the top 100 US markets next quarter.

AT&T CEO David Dorman, speaking at an investor conference on Thursday, gave some details on its new plan. It comes days after Time Warner, the No 2 US cable operator, said it would offer a VoIP on its cable sys-

tems. The moves highlight the sudden embrace by telecommunications companies in the United States of an initially derided technology that they now say is destined to shake the competitive foundations of an industry that generates hundreds of billions of dollars. For consumers, the shift is likely to mean lower prices and enhanced telephone features with about the same quality of voice delivery.

MNA/Xinhua



Princess Stephanie of Monaco, right, and Clown Frankie greet the children of southern France, on 13 Dec, 2003, in Monaco before taking part in the traditional handing-out of Christmas gifts.—INTERNET

SPORTS



Six-time Formula One World Champion Michael Schumacher of Germany holds up his trophy during the FIA (Federation International Automobile) gala awards ceremony in Monte Carlo on 12 Dec, 2003. Schumacher won the 2003 World Formula One.

INTERNET

Ferguson dismisses contract problems

MANCHESTER (England), 14 Dec— Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson has dismissed as "nonsense" claims that the Old Trafford board is split over his new contract.

A newspaper report on Friday said the negotiations over Ferguson's new deal had run into problems.

"I spoke to (communications director) Paddy (Harverson) and (chief executive) David Gill about that and of course it's absolute rubbish," Ferguson told a news conference on Friday. "It's apparently emanating out of Ireland. I don't know why, but it's nonsense."

"David assured me of that this morning. There is no split in the board and things are going along fine." United later released a statement that also quashed the claims.

"There is no division within the board on the manager's contract," the statement said. "We would like to point out that no-one from the board of Manchester United spoke to The (Daily) Mirror. "Discussions over terms and conditions of the deal are progressing well and no problems are foreseen." Ferguson remains confident that a new long-term contract will be signed shortly and is concentrating his efforts on winning Saturday's Manchester derby.

Victory over Manchester City would take United back to the top of the Premier League, for a few hours at least.

United are red-hot favourites but Ferguson is not reading too much into the fact that City, who have failed to win at Old Trafford since 1974, have not won in seven league and cup games.

"Last year they lost to Wigan before they

beat us, so we're taking nothing for granted," he said.

"The important thing for us is to make sure our form is good enough to win the match."

"I know what it means to our fans and I know what it means to Manchester City. This the real stuff of what history is made of, two great clubs from the one city coming against each other."

"I have always said over the years that Liverpool has been our most important fixture, historically, and I don't change that. But the Manchester City derby is a special day."

Captain Roy Keane and goalkeeper Tim Howard are set to return after missing Tuesday's Champions League win over VfB Stuttgart and Ferguson admits that with only striker Ole Gunnar Solskjaer unavailable he faces a tough job to select his side.

"I don't relish the job picking the team for tomorrow," he said. "I could play six different teams and different formations in midfield and up front. I just hope I pick the right one." Meanwhile, Ferguson believes United face a difficult last-16 Champions League tie after being paired with UEFA Cup winners Porto in Friday's draw.

"I think it could be one of the more difficult draws," he said. "They are a good side. Their home record is very impressive."

"It won't be an easy one but if you want to progress in this cup you've got to beat the best teams, and I think they are one of the best teams." — MNA/Reuters

Liverpool inconsistency down to injury crisis

LIVERPOOL (England), 14 Dec— Liverpool assistant manager Phil Thompson has defended the club's failure to keep pace with the Premier League's top three by blaming

ing their inconsistency on an injury crisis at Anfield.

"We have offensive players like Harry Kewell, Michael Owen and Milan Baros out injured," he told

reporters on Friday.

"How would Manchester United do without the likes of (Ruud) van Nistelrooy, Ryan Giggs and (Paul) Scholes for a period of time?"

"The same could be said of Arsenal if you took Thierry Henry, Dennis Bergkamp and Robert Pires away. "We only had 17 players to take to Newcastle last week (where they drew 1-1) and our current position is only down to the players we have out there digging in."

Fifth-placed Liverpool, who play Southampton at home on Saturday, are 12 points adrift of third-placed Manchester United and 14 behind leaders Chelsea and appear set to fight it out for fourth place and a Champions League qualification spot.

MNA/Reuters

Three red cards but no goals in Mexican semifinal

MEXICO City, 14 Dec— Atlante and Pachuca shared three red cards and nine yellows but failed to produce a goal in their Mexican championship semifinal first leg.

Atlante were reduced to 10 men in the 43rd minute of Thursday's game when Santiago Banos was sent off for a second bookable offence.

Atlante coach Miguel Herrera was also dismissed by referee Jose Abramo Lima for complaining about the decision.

Pachuca failed to take advantage of their numerical advantage and had striker Adolfo Bautista dismissed in the 84th minute.

MNA/Reuters

Woodgate facing another hurdle on road to full recovery

NEW CASTLE (England), 14 Dec— Newcastle United defender Jonathan Woodgate is anxious to re-discover the form that earned him four England caps, his club manager Bobby Robson said on Friday. Woodgate, 23, joined Newcastle from Leeds United for 9 million pounds (15.73 million dollars) in January but has been limited to just six appearances this season because of injury.

The centre-half has played just three games since recovering from a double hernia operation but has been involved in conceding costly goals in recent 1-1 draws against Wolverhampton Wanderers and Liverpool. He will need show more reliability on Saturday against an improved Tottenham Hotspur who have scored eight goals in their last two games.

"We have talked things over with Jonathan and shown him the videos and he has looked better every day and he has been very good in training," Robson said on Friday. "He is much more in the rhythm now. When you have been out for two months it does take maybe a month of playing and steady training get going again."

MNA/Reuters

Beijing, Shanghai into national women's soccer final

YIWU (East China), 14 Dec— Beijing Chengjian and Shanghai SVA defeated their semifinal opponents here on Friday to qualify for the final of China's national women's soccer championships.

Beijing trounced Xuzhou Teachers' University 5-0 while Shanghai managed to fend off fierce offensives by Dalian Shide to win by a sole goal.

The championship final is set for Sunday evening. Friday also witnessed six play-

Enyimba survive brawls to win African Champions League

CAIRO, 14 Dec— Enyimba became the first Nigerian club to win Africa's top club prize after a brawl marred the second leg of the African Champions League final against Ismaili on Friday.

The Egyptian side won the second leg 1-0 at their home ground in a tempestuous match, twice held up for clashes between the players, but Enyimba held on to win 2-1 on aggregate.

The club from the provincial town of Aba, near Port Harcourt, ended a 35-year drought for Nigeria in the competition and denied Egypt a hat-trick of Champions League titles after the successes of Cairo clubs Al Ahli in 2001 and Zamalek last year.

Ismaili, who made four changes after the first leg, were handed a 27th-minute penalty in controversial circumstances when Ugah Okpara challenged Mohamed Mohsen Abougresha and looked to have taken the ball away before the Egyptian striker tumbled over his leg.

The decision was furiously disputed by the Nigerians, who held play up for several minutes before Hosni Abd Rabbou netted.

Abd Rabbou started the match after returning to his club on Tuesday after playing for Egypt's Under-20 side at the world youth championships in the United Arab Emirates.

Eccentric goalkeeping from Enyimba's Vincent Enyeama, who played in the World Cup finals for Nigeria against England last year, kept Ismaili in with a chance of a second goal.

But a combination of solid defending and poor options by the attackers kept Ismaili at bay.

The match deteriorated in the final minutes with several punches and kicks from both sides, sparking off a brawl which stopped play for some six minutes. Referee Eddy Maillet from the Seychelles booked five players without resorting to a red card. The first leg was played in Nigeria on November 30.

MNA/Reuters

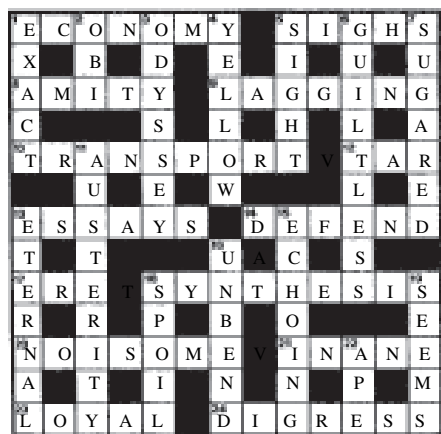
off matches.

Tianjin edged Chinese Army 1-0 to make the last six for the first time, Sichuan beat Guangdong 5-4 on penalty shots to face Tianjin for the fifth place.

In other actions, Jiangsu defeated Henan 2-1, Shandong downed Wuhan Jiahang University 2-0, Sha'anxi ousted Anhui 2-0 and Little Swans passed over Hebei 5-4 on penalty shots.

MNA/Xinhua

Answers for yesterday's Crossword Puzzle



Canada's goalkeeper Alim Karim, left, in action behind teammate Andres Arango, centre, and Spain's Garcia Sergio, right, during the quarter-finals of the U-20 World Soccer Championship at Mohammed Bin Zayed Stadium in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, on 12 Dec, 2003. Spain beat Canada 2-1.—INTERNET



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt meets with Myanmar Ambassador to Japan U Saw Hla Min, Military Attache Col Hla Myint and embassy staff at Haneda Airport, Japan, on 13 December (News on page 16).—MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives the Japan-Myanmar Economic Cooperation President Mr Chigemoto Okuda at Imperial Hotel in Tokyo (News on page 1).—MNA

MRTV-3



**15-12-2003 (Monday)
(Programme Schedule)
Morning Transmission
(9:00 - 10:00)**

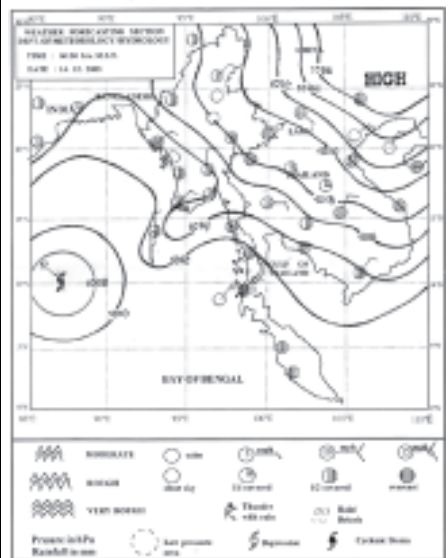
- 9:00 Signature Tune
Greetings
9:02 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanma Pano-
rama & Myanma Sen-
timent"

- 9:06 Rakhine State
9:10 **Headline News**
9:12 Easily Cooked Tasty
Dishes "Fried Prawn
with Citrus Plant"
9:15 **National News**
9:20 100 Shuttle Traditional
Weaving Industry
Sandawchain
9:25 Tour In Myanmar
9:28 "MraukU, Ngapali"
9:30 **National News**
9:35 Rakhine Ordination
Novitiation & Ear-bor-
ing Auspicious Cere-
mony
9:40 Song "Rice Flowing
Like a Canal"
9:45 **National News**
9:50 Rakhine State Cultural

- 9:58 Museum
Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"
**15-12-2003 (Monday)
Regular Programmes for
Viewers from Abroad
Evening Transmission
(15:30 - 17:30)**
15:30 Signature Tune
Greetings
15:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
15:36 Rakhine State
15:40 Headline News
15:42 Easily Cooked Tasty
Dishes "Fried Prawn
with Citrus Plant"

- 15:45 National News**
15:50 100 Shuttle Traditional
Weaving Industry
Sandawchain
15:55 Tour In Myanmar
15:58 "MraukU, Ngapali"
16:00 National News
16:05 Rakhine Ordination
Novitiation & Ear-bor-
ing Auspicious Cere-
mony
16:10 Song "Rice Flowing
Like a Canal"
16:15 National News
16:20 Rakhine State Cultural
Museum
16:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanma Pano-
rama & Myanma Sen-
timent"
16:30 National News
16:35 The Source of the
River Ayeyawady
16:40 Easily Cooked Tasty
Dishes (Ridged gourd
and bean curd Curry)
16:45 National News
16:50 Myanma Traditional
Flower Arrangements
(Decoration with Lac-
quer)
16:55 A Lonesome Song
16:57 Golden Jubilee Era of
Myanmar Motion Pic-
tures
17:00 National News
17:05 Naga Traditional Cul-
tural Showroom
17:10 Myanmar Modern
Song "What Love is?"
17:15 National News
17:20 Conservation of Forest
Resources in Myanmar
17:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Sunday, 14 December, 2003

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:
During the past 24 hours, weather has been cloudy in the whole country. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Rakhine State, upper Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Yangon Divisions, (5°C) to (6°C) below normal in Chin State, Mandalay, Bago and Taninthayi Divisions, (7°C) below normal in Shan State and lower Sagaing Division and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperature was (-1°C) in Hakha.

Maximum temperature on 13-12-2003 was 34.0°C (93°F). Minimum temperature on 14-12-2003 was 17.5°C (64°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 14-12-2003 was 76%. Total sunshine hours on 13-12-2003 was (8.8) hours approx. Rainfall on 14-12-2003 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2003 was 2211 mm (87.05 inches) at Yangon Airport, 2315 mm (91.14 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 2394 mm (94.25 inches) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 14 mph from Northeast at (13:30) hours MST on 13-12-2003.

Bay inference: According to the observations at (06:30)hrs M.S.T today, yesterday's low pressure area over Southwest Bay and adjoining West Central Bay has intensified further into a depression and it is centred at about (350) miles Southeast of CHNNEI (India). It is forecast to move Northwest wards. Weather is partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 15-12-2003: Likelihood of isolated rain in Kachin, Rakhine States, Taninthayi Division and weather will be cloudy in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

State of the sea: Temporary strong easterly wind with (35)mph and moderate to rough seas are likely off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coast. Seas will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in Rakhine State.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 15-12-2003: Partly cloudy. **Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 15-12-2003:** Partly cloudy.



Monday, December 15

View today:

7:00 am

- ကျေးဇူးတင်စားနပ်ရိက္ခာအားလုံးအတွက်
အားကစား၊ နိုင်ငံတော်သံဃာမဟာ
အာယကအဖွဲ့အစည်းတော်ဆောင်ရွက်၊
အဘိဓမ္မာပရိယတ္တိ၊ အဘိဓမ္မာ
မဟာသဗ္ဗမ္မဓာတ်ကတ်ပို့ကဏ္ဍ
ဓမ္မဘာသာဂါရုဏ၊ ဆရာတော်
အဗ္ဗန္တရီမိတ္တဘာရာဝံသ၏
ပရိတ်တရားတော်
- To be healthy exercise
- Morning news
- Nice and sweet song
- Song of national races
- Cute little dancers

8:20am

7. သုဇ္ဈာန်တော်

8:30 am

8. International news

8:45 am

9. Let's Go

3:15 pm

- ၂၀၀၃ခုနှစ် (၄၂)ကြိမ်မြောက်
တပ်မတော်ကကွယ်လွန်ခဲ့သော
ပထမ၊ တပ်မတော်ကြည့်၊ ချေ
လေ၊ သောလုံခြုံမှု
တိုက်ရိုက်ထုတ်လွှင့်အစီအစဉ်
(ပထမအကြိမ် ခိုလှုံလှုံ)
- Songs to uphold national
spirit
- Strong and healthy
Myanmar
- Song and dances of
national races
- လေ့လာမှတ်သား ပမေဠီ
ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား (လွတ်လပ်ရေး)

6:10 pm

6. Discovery

6:30 pm

7. Evening news

7:00 pm

8. Weather report

7:05 pm

9. Milo success in soccer

7:10 pm

10. သားငါးရိုးဖြူ ပြည့်အစွန်း

7:25 pm

11. Musical programme

7:35 pm

12. အချစ်အခြားအားကစား ဓန့်ရှည်ကြာ

နိုင်ငံရေး နှိုင်းနှိုင်း
"လူသားအ ဖြစ်လာ"

7:45 pm

13. တပ်မတော်သည့် ပြည်သူ့အတွက်

8:00 pm

14. News

15. International news

16. Weather report

17. နိုင်ငံခြားတပ်လမ်းတွဲ

"တန့်မယုရီ" (အပိုင်း-၁)

18. The next day's

programme



Monday, December 15

Tune in today:

- 8.30 am** Brief news
8.35 am Music
8.40 am Perspectives
8.45 am Music
8.50am National news/
Slogan
9.00 am Music
9.05 am International news
9.10 am Music
1.30 pm News/Slogan
1.40 pm Lunch time music
- Do I love you (Eng-
lebert Humberdick)
Pleasant & beauti-
ful Rakhine State
Article
9.15 pm Women's Affairs:
Harmonious effort
for women's sports
to reach international
level
9:35pm Golden Land's
melody
- Blessed Myanmar
(Saw Yuri)
9.45 pm News/Slogan
10.00 pm PEL

Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attends coordination meeting on upgrading of Kandawgyi Park and environs and Zoological Gardens (Yangon)

YANGON, 14 Dec — Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attended the work co-ordination meeting on upgrading of Kandawgyi Park and environs and Zoological Gardens (Yangon) held at the Central Symbol Zone in Kandawgyi Park at 11.45 am today and made a speech.

Also present were Chairman of the Work Committee for Upgrading Kandawgyi Park and Environs and Zoological Gardens (Yangon), Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, ministers, the mayor of Yangon, deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads, members of the work committee and responsible officials.

First, Commander Maj-



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects progress of all-round upgrading of environs of Kandawgyi Park and Zoological Gardens (Yangon).— MNA

Gen Myint Swe reported to the Prime Minister on tasks being carried out simultaneously by division of four zones in the park, phase by phase upgrading tasks in the respective zones, progress of work and future tasks.

Next, Minister for For-

estry Brig-Gen Thein Aung reported to the Prime Minister on landscaping, filling of earth, arrangements for planting trees, driving of piles and installation of beams in construction of the Water Plaza, and timber decking in the Central Sym-

bol Zone and construction of cages and cleaning and upgrading tasks in Zoological Gardens (Yangon).

Afterwards, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin reported to the Prime Minister on completion of landscaping tasks,

erecting of fences, construction of shops, construction of retaining wall, arrangements for booths of 9 educational tasks and plantations of vegetables, herbal plants, spices and orchids and cleaning task of water being carried out by the ministry in the Education Zone of the park. Next, Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein reported to the Prime Minister on construction of a modern aquarium for fresh water and

sea fishes in the Education Zone.

Afterwards, Mayor of Yangon Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin reported to the Prime Minister on landscaping tasks, erecting modern fences, construction of bridges linking islands in the lake and construction of a car parking in the Relaxation Zone.

Next, Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Thein Zaw reported to the

(See page 9)



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) President Madame Sadako Ogata together with Japanese Ambassador Mr Yuji Miyamoto at Imperial Hotel on 12-12-2003.— MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives President of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

YANGON, 14 Dec—President of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Madame Sadako Ogata together with Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Yuji Miyamoto paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt at the Imperial Hotel in Tokyo at 2.30 pm on 12 December

2003.

Also present on the occasion together with Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt were Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung, Deputy Ministers U Khin Maung Win and U Kyaw Thu, Myanmar Ambassador to Japan U Saw Hla Min, Director-General of Government's Office U Soe Tint,

Director-General of Protocol Department Thura U Aung Htet and Director-General of Political Department U Thang Tun. Matters related to assistance provided by JICA in health, social and drug elimination sectors and enhancing of Myanmar-Japan relations were discussed at the meeting.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party left Tokyo on 13 December morning and arrived Haneda Airport. At the lounge of the airport, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt met with Myanmar Ambassador to Japan U Saw Hla Min, (See page 8)

Minister U Win Aung attends ASEAN-Japan Foreign Ministers' meeting

YANGON, 14 Dec — The ASEAN-Japan Foreign Ministers' Meeting was held at the Imperial Hotel, Tokyo, at 11 am on 11 December attended by Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar U Win Aung together with foreign ministers of ASEAN countries and the Japanese Foreign Minister.

Minister U Win Aung called on Japanese Foreign Minister Ms Yoriko

Kawaguchi at Imperial Saloon, Tokyo, on 10 December.

Present at the call were Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Khin Maung Win, Myanmar Ambassador to Japan U Saw Hla Min and heads of department.

During the call, the foreign ministers from the two countries cordially exchanged views on bilateral relations and mutual interests. — MNA



Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung attends ASEAN-Japan Foreign Ministers Meeting at Imperial Hotel on 11-12-2003.— MNA

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For further cooperation between ASEAN and Japan
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