

# The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Friday, 19 December, 2003

## Keep concepts and convictions of the entire national people on the right track

★ In the 21st century, the whole world is on the road to consolidated progress. And, if we were disunited at a time like this, we would be like moving against the development trend.

★ In this regard, I would like to urge you to organize the entire national people to see that their concepts and convictions are on the right track to consolidate the foundation — non-disintegration of Union; non-disintegration of national solidarity; and perpetuation of sovereignty — with emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation as the objective.

**Senior General Than Shwe**  
**Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council**  
**Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services**  
(From guidance given to trainees of the No 35 Primary Teachership Course of University for Development of National Races.)

## Senior General Than Shwe visits Shwezigon and Hsinmyashin pagodas in NyaungU

YANGON, 18 Dec — Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe, together with member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, members of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Commander-in-Chief

(Navy) Vice-Admiral Kyi Min, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Maj-Gen Myat Hein, Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint, Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye, ministers, senior military officers, the chairman of Magway Division Peace and Development Council, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and the departments, heads, visited the

Shwezigon Pagoda in NyaungU, Mandalay Division, yesterday morning.

Senior General Than Shwe and party paid reverence to the Buddha images in the prayer hall of the pagoda. The Senior General offered "soon", fruits, flowers, water and lights to the Buddha images and made cash donations to the pagoda through the chairman of the pagoda board of trustees. They went round the pagoda clockwise.

Senior General Than Shwe and party inspected progress of NyaungU and progress in renovation of



Senior General Than Shwe donates cash towards the funds of Hsinmyashin Buddha Image.— MNA



Senior General Than Shwe presents cash donations for Shwezigon Pagoda in NyaungU.— MNA

the ancient pagodas and stupas in Bagan Archaeological Zone by car.

The Senior General and party also visited Hsinmyashin Pagoda and paid homage to the Buddha images.

Deputy Director-General of the Department of Archaeology (Upper Myanmar) U Aung Kyaing reported on progress in renovation of Hsinmyashin Pagoda and the ancient pagodas and stupas. The Senior General left necessary instructions. The Senior General donated cash to the pagoda funds thorough members of the pagoda board of trustees.

Director-General of the Department of Archaeology U Nyunt Han reported on progress in restoration of the 12.5-inch-high silver Buddha image, which was found while Bagan pagoda No 1515 was being excavated. The Senior General paid reverence to the image and gave instructions. In the Bagan Archaeological Zone, a total of 1155 pagodas and stupas have been restoration and 15 are under restoration and five are in need of renovation. And out of the pagoda mounds, 549 have been completely renovated and 99 have been preserved and 244 will be renovated. — MNA

**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

Friday, 19 December, 2003

### Let's actively take part in regional and national development tasks

In order to bring parallel development to all regions of the Union, the government has been simultaneously implementing the development project for border areas and national races, the 24-region development plan and the five rural development tasks.

In the past, the Pakokku region was a far-flung area where living and transportation was difficult. Therefore, it was left behind other regions. But now, for the development of the regions on the west bank of the Ayeyawady river including Pakokku, the government has been trying to improve transportation by building new railways, motor roads and river-crossing bridges. Moreover, all the necessary measures are being taken so that Pakokku will become the capital on the west bank of the Ayeyawady.

Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe on 16 December met with members of Pakokku District Peace and Development Council, chairmen of Pakokku, Pauk, Myaing, Yezagyo and Seikphyu Township Peace and Development Councils, district- and township-level departmental personnel, members of Union Solidarity and Development Associations and social organizations and townsenders. In his guidance to all those responsible and local people, Senior General Than Shwe said that, as the Pakokku region is one of the development regions, infrastructures necessary for the development of education, health, transport and economic sectors are being built not only for the Pakokku region but also for southern Chin State which is contiguous to the Pakokku region. Now, the Pakokku region is not what it used to be. It can be easily seen that the region is experiencing all-round development. As water is scarce in the region, the government is tapping as many water resources as possible for the development of the agriculture sector. The higher living standard of the local people depends on the improvement of the agriculture sector.

The government is encouraging not only the agriculture sector but also the industrial sector. Therefore, new factories are being constructed to develop the region and create employment opportunities for the local people.

As the government, on its part, is striving for the development of the Union, we would like to call upon all the departmental personnel serving in different parts of the nation to discharge their responsibilities well, to successfully implement the projects and plans laid down and to actively lead the people. People, on their part, should also lend themselves to the development tasks being implemented in their interests.

### UMFCCI President meets Penang Ministers of Malaysia

YANGON, 18 Dec—President of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Win Myint, Vice-Presidents U Win Aung, U Zaw Min Win and U Aung Lwin and General Secretary U Sein Win Hlaing, Joint General Secretary-1 U Myo Nyunt and Joint General Secretary-2 Dr Maung Maung Lay met with Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development Dato Haji Azhan and Minister of Trade and

Consumer Affairs Dato Dr Loh Hock Hun and four members led by Minister of Housing and Entrepreneur Development Dato Abdul Rashid bin Abdullah of Penang State of Malaysia at Grand Plaza Parkroyal Hotel here yesterday morning.

They discussed promotion of cooperation in investment and trade, mutual interest in sectors on agriculture, tourism, industry, meat and fish and finished wood products between Myanmar

and Malaysian entrepreneurs and enhancement of exports and imports between the two countries.

Then, the meeting on bilateral trade opportunities between Penang State of Malaysia and Myanmar followed. Present were Minister of Housing and Entrepreneur Development Dato Abdul Rashid bin Abdullah of Penang State of Malaysia and party, Malaysian Ambassador to Myanmar Dato' Cheah Sam Kip, departmen-



Minister U Win Aung signed in the Book of Condolences in memory of the Late Philippines Foreign Secretary Mr Blas F Ople. — MNA

### Minister U Win Aung signs Book of Condolences for the late Philippine Foreign Secretary

YANGON, 18 Dec—Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung signed the Book of Condolences at the Embassy of the Republic of Phil-

ippines at 1 pm today in memory of the late Foreign Secretary of the Republic of Philippines His Excellency Mr Blas F Ople. — MNA

### Drug possessors sentenced

YANGON, 18 Dec—Acting on information, members of Mingaladon Township Police Force, while waiting on the road in Thingangyungyi Village in Mingaladon Township, saw suspect Zaw Aung on 8 March 2003. The MPF members searched him and seized 1.4696 kilos of marijuana hidden in the bush.

Mingaladon Police Force took action against Zaw Aung, son of U Tin Maung of Thingangyungyi Village in Mingaladon Township, under section 15/19(A) of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

On 15 October, Yangon North District Court sentenced Zaw Aung to 20 years' imprisonment

under Section 19(A).

Similarly, a combined team comprising members of the local battalion, the local intelligence unit and Kalay Special Anti-Drug Squad, seized 2.2862 kilos of raw opium from Ngun Lyan Gram and Laro Pyong who were drugs traffickers, near Ingyinkhon Village, Kalay Township, on 16 June.

Kalay Police Station took action against Ngun Lyan Gram, son of U Noh Khwel of Letpanchaung Village, Kalay Township and Laro Pyong, son of U Khin Che Oh under Section 15, 16 (C), 19(A) and 21 of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

On 24 October, Kalay District Court sentenced Ngun Lyan Gram to 20 years' under Section 19(A) and Laro Pyong to five years' under Section 15 and 15 years' under Section 19(A). — MNA

tal officials, UMFCCI President U Win Myint and party. Next, the Yangon-Penang Friendship Association was formed and UMFCCI Vice-President U Aung Lwin was elected as chairman and CEC member and U Aye Lwin as secretary.

In the afternoon, entrepreneurs of Penang and Myanmar held sectoral meetings.

MNA

### 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

### Minister opens new school building of Sagaing School for the Blind

YANGON, 18 Dec—Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa attended the ceremony to open the new school building of the School for the Blind in Sagaing held near Mashikhana Pagoda in Myothit Ward, Sagaing, on 16 December morning.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Commander of North-West Command Col Tin Maung Ohn, Director-General of Social Welfare Department U Sit Myaing and officials, division/ district/ township level departmental officials, USDA and Women's Affairs Committee members, Sagaing Division MCWA members, officials of different institutions, wellwishers, students, band troupe and pom pom troupe members of Sagaing BEHS-1.

Minister Maj-Gen Sein Htwa and Deputy Commander Col Tin Maung Ohn formally opened the new school building. Principal Daw Tin Tin, teachers and the students formally opened the billboard of the school. Afterwards, the minister made an opening speech at the hall of the school. The minister and the deputy commander accepted the cash donations: K 150,000 by U Mya Soe of Doe Shwe Pyay Construction, K 100,000 by Sagaing Division PDC, K 100,000 by townsenders of the town, K 100,000 by Mitta Mon nursery in Shwe Min Wun Ward in Sagaing, K 50,000 by Sagaing division, district/ township Immigration and

Population Departments, K 20,000 by Ko Nyi Nyi Aung and family of Shwebo, K 10,000 by U Aung Than and Daw Than Than (Khin Thazin family) and K 10,000 by Sagaing Township Auxiliary Fire Brigade.

The blind students presented entertainment programmes to the guests. The minister and the deputy commander presented cash awards to them.

After the opening ceremony, the minister, the deputy commander and party viewed hostels, kitchen, messing hall, computer room and lecture halls. Sagaing School for the Blind can accommodate 50 students. The completely blind and partly blind students of between 5 and 18 years are trained at the school. At the hall of the school, the minister met with division staff officers from Mandalay and Sagaing divisions and staff. He gave instructions and heard reports.

After fulfilling the needs, the minister and party visited Sitagu World's Buddhist Missionary University in Sagaing mountain ranges. They paid homage and presented offerings to Agga Maha Pandita Sasanaadhaja Dhammacariya Chancellor Sayadaw Maha Dhammakattha Bahujana-hitadharma Agga Maha Saddhammajotikadhaja Sitagu Sayadaw Ashin Nanissara.

Yesterday morning, the minister visited the check points of Immigration and National Registration Department at Mandalay International Airport and gave instructions. — MNA

### ဆောင်ရွက်သည့်မြန်မာ့တစ်သောင်းတော်ရောင်းချမှု

#### ကာကွယ်နိုင်ရန်ရေးနိုးဆောင်ရွက်

- ၁။ ဆောင်းရာသီတွင် အအေးမိနာစေး ချောင်းဆိုးရောဂါ၊ ဦးနှောက်အမြှေးရောင်ရောဂါ၊ ဝက်သက်ရောဂါ၊ ဆွဲဆွဲနာရောဂါ၊ ကြက်ညှာချောင်းဆိုးရောဂါ၊ ရေကျောက်ရောဂါ၊ နမ့်နီယာ၊ အဆုတ်ရောင်ရောဂါနှင့်မျက်စိရောဂါစသည့်ကူးစက်ရောဂါများအဖြစ်များတတ်ပါသည်။
- ၂။ ၎င်းရောဂါများကိုကြိုတင်ကာကွယ်ရန်အတွက်
  - \* ပွဲလမ်းသဘင်လူထုထိခံစားနေရသူနှင့် ဖုထုထိခံစားနေရသူများကို တတ်နိုင်သမျှ ရောင်းကြည့်ပါ။
  - \* နာစေးချောင်းဆိုးလျှင် ရောဂါမြေပုံနည်းစနစ် လက်ကိုင်ပုလိကို အသုံးပြုပါ။
  - \* တစ်ဦးအသုံးပြုထားသော အသုံးအဆောင်နှင့်အဝတ်အထည်များကို အခြားတစ်ဦးအသုံးပြုခြင်းကို ရောင်းကြည့်ပါ။
  - \* ၅-နမ့်အောက် ကလေးများအား ပုံမှန်ကာကွယ်ဆေးထိုး၍ ကာကွယ်ရန်ရောဂါများဖြစ်သည့် ဆွဲဆွဲနာ ကြက်ညှာချောင်းဆိုး ဝက်သက်ရောဂါ ကာကွယ်ဆေးများထိုးနှံပါ။
  - \* တစ်ကိုယ်ရေ သန့်ရှင်းရေးကို အလေးထားဆောင်ရွက်ပါ။
  - \* အဟာရပြည့်ဝသော အစားအစာများကိုစားသုံးပါ။
  - \* လုံလောက်စွာအနားယူပါ။
- ၃။ ရောဂါလက္ခဏာများရှိလျှင် အသက်ဆုံးရှုံးမှုနှင့် ရောဂါပြန့်ပွားမှုများမှကာကွယ်နိုင်ရန် နီးရာကျန်းမာရေးဌာနတွင် ဆေးလျင်စွာဆေးကုသမှုခံယူပါ။

ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန



## US troops smash into homes, shops in major raid to hunt for guerillas in turbulent city

**SAMARRA, 18 Dec**—Using sledgehammers, crowbars, explosives and armoured vehicles, US forces smashed down the gates of homes and the doors of workshops and junkyards Wednesday to attack the Iraqi resistance that has persisted despite the capture of Saddam Hussein.

Loud blasts mixed with the sound of women and children screaming inside the houses. An explosion at the gate of one compound shattered windows, cutting a 1-year-old baby with glass. US medics treated the injury while other soldiers handcuffed four men, who were later released.

The raid, launched before dawn and lasting until midmorning, targeted the city of Samarra, north of Baghdad. US officials say some 1,500 fighters operate in Samarra, making it one of the persistent hotspots in the so-called Sunni Triangle.

"Samarra has been a little bit of a thorn in our side," said Col. Nate Sassaman. "It hasn't come along as quickly as other cities in the rebuilding of Iraq. This operation is designed to bring them up to speed."

The coalition scored a major victory Saturday by nabbing Saddam, who Iraqi officials revealed Wednesday was

currently being held in the Baghdad area. But violence has continued in the capital and in predominantly Sunni areas west and north of Baghdad, once Saddam's power base.

In the northern city of Mosul, assailants shot and killed a policeman Wednesday, police said. And Iraqi security forces there opened fire on pro-Saddam protesters, wounding nine, witnesses said.

In Baghdad, a fuel truck exploded after colliding with a bus at an intersection, killing 10 Iraqis and wounding 20 raising initial claims by Iraqi officials that it was a suicide bombing by Saddam loyalists. But US officials later said the blast was an accident, not an attack.

In the Samarra raid by some 2,500 troops, dubbed Operation Ivy Blizard, the 4th Infantry Division and Iraqi forces detained at least a dozen suspected guerillas though others got

away, apparently tipped off about the raid.

In the city's industrial zone, troops used even their Bradley fighting vehicles to break down the doors of warehouses, workshops and junkyards.

"Locksmiths will make a lot of money these days," said a US soldier, laughing as he sat atop a Bradley.

As Apache helicopters flew overhead, troops downtown fanned out in squads of 14 to storm several walled residential compounds, using plastic explosives to break in.

At one home, an explosion ignited a small fire. Elsewhere, a suspect was punched in the head and a soldier said: "You're dead. You're dead."

Troops later moved on to the industrial area, where they found little. One military official said he suspected insurgents moved much of their equipment to farms outside town.

Internet

ထိုက်တိုက်နှစ်ခဲး တိုးမြှင့်ခြင်း

## Democrat says Saddam capture staged

**WASHINGTON, 18 Dec**—A Washington-state Democratic congressman says the capture of former Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein was staged by the Bush administration.

Jim McDermott, D-Wash, told a Seattle radio interviewer, US forces could have captured Saddam a long time ago if they wanted, the *Washington Times* reported.

Asked by interviewer Dave Ross on KIRO-FM whether the capture was timed to help the president, McDermott replied: "Oh, yeah. There's too much by happenstance for it to be just a coincidental thing."

Pressed about whether he meant the timing of the capture was driven by politics, McDermott said, "I don't know that it was definitely planned on this weekend, but I know they've been in contact with people all along who knew basically where he was."

The congressman made the remarks on the day the president fired back at Howard Dean, the front-runner in the Democratic presidential primaries, for suggesting that he had advance knowledge of the Sept. 11 attacks.

"It's an absurd insinuation," the president said at a news conference. —Internet

## Senior US official says Iraqi resistance displays signs of central coordination, funding

**BAGHDAD, 18 Dec**—The Iraqi insurgency is showing signs of central planning by former officials of Saddam Hussein's regime figures who coordinate strikes hundreds of miles apart and provide cash and bomb-making expertise to guerilla cells, a senior US military official told *The Associated Press* Wednesday.

In some cases, "signature bombs" are used, devices so similar their design suggests they came from the same source, the official said.

"We doubt individual cells would have the capability themselves to do that. They're just too much alike," the official said on condition of anonymity, describing the growing intelligence picture of the attackers.

### Core strength of 5000

The shadowy overseers of the insurgency maintain communications with cells made up of a core of about 5,000 anti-US guerillas, who, in turn, have recruited thousands of part-time fighters from Iraq's mosques and its vast pool of unemployed and angry citizens, the official said.

The official cautioned that the guerillas displayed no signs of a strict command-and-control hierarchy in the conventional military sense, but said dozens of independent cells have received some guidance from above.

"It isn't just one or two individuals who are saying, 'On Friday this particular cell in Baghdad, you're directed to do this operation.' That would be a real exception to the rule," the official said. "I'd expect it to be more along the lines of 'These are the kinds of things we want to encourage you to do over the next two weeks.'"

### Anti-American resistance

A briefcase of documents seized during Saturday's capture of Saddam near the northern city of Tikrit clari-

fied the picture of the anti-American resistance in Baghdad and its leadership, Army Brig. Gen. Mark Hertling of the 1st Armoured Division told *AP* on Monday.

The division used data from the intelligence trove on Sunday and Monday to arrest key figures leading the insurgency in Baghdad, Hertling said. The intelligence also confirmed the existence of rebel cells whose presence was previously only suspected, he said.

"The thing we're very interested in is the extent to which he still may pull the strings," the official said, referring to Saddam. "We've got to make sure that if we do get anything out of him that we're able to turn that rapidly into some kind of action."

### "Goods and services"

The leadership also offers the rebels "goods and services" from a pool of cash and expertise, which can be seen in the similarities in the attacks taking place in cities from Nasiriyah in southern Iraq, to Baghdad in the centre and Mosul in the north.

"I think it's fair to say there are some kinds of talents and some kinds of activities that are more centralized," the official said. "Money is one of those goods."

Central coordination can be seen in the anti-US or pro-Saddam demonstrations that crop up simultaneously in cities across the country, and in the types of bombs and tactics used in ambushes, the official said.

Internet



Two US soldiers stand guard on a street in Samarra, Iraq on 17 Dec, 2003. US forces killed three attackers and thousands of soldiers swooped on a town in a major crackdown on Wednesday as violence and instability gripped Iraq in the wake of Saddam Hussein's capture.

INTERNET

## World divided over Saddam penalty

**BAGHDAD, 18 Dec**—The international community remains divided over whether Saddam Hussein should face the death penalty.

Iraqi Governing Council member Ahmad Chalabi said on Wednesday that the captured former Iraqi president should be tried by Iraqis and face execution.

But others, including the Iranian President, the UN Secretary-General, the European Commission and several European countries have voiced opposition to capital punishment.

Iran's President Muhammad Khatamisaid, "I don't like the death penalty, although, if there is one case where there should be an execution, the fairest case

would be for Saddam. But I would never wish for that."

Khatami's comments on Wednesday are believed to be the first time he has voiced his unease with the death penalty, which is applied in Iran for certain serious crimes.

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annansaid: "This should be done through open trials in properly established courts of law which will respect basic international norms and standards, including respect for international humanitarian law."

A spokesman for the Eu-

ropean Commission, the executive arm of the 15-national European Union, said the EU's rejection of capital punishment is very clear.

"It's a position of principle, whatever the circumstances, the gravity of the crimes committed," said Diego Ojeda.

A French foreign ministry spokesman said, "If it concerns the death penalty, you know our position, which is also that of the European Union," said a French foreign ministry spokesman.

Internet



Bradley fighting vehicles from 1-8, 3rd Brigade, of the 4th Infantry Division prepare to leave the industrial zone of Samarra, Iraq, on 17 Dec, 2003.—INTERNET



## Annan urges quick creation of Iraqi government

UNITED NATIONS, 18 Dec—United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan called Tuesday for a quick creation of an interim Iraqi government through an “inclusive and transparent process”.

Addressing a UN Security Council open meeting, Annan said the capture of former Iraqi president Saddam Hussein offered an opportunity for a new beginning in helping Iraqis to take control of their destiny.

“The task of restoring the effective exercise of sovereignty to Iraqis, in the form of a provisional government, is urgent,” Annan said at a Security Council open meeting.

“While there may not be time to organize free, fair and credible elections for this purpose, it is essential that the process leading to the formation of a provisional government is fully inclusive and transparent,” he stressed.

Annan noted that every segment of the Iraqi society should feel represented in the new government and none should feel excluded from the process leading to the holding of elections for a constituent assembly and Parliament.

“A credible and inclusive transition — one that broadens the base of support for the provisional Iraqi Government — offers the best hope of stability, and of political mobilization by Iraqis against the violence,” he explained.

Under an agreement reached in mid-November between the Iraqi Governing Council and the occupying coalition, an interim Iraqi Government will

be established by the end of next June, and take over full sovereignty from the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA).

Annan said the United Nations is ready to play its full part in helping Iraqis resume control of their destiny and build a better future.

The UN chief reiterated that Saddam should be held to account for “his past deeds”, through a procedure that meets the highest international standards of due process.

“Accounting for the past will be an important part of bringing about national reconciliation — a process that is vital to Iraq and to all Iraqis,” he said.

MNA/Xinhua

## China hopes to develop relations with Panama

PANAMA, 18 Dec—A Chinese envoy said here that China wishes to develop all-round relations with Panama despite the lack of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Yang Fajin, representative of the Commercial Development Bureau of the People's Republic of China (PRC) in Panama, said communications between the two peoples would be beneficial when meeting with Panamanian President Mireya Moscoso. — MNA/Xinhua



South Korean protesters chant anti-war and anti-US slogans at a rally near the National Assembly, in Seoul, on 18 December, 2003. — INTERNET

## Turkey, Mongolia sign protocols to improve ties

ANKARA, 18 Dec—Turkey and Mongolia on Tuesday signed a memorandum of understanding which foresees development of bilateral relations.

The memorandum was signed by visiting Mongolian Minister of Justice and Internal Affairs Tsendiin Nyamdorj and Turkish Justice Minister Cemil Cicek.

Improvement of economic relations among countries depends on strong legal relations, said Cicek, adding that law played a determining role in businessmen's undertaking investments in foreign countries.

For his part, Nyamdorj said that relations between Mongolia and Turkey were good, adding that a safe legal atmosphere has to be formed to further improve the cooperation. On Monday, Nyamdorj and Turkish Interior Minister Abdulkadir Aksu signed an agreement in cooperation in fighting crimes.

The agreement involves cooperation in the fields of human smuggling, combating terrorism and cooperation in education. After the signing ceremony, Aksu said both countries believed that international cooperation in fight against terrorism and human smuggling was very important.

MNA/Xinhua

## WMO says global temperature in 2003 third warmest in record

GENEVA, 18 Dec—The global surface temperature for 2003 makes the year the third warmest in the instrumental record since 1861, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) said here.

According to a WMO statement on the status of the global climate in 2003, Europe experienced unprecedented heat in June, July and August, and the Mediterranean and Near East region had the warmest land and sea surface temperature anomaly on record for June and July.

WMO said the global surface temperature has increased since the beginning of the instrumental record in 1861. It increased by more than 0.6 Centigrade degree on average in the 20th Century. According to WMO, 1998 and 2002 remain the two warmest years. — MNA/Xinhua

## Spain opposes death penalty for Saddam

MADRID, 18 Dec — Spanish Justice Minister Jose Michavila Wednesday asked for a “fair trial, with every guarantee and without any impunity” for former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, but one which would avoid the death penalty.

The abolition of the death penalty should extend to every democracy, Michavila told the Press one day after United States President George W. Bush insisted that Saddam should face “the ultimate penalty” following his capture on Saturday.

In the remarks made before participating in the presentation of a book on telecommunications, television and the Internet, Michavila described the abolition of the death penalty in Spain in 1978 as an “ethical conquest”.

“It would be desirable” that this path “would extend in the globalization and to every democracy,” the minister said. — MNA/Xinhua

## UN launches CD-ROM for fun, education

GENEVA, 18 Dec — The United Nations on Wednesday launched what it billed as a fun CD-ROM aimed at the “six to 96 age group” to spread knowledge of how the organization works.

The 10 US dollars disc, “Discover the UN and Have Fun” is to go on sale in UN bookshops and information centres around the globe. Using a game format, it pits the user against a “Terrible Bug”, representing the problems that the world body struggles to resolve — like refugee crises, wars and pollution — and tests their knowledge of development and environmental issues.

The CD-ROM was developed by the UN's Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), whose acting deputy chief Patrice Robineau said it would also show “that the UN is not just a debating shop but has an effect on almost everybody's daily life”. So far only available in a bilingual English-French version, it will also be produced in other official UN languages — Spanish, Russian, Chinese and Arabic — and will be expanded to cover the work of specialized agencies for health, labour and other areas. — MNA/Reuters

စက်မှုပစ္စည်းအား ခေတ်တော်ပြုလွှား

## Germany to press Baker on Iraq contracts dispute

BERLIN, 18 Dec—Germany said on Tuesday it hoped to use talks with US special envoy James Baker to persuade the United States to drop its refusal to grant major rebuilding contracts in Iraq to countries that opposed the war there.

But Defence Minister Peter Struck said the capture of Saddam Hussein would not prompt Berlin to offer to send troops to help stabilize Iraq.

In an interview with *Reuters*, Struck made clear that the dramatic weekend arrest of Saddam would not magically dispel the differences between the United States and Germany, which strongly opposed the invasion of Iraq last March. Relations had improved since the war ended but “have certainly experienced a slight darkening” since the United States last week announced it was shutting out war opponents like Germany, France and Russia from bidding for prime contracts worth 18.6 billion US dollars in Iraq, he said.

Asked if the US move could be seen as revenge for that opposition, he said: “I can't judge that. But I don't consider this decision as smart.” Struck said Germany would raise the issue in talks with Baker, who visits Europe this week to discuss debt relief for Iraq. Baker is due in Berlin on Wednesday.

“I hope the talks that James Baker will conduct in Berlin will bring a change in the stance of the US Government. I have no understanding for this position,” he said.

On German support for stabilizing Iraq, Struck said nothing had changed with Saddam's capture.

“We have offered to train Iraqi police and military, if there is a wish for that. That's what Germany is offering in this area,” he said. “It makes no sense now to speculate over any change of stance.” — MNA/Reuters

## Iraqi official says Saddam held in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 18 Dec—The US military is holding Saddam Hussein in the Baghdad area, a member of the Iraqi Governing Council said Wednesday.

“He is still in greater Baghdad,” said council member Mouwafak al-Rubaie. “Maybe he will stay there until he stands trial.” US officials have confirmed that the former dictator was at an undisclosed location in Iraq.

Al-Rubaie spoke at a news conference where council members issued a statement asking for Iraqis to seek reconciliation following the weekend capture of Saddam.

Internet



A US soldier from 1-8, 3rd Brigade, of the 4th Infantry Division holds the trigger to an RPG launcher he found in a bag with other bomb-making materials during a raid in Samarra, Iraq, on 17 Dec, 2003. — INTERNET

## CONTINUING RESISTANCE AGAINST US TROOPS



Two US soldiers inspect the damage after a small explosive charge was used to blow the door of a store in the industrial section of Samarra, Iraq, on 17 December, 2003.—INTERNET



A US soldier guards the wreckage of a minibus after an explosion in Baghdad, on 17 December, 2003. A bomb beside a fuel truck set off a huge fireball in which at least 17 people were killed in Baghdad, as violence gripped Iraq in the wake of the capture of Saddam Hussein.—INTERNET



US soldier aims his rifle during clashes with supporters of former Iraqi ruler Saddam Hussein in Mosul on 17 December, 2003.  
INTERNET

Iraqi police inspect the site of an explosion in Baghdad on 17 December, 2003. The roadside bomb exploded next to a fuel truck in Baghdad on Wednesday, causing a huge ball of fire.  
INTERNET



A US soldier from 1-8, 3rd Brigade, of the 4th Infantry Division uses a sledge hammer to break the padlock of a store in the industrial zone of Samarra, Iraq, on 17 December, 2003. —INTERNET



A US soldier searches an Iraqi before he enters the Tallil base in the southern city of Nasiriyah. The man wants to make a complaint against the US army for material damage caused by coalition forces during the invasion of Iraq—INTERNET



Hailing the 56th Anniversary Independence Day:

# Safeguard independence for its perpetuity

It is a common knowledge that because of the unity among the national races there emerged the prominent empires of Myanmar — the First Myanmar Empire, the Second Myanmar Empire, and the Third Myanmar Empire—in the world. And if we study the history of the late Yadanabon period, we can learn that resulting from the breaking up of the national solidarity and lack of unity among the national people, Myanmar lost her independence and her King Thibaw was taken away from the country by the enemy.

In reality, the national brethren are fully equipped with patriotism and Union Spirit. No enemy will be able to insult and intrude Myanmar if there is unity among all and the national races and national solidarity is kept always alive.

After the colonialists captured and took away King Thibaw, the Governor General of India, on behalf of the British Queen, declared on 1 January 1886 the annexation of Myanmar by the British Empire.

Although Myanmar lost her independence, the colonialists were not able to suppress the patriotic spirit of Myanmar and armed struggles of the Myanmar patriots. The removal of British General Prendergast from his post on 31 March 1886 serves as a significant proof to the fact. The reason: his failure to defeat the army despite the seizure of the King and the country.

True, the colonialists were unable to break up the patriotic spirit of the national brethren and the anti-colonialist forces. Like a verse of Hsebanani Sayadaw which says, "It is better to be dead than to be kept in bondage without our King", the national brethren, with the spirit to die fighting for independence rather than living under the colonialist rule, fought back the colonialists with any weapon that could kill the enemy.

On the hill regions and also in the plains of the entire Union, the national brethren waged battles against the intruders, with valour and unity.



**Panglong Monument**

*Panglong Agreement was able to be signed on 12 February 1947 as a result of the united strength of the representatives of national races in Panglong.*

*Later on, a monument (above) was erected to the great signing ceremony. And the photo (right) shows the newly-built monument.*



## Tekkatho Maung Thu Hlaing

With the united strength, they launched anti-colonialist struggles in the regions including Minbu, Magway, Thayet, Mandalay, Meiktila, Pakokku, Kyaukse, Pyinmana, Bhamo and Katha districts, and also on Chin hills, Shan plateau, Kayah hills, and Kachin hills. It was said that their strength was over 100,000 at the lowest. And many prominent national race leaders emerged in the struggle. They included Bo Ottama, Bo Ottaya, Bo Ywe, Bo Saw Oo, Bo Yar Nyunt, Bo Cho and Bo Hla Kyaw in Minbu, Pwintphyu, Thayet, Myingyan, Welaung regions; Bo Lei, Bo Thiha Yaza, Bo Kangyi, Bo San Pe and Bo Tha Kyaw in Magway, Pyinmana and Yamethin regions; U Aung Myant, Bo Pho Saw in Katha and Wuntho regions; Bo Toe, Bo Pan Khaing and Bo Lu in Mandalay; Bo Agga, Bo Thon, Bo Yangyi Aung, Shwegyophyu prince, Saw Yan Naing and

Saw Yan Pai in Shwebo, Chindwin, Bhamo and Shan State (North) regions; Kyuntbik, Bo Tun Zan in Chin hill region; Linpin prince, Mognai Sawbwa, Mongpon Sawbwa and Yaksaw Sawbwa in Shan State (South); Phonkan Duwa, Sama Duwa Hsinraiwa and Sadon Duwa in Kachin hill region, and Saw Laphaw and Saw Hla Baw in Kayah hill region.

The brethren were superior to the well-trained occupying forces equipped with better weapons, in tactics and spirit. Keeping in their hearts the independence and unyielding spirit, they daringly faced the colonialist troops at the battles.

Besides, the anti-colonialist struggle helped promote patriotism and Union Spirit of the people.

For the occupiers, the longer they lived on the Myanmar soil, the better

opportunities they found for exploitation. Because Myanmar was rich in natural resources on land and in the soil. In this regard, the colonialists tried to break up the unity of the national races so that the latter would not be able to fight them back. They divided Myanmar into hill regions and the plains, applying different administrative systems in governing the two. The administrative system for the under developed hill regions made them more backward. The worst was the introduction of the habit to using opium among the ethnic races. The scheme was to ruin the lives of the ethnic races.

In the 1920s, the GCBA and the YMBA, based on national unity, were founded. In 1930, the anti-colonialist group led by Saya San emerged in Thayawady District, and the anti-colonialist group led by

Thakin Po Hla Gyi in 1938. Later the Do-Bamar Asiayon led the anti-colonialist movement.

In 1941, the Myanmar Tatmadaw, renowned for its excellent discipline, caliber and system, was founded. At that time, all the national races came to understand that the national unity and a qualified Tatmadaw were a requisite for regaining independence. On 27 March 1945, the national brethren and the Tatmadaw hand in hand launched the successful anti-Fascist struggle.

The national races were able to take the lessons from history written with blood. Why did the people win victories in launching anti-colonialist struggles and in crushing the Fascists? How were they going to restore independence? There was only one answer. "The struggles were won because of the oneness and unity of all the national races: the national solidarity had to be further consolidated, and the struggle was to be continued

till regaining independence.

Then, there emerged the Panglong Agreement. The signing of the Agreement in Panglong on 12 February 1947 indicated unity of all the national people. Independence was regained on 4 January 1948 not long after the signing of the Agreement. The people of Myanmar sacrificed a great deal of lives, blood and sweat to regain the most desired independence.

Myanmar issued the Independence Declaration in the morning of 4th January 1948.

In reality independence was the victory won through the loss of lives, blood and sweat of the national races; won with the united strength of the national people; and which has helped strengthen patriotism and Union Spirit of the people.

Thus, the independence or the victory must be safeguarded forever with the united strength of the national races for its perpetuation.

(Translation: TMT)

Hailing the 56th Anniversary Independence Day:

# Images of Myanma history



## Brave fight

*The entire national people living through thick and thin in Myanmar under own kings for successive eras fought with unyielding spirit the colonialists who intruded Myanmar and transgressed national sovereignty and integrity.*



*The ceremony to mark the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar took place in the residential compound of the then governor at an auspicious time of 6.30 am on 4 January 1948. On the occasion, the Union Jack was lowered and the Flag of the Union of Myanmar was flown before the very eyes of President Sao Shwe Thaik, Governor Sir Hubert Rance and guests to the accompaniment of National Anthem played by the State Band.*

## Panglong Agreement

*A representative of national races signed the Agreement at the signing ceremony of Panglong Agreement held in Panglong on 12 February 1947 in an effort to restore the independence.*



**Freedom  
has been  
restored  
through the  
united  
strength of  
national  
people.**



*A troop of soldiers marching to fight the colonialists received a tumultuous welcome of the national people in 1941.*

**May the  
voice of  
Independence  
Declaration  
of our Union  
of Myanmar as  
a sovereign  
State echo  
across the  
world.**



## Hpashwekyaw battle

*National brethren fought tooth and nail the colonialists entering Hpashwekyaw village, northeast of Thayawady, at risk of their lives. Hpashwekyaw battle was prominent because the colonialists were defeated in it suffering heavy loss of lives.*

*Members of Myanma Tatmadaw made up of national people camped in Mepali village in 1942 to drive out the colonialists.*





Senior General Than Shwe and party pay homage to Shwezigon Buddha Image in Bagan.— MNA

## Our Three Main National Causes

- Non-disintegration of the Union,
- Non-disintegration of national solidarity
- Perpetuation of sovereignty

## 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Objectives

- To strive hand in hand with the people for successful realization of the State's seven-point policy programme
- To crush internal and external destructive elements hindering the stability and progress of the State through people's militia strategy
- To implement border area development tasks and the five rural development tasks hand in hand with the entire people
- To build up a strong and efficient Tatmadaw to uphold 'Our Three Main National Causes'



## Myanmar Red Cross Society meets

YANGON, 18 Dec — The 54th Central Council Meeting of Myanmar Red Cross Society was held at the Institute of Nursing (Yangon) on Bogyoke Aung San Street here this morning.

Present on the occasion were members of the Central Council, the President of MRCS and executives, members of Red Cross Society supervisory committees of States and Divisions and guests.

MRCS Deputy Executive Director U Hla Myint acted as master of ceremonies.

MRCS President Dr Kyaw Win delivered an opening address.

MRCS Executive Director Col Aung Than (Retd) read out the minutes of the 53rd meeting and then they were approved.

Next, MRCS Secretary Dr Tun Sein read out the executive committee's reports presented at the 54th meeting, and Col Aung Than (Retd) financial statements which were approved.

President Dr Kyaw Win recounted his experiences gained from the Partnership

YANGON, 18 Dec — The second day session of the Ninth ASEAN Ministerial

Meeting held in Hanoi, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the 28th International Conference held at Geneva, Switzerland.

It was followed by a general round of discussions. The executive committee assessed the reports. The president of the MRCS delivered concluding remarks.

The meeting continues tomorrow.

MNA

## 9th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Environment continues

rial Meeting on the Environment continued at the Sedona Hotel here this morning.

It was attended by delegations of Myanmar, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Republic of Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Republic of Philippines, Republic of Singapore, Thailand and Socialist Republic of Vietnam, the secretary-general and officials of the ASEAN, and officials of UN agencies and Germany based Hann-Seidel Foundation.

Leader of the Myanmar delegation Chairman of the National Commission for Environmental Affairs of Myanmar Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung presided over the meeting together with leader of the Philippines delegation Under Secretary Mr Demetrio L. Ignacio.

Officials of international organizations explained matters related to the assistance for environmental conservation in the ASEAN region offered by their organizations and future co-operation tasks.

Next, delegations to the meeting issued the minutes and the joint-statement of the 9th AMME.

The Second ASEAN+3 Environment Ministers Meeting will be held tomorrow at the Sedona Hotel.

In the evening, Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin hosted a dinner in honour of the delegations to the 9th AMME at the International Business Centre on Pyay Road.

MNA



The 9th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Environment in progress on second day.— MNA





Senior General Than Shwe pays homage to Hsinmyathazan Buddha Image (New on page 1).— MNA

## The 57th Anniversary Union Day objectives

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



## Declaration and resolution signed at 9th AMME

YANGON, 18 Dec — A ceremony to sign the Declaration on ASEAN Heritage Parks and Yangon Resolution on Sustainable Development of the Ninth ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Environment was held at the Sedona Hotel here at noon today.

It was attended by leaders of delegations of ASEAN member countries, deputy ministers, members of the delegations, the ASEAN Secretariat and officials, and officials of the international organizations.

First, leaders of the delegation ministers from the ASEAN countries signed the Declaration on ASEAN Heritage Parks, and Chairman of the National Com-

mission for Environmental Conservation of Myanmar Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung presented the declaration to ASEAN Secretary-General Mr Ong Keng Yong.

Next, the leaders of the delegation ministers from the ASEAN countries signed the Yangon Resolution on Sustainable Development, and Minister U Win Aung presented the resolution to the secretary-general of the ASEAN. Later, leader of the Myanmar delegation Minister U Win Aung explained matters related to the establishment of the ASEAN Environmental Education Inventory Database. —MNA

## Traditional Medicine and Medical Equipment Exhibition continues for second day

YANGON, 18 Dec— The Fourth Traditional Medicine and Medical Equipment Exhibition, organized by the Traditional Medicine Department of the Ministry of Health, continued for the second day at Tatmadaw Convention Hall on U Wisara Road today.

The portraits of Chairman of State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe together with his message, Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Sen-

ior General Maung Aye and Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt together with their addresses were hung at the centre of the hall.

Chancellor of Thitagu World Buddhist University Honorary Professor of International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhammajotikadhaja Maha Dhammakathika Bahujana Hitadhara (Thabeik-aing) Thegon Sayadaw Dr Ashin Nanissara viewed round the exhibition. Over 18,000 people visited the exhibition today.

Booths of Traditional Medicine Department,

Medical Research Department (Lower Myanmar), the booth of Traditional Medicine Research, that of the Ministry of Forestry, the Ministry of Industry-1, the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and traditional medicine producers and medicine raw material dealers were displayed at the exhibition.

In addition, the booth at which modern machines for producing traditional medicines was also shown there.

Everybody may visit the exhibition at which 134 booths were being displayed from 9 am to 6 pm daily up to 26 December. Admission is free.

MNA

## 56th Anniversary Independence Day Exhibition

Date — 3rd to 11th January 2004

Time — 9 am to 5 pm

Place — Tatmadaw Hall on U Wisara Road, Yangon.

(Free entrance)

## Sri Lanka, Saudi Arabia sign cooperation agreement

COLOMBO, 18 Dec — Sri Lanka and Saudi Arabia signed a bilateral cooperation agreement here on Wednesday to further strengthen relations between the two countries, the Foreign Ministry said in a statement. The agreement covering the trade and investment, science and technology, culture and sports fields, was signed by Nizar Bine O Madani, Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs of Saudi Arabia, who is currently on a visit here, and Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Tyrone Fernando. — MNA/Xinhua



Delegates of ASEAN countries sign in Declaration on ASEAN Heritage Parks and Yangon resolution on Sustainable Development.— MNA



MMCWA President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe addresses Workshop to Review AIDS Projects.— MNA

## Workshop to Review AIDS Projects held

YANGON, 18 Dec—The opening of the Workshop to Review AIDS Projects, jointly-organized by Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association and the UNICEF, was held at the multi-purpose hall of the MMCWA at the corner of Thanthuma and Parami roads in South Okkalapa Township, this morning.

The workshop was attended by MMCWA President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, Vice-President Dr Daw Tin Lin Myint and CEC members, patrons of the supervisory committee, resident representative Ms Elke Wish of the UNICEF, officials of Health Department, Yangon Division MMCWA Supervisory Committee, course instructors

of the MMCWA and course supervisors from 35 townships covered in the projects.

MMCWA President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe made an opening speech. Then, Ms Elke Wish also made a speech. After the opening ceremony, the workshop was held. — MNA

## First Korean Products Show-2003 opened

YANGON, 18 Dec—The first Products Show of the Republic of Korea organized by the Embassy of the ROK and the Trade and Investment Promotion Agency of the ROK was opened this morning at Yangon Trade Centre in Mingala Taungnyunt Township.

It was attended by Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone, Minister for Cooperatives Maj-Gen Htay Oo, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office Maj-Gen Thein Swe, Deputy Minis-

ter for Commerce Brig-Gen Aung Tun, Ambassador of the ROK to Myanmar Mr Lee Kyung Woo, Korean Commercial Attache Mr Choi Yong Tae and responsible officials.

Brig-Gen Pyi Sone, Mr Lee Kyung Woo, President of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Win Myint, Myanmar-Korea Friendship Association Chairman U Khin Shwe and Mr Han Joon Woo of the Trade and Investment Promotion Agency of the ROK

formally opened the show. A total of 45 companies participated in the show which will be kept open till 20 December.

At the fair, electronic goods, communication equipment, machines, medicine and chemicals, foodstuff, construction materials, clothes, furniture and household goods were displayed in 60 booths of 45 companies. Lucky draws will be opened at 4 pm daily at the show.

Admission is free.

MNA



Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone, Ambassador of ROK Mr Lee Kyung-Woo and officials formally open Korea Products Show 2003.— MNA



Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein speaking at closing ceremony of Motion Picture Production Course No 3/2003.— MNA

## Sports Ministry marks Founding Anniversary

YANGON, 18 Dec—The Ministry of Sports held the 7th Anniversary of its foundation at the National Indoor Stadium 1 here this morning.

It was attended by Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Aye Myint, Leader of the Leading Panel of Patrons of Myanmar Women Sports Federation Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe and members, Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein, Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu, officials and others.

On the occasion, the minister delivered an address and presented cash awards and medals for outstanding performance in administrative field (First Class) to Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe and Director-General of the Sports and Physical Education Department U Thaung Htaik, medal for outstanding performance in administrative field (Second Class) to SPED Deputy Director-General U Thein

Aung, medals for outstanding performance in social field (First Class) to President of Myanmar Wushu Federation U Khin Maung Lay and President of Myanmar Women Sports Federation Professor Dr Daw May May Yee. The minister also presented medals and cash awards to 26 title recipients. Director-General U Thaung Htaik presented gifts

to the staff of the ministry who won awards in international courses and the courses in central institutes of civil service (Phaunggyi and Zeebinbyi) and local and international sports events and staff's children who passed 2002-2003 academic year matriculation examination with flying colours.

MNA



Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint presents Medal for Excellent Performance in Administrative Field (First Class) to Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe.— MNA

## Agreement on cooperation of fish and prawn breeding inked

YANGON, 18 Dec—With the aim of cooperating for the development of fish and prawn breeding sector, the land lease agreement was signed at the meeting hall of the Fisheries Department on Hsinmin Road in Ahlon Township this morning.

Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein and Deputy Minister U Aung Thein were also present at the signing ceremony.

Director-General of the Fisheries Department U Than Tun and Managing Director of

the Myanmar Aquamarque Ltd Mr Marc Branthomme signed the land lease agreement and exchanged the documents. Afterwards, Mr Jacques Marcille briefed those present on future plans according to the agreement.— MNA

## Motion Picture Production Course concludes

YANGON, 18 Dec—The concluding ceremony of Motion Picture Production

Course No (3/2003) conducted by Myanmar Motion Picture Enterprise of the Ministry of Information was held at the feature film section of MMPE this morning, with an address by Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein.

It was attended by directors-general and managing directors of departments and enterprises under the Ministry of Information, the officer on special duty and responsible personnel, directors and deputy directors of MMPE, course instructors and guests.

The deputy minister made

a speech and presented prizes to the first, second and third prize winners. Next, the deputy minister presented completion certificates to a representative of the trainees. Managing Director U Bo Kyi of MMPE presented gifts to the course instructors.

A total of 33 trainees attended the six-week course.

MNA

**Dont's  
smoke**



## Hailing the 56th Anniversary Independence Day:

# Statistics showing agricultural development in the time of the State Peace and Development Council



The photo shows the supply of water from Zaungtu Reservoir through the spillway. Zaungtu Reservoir was constructed in Bago Township, Bago Division, with the aim of serving the interest of local farmers.

Subject	1988	2003
Irrigation facilities	138	292
River water pumping projects	—	265
Sown acreage of paddy	11.8 million	15.7 million
Baskets of paddy yield	630 million	1 billion
Sown acreage of beans and pulses	1.8 million	7.2 million
Sown acreage of edible oil crops	5.03 million	6.6 million
Sown acreage of cotton	0.44 million	0.8 million
Sown acreage of sugarcane	0.24 million	0.35 million
Sugar production (Metric ton)	28,301	75,474



Zaikkaye Sluice Gate with 21 valves, each of which measures 6 feet by 12 feet, is of concrete type and was opened on 25 June 2002 near Zaikkaye canal in Aungkantha village, Thaton Township, Mon State. It can supply water to 20,000 acres of farmland in the region.



### Map of river water-pumping projects in Mandalay Division

#### Completed projects Acreage

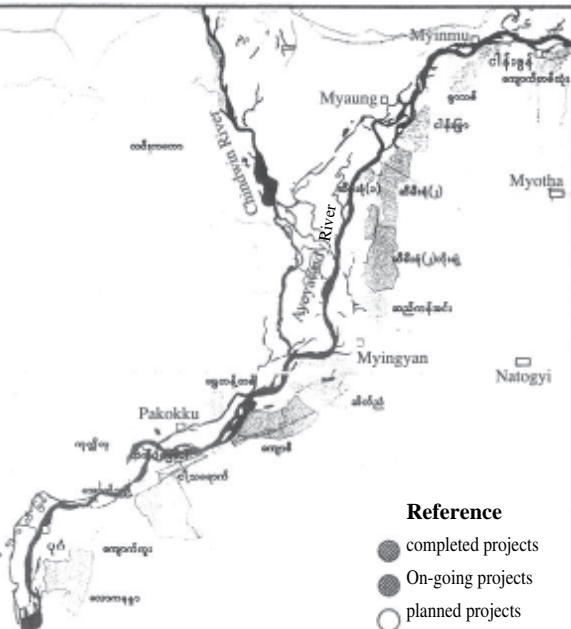
1. Hsimekhon-1	972
2. Hsimekhon-2	9,000
3. Hsekan-inn	4,128
4. Letpanchepaw	1,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,600</b>

#### On-going projects

1. Extension of Hsimekhon-2	11,000
2. Kyawzi	8,000
3. Ngathayauk	8,700
4. Lawkananda	11,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>38,700</b>

#### Planned projects

1. Kyauktalon	2,500
2. Ywathit	7,000
3. Nganhmya	3,000
4. Hseiknyan	10,000
5. Auknyet	6,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>28,500</b>



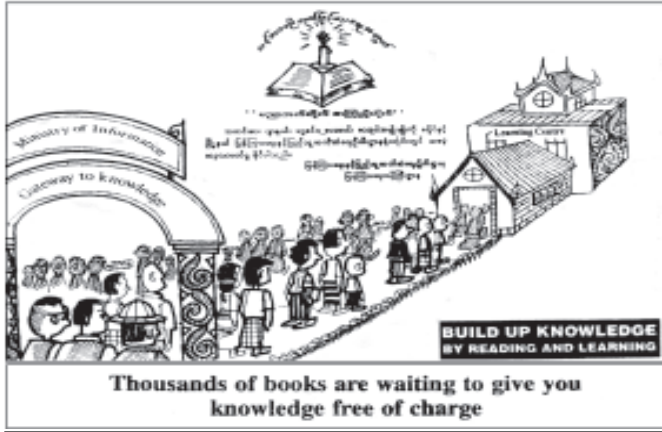
#### Reference

- completed projects
- ◐ On-going projects
- planned projects

### Lawkananda River Water-pumping Project

Lawkananda River Water-pumping Project  
in NyaungU Township,  
Mandalay Division, can  
supply water to 11,000 acres of  
farmland in the region.

The map showing river water pumping projects being implemented to develop the agricultural sector in Mandalay Division.



## ADVERTISEMENTS

### မြန်မာ့ရေနံနှင့်သဘာဝဓာတ်ငွေ့လုပ်ငန်း ရှာဖွေရေးသွင်းရန်ချိတ်စိတ်တင်ဒါခေါ်ယူခြင်း တင်ဒါအမှတ် ၁/၂၀၀၄

၁။ ပေးသွင်းရမည့်ပစ္စည်း - ရှာဖွေရေး  
၂။ ပေးသွင်းရမည့်အရေအတွက် - ပုံသေချိန် (သုံးသောင်း)  
၃။ တင်ဒါပေးသွင်းရမည့်နေရာ - မြေညီတပ်အမှတ်(၆၀၄)  
ကုန်သည်လမ်း၊ မြန်မာ့ရေနံနှင့်  
သဘာဝဓာတ်ငွေ့လုပ်ငန်း၊  
ရန်ကုန်မြို့။  
၄။ တင်ဒါပေးရက်/အချိန် - ၂၀-၁-၂၀၀၄ (၁၂၀၀)နာရီမှစ၍  
တင်ဒါစည်းကမ်းပုံစံများကို ဘဏ္ဍာရေးဌာန၊ အမှတ်(၆၀၄) ကုန်သည်လမ်း၊  
မြန်မာ့ရေနံနှင့်သဘာဝဓာတ်ငွေ့လုပ်ငန်းတွင် ကြိုတင်သိရှိနိုင်ပြီး အသေးစိတ်အချက်အလက်များကို  
ပစ္စည်းစီမံဌာန၊ အမှတ်(၆၀၄) ကုန်သည်လမ်း၊ မြန်မာ့ရေနံနှင့်သဘာဝ  
ဓာတ်ငွေ့လုပ်ငန်းတွင် အေးမြန်းစုံစမ်းနိုင်ပါသည်။  
တင်ဒါခေါ်ယူရေးအဖွဲ့  
မြန်မာ့ရေနံနှင့်သဘာဝဓာတ်ငွေ့လုပ်ငန်း  
ရန်ကုန်မြို့

### INVITATION TO TENDER

1. Sealed Tenders are invited by THE UNION OF MYANMAR ECONOMIC HOLDINGS LIMITED, NO.189/191 MAHABANDoola STREET, BOTATAUNG TOWNSHIP, YANGON, for the supply of 6,000 Metric Tons HSD (Gas Oil Regular 0.5%).
2. Tender Closing Date 22-12-2003 (Monday) During Office hour.
3. For detail information  
Contact Phone No. 290843, 291354, 398851,  
General Manager (Finance), Myawaddy Trading Limited.

Director

The Union of Myanmar Economic Holdings Limited.

## Vietnam supports bans on nuclear weapons development

HANOI, 18 Dec — Vietnam supports bans on developing and using nuclear weapons, local newspaper *Youth* reported on Wednesday.

The country signed the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) in 1996, but yet to ratify it, director of the Vietnam Atomic Energy Commission was quoted as saying.

The country needs time

to prepare for issues relating to laws and mechanisms on coordination among its ministries and sectors, director Vuong Huu Tan said.

The CTBT has not come into effect yet since it needs the ratification of 44 nations which have nuclear reactors including Vietnam, he said. To date, 170 countries have signed the treaty, of which 108 have approved it.

MNA/Xinhua

## Major highway reopens in Afghanistan

KABUL, 18 Dec — A key highway linking the Afghan capital city with a major southern city reopened on Tuesday, as President Hamid Karzai described the road project as a beginning of the country's postwar reconstruction. "This is not the end, but the beginning of the reconstruction," said Karzai at the reopening ceremony for the Kabul-Kandahar Highway,

which has been renovated with assistance of the United States and Japan.

He told a gathering of senior officials, provincial delegates and diplomats that the rebuilt highway is a road leading the war-ravaged nation to peace, unity and prosperity. Calling the project's completion a major achievement of the ongoing reconstruction process, the President said the

**TRADE MARK CAUTION**  
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P.O. Box 60, Yangon.

Dated: 19 December 2003

## မြည်တွင်းပြန်ကိုအားလေးပါ

## China's "positive, constructive" diplomacy "fruitful" in 2003

BEIJING, 18 Dec — China's diplomatic efforts in 2003 are "positive, constructive and fruitful", and China is willing to enhance cooperation with the international community for world peace and stability, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said here Tuesday.

Spokesman Liu Jianchao told a Press conference that China's new leadership has adhered to the independent foreign policy of peace, maintaining its continuity and stability.

At the same time, the Chinese Government has progressed with the times and

actively explored further development in diplomacy. Liu said China continues to develop friendly relations with its neighbours, enhance co-operation with developed countries, and has made new progress in expanding friendship and cooperation with developing countries.

China earnestly fulfils its international obligations and holds international disputes should be properly settled through dialogue and talks. China has played a constructive role in dealing with major issues, strengthening international counter-terrorism cooperation and maintaining

world peace and stability.

It is China's view that peace and development remain the two major themes of the present era, the spokesman said. However, non-traditional security issues, such as terrorism, environmental protection, transnational crimes and severe acute respiratory syndrome, have posed grave challenges to world peace and development. China is willing to enhance cooperation with all countries and make its due contribution to safeguarding world peace and stability.

MNA/Xinhua

## Australian astronomers discover Milky Way border

CANBERRA, 18 Dec — Australian astronomers have discovered an extra cosmic arm in the Milky Way that they believe wraps around the outskirts of the vast galaxy like a thick gas border.

Astronomers at scientific research group, the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO), hope the find will help paint a better picture of the Milky Way galaxy, which is home to Earth.

CSIRO scientist Naomi McClure-Griffiths said the gas border, which is 6,500 light years thick, showed the Milky Way had a structure

similar to those of most other galaxies, which have gassy spiral arms extending beyond the more central stellar spiral arms.

Astronomers believe the Milky Way has about four arms made up of hydrogen gas, dust and stars spiralling out from its centre. McClure-Griffiths said the newly discovered gas border is about 60,000 light years from the centre of the Milky Way.

A light year is the distance that light travels in a year, which is about six trillion miles.

"We have known there was gas out there but we haven't known that there was a structure out there. We thought there was just a

smooth drop-off, that the galaxy just sort of slid away," McClure-Griffiths told Reuters.

"It is at the furthest reaches of the galaxy and is the last thing you see before the galaxy disappears."

McClure-Griffiths and a small team of scientists were investigating the hydrogen gas in the disc of the Milky Way when they stumbled across the extra arm, which they believe could connect up with one of the galaxy's central stellar arms.

The finding has been submitted for publication to the *Astrophysical Journal of the American Astronomical Society*, she added.

MNA/Reuters

## Bank of China selected best bank by "Asset" magazine

BEIJING, 18 Dec — *Asset* magazine, a leading Asian financial journal, has awarded the Bank of China its "Best Bank in China" award for 2003, and a bank spokesman attributed the result to the bank's intensified efforts to improve business operations this year.

The Bank of China won the title in 2000 and 2002.

*Asset* magazine annually ranks Asian banks in terms of their profitability, rate of capital abundance, rate of returns on capital stocks, among others, said spokesman Wang Zhaoen.

Wang quoted the appraisal committee as saying that the Bank of China made remarkable achievements in all its services in the past 12 months when Asian capital markets faced severe challenges.

MNA/Xinhua

**DON'T SMOKE**



A Guangdong opera performer entertains the audience in Guangzhou, in the southern Chinese province of Guangdong, on 18 Dec, 2003. Most areas of China have an indigenous form of musical theatre, with the most famous in the Peking opera.—INTERNET



# ပညာရေးနှင့် ဓာတ်မိဖွံ့ဖြိုးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့

## Capture of Saddam will not automatically lead to security

UNITED NATIONS, 18 Dec— The capture of former Iraqi president Saddam Hussein will not automatically lead to dramatic improvement of security in the country, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan said here.

In his remarks to the UN Security Council at an open meeting on his latest report on Iraq, the UN chief said events of the past three days "should remind us that we must remain prudent in our assessment. There is no panacea".

"Iraq is likely to remain a difficult environment," he told the Council, "We should not expect that the end of the occupation and formation of a provisional Iraqi Government will automatically bring about an end to insecurity, even though we should expect some improvement."

In his report, Annan said the security environment in Iraq is unlikely to improve in the short to medium term,

and could deteriorate further.

The world body will remain a "high-value, high-impact" target for terrorist activity in Iraq for the foreseeable future, it said.

"The acting UN Security Coordinator assessed the current risk to UN personnel in Iraq as falling in the high to critical category," Annan said, adding he would recommend a range of protective measures to reduce the risk.

The measures, according to the report, would include a "dedicated, highly mobile, cohesive and responsive" armed force, as well as a preparation and full implementation of enhanced Minimum Operating Safety

Standards (MOSS) to include security plans and procedures and significant office and residential building upgrades.

The UN chief has been put under pressure on the issue of staff safety after his Special Representative in Iraq, Sergio de Mello, along with 21 of his colleagues, were killed on duties when a deadly bombing grounded the UN headquarters in Baghdad on August 19.

Annan has asked former Finnish President Martti Ahtisaari and veterans of many UN missions to form an Independent Panel on the Safety and Security of UN Personnel in Iraq to probe the deadly attack.

MNA/Xinhua

## Three US soldiers wounded in Iraq roadside bomb

TIKRIT (Iraq), 18 Dec— Three US soldiers were wounded on Tuesday when a roadside bomb hit a military patrol in Tikrit, hometown of captured former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, US officers said.

They said an improvised explosive device detonated near the soldiers' vehicle while on patrol in the town, 170 km (110 miles) north of Baghdad.

A Reuters reporter saw two soldiers being brought into a US military base. The injuries of the three were described as not life-threatening.

Saddam was captured on Saturday at an underground hideout 15 km (nine miles) south of Tikrit.

Iraqi insurgents have killed 198 US soldiers since major combat was declared over on May 1. MNA/Reuters



US soldiers look at an Iraqi man shouting anti-American slogans during a rally supporting arrested former Iraqi ruler Saddam Hussein in Mosul on 17 Dec, 2003. —INTERNET

## Iraqis see no end to fuel crisis despite US efforts

BAGHDAD, 18 Dec — Iraq remained in the grip of an energy crisis on Tuesday, despite the deployment of US forces to try and wipe out a black market in oil products and amid warnings of social unrest if shortages continue.

"The fundamental problem has not been solved," a senior oil official said. "Sabotage and national power system breakdowns are disrupting supply. The spread of home generators is also producing extra demand for fuel."

Abdelaziz al-Hakim, a member of the US appointed government, said around a dozen sabotage attacks targeted last month the northern pipeline network, which supplies the main refinery of Baiji and the Dora plant on

the edge of Baghdad with crude oil and carries oil products such as gasoline.

The sabotage, power cuts and unsafe roads have interrupted deliveries of gasoline, diesel and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), the main cooking fuel.

Gasoline sells at the pump for less than one cent a litre, but queues stretch for miles and it still takes up to a day to fill up. Pumping station operators say supply fell further over the past week,

driving gasoline on the black market to more than double to 25 cents a litre.

"It's a disaster," a taxi driver said. "A neighbour of ours waited 15 hours to fill up only to find the gasoline stolen from his car when he parked it overnight." US forces were deployed last week around pumping stations to prevent customers from filling up more than their car tanks and selling it on the side of the road.

MNA/Reuters

## Iraq's oil export pipeline still subject to attack

BAGHDAD, 18 Dec — Iraq's northern oil export pipeline was attacked on the day the US announced the capture of Saddam Hussein and remains too vulnerable to reopen, the head of the North Oil Company said on Wednesday.

Adel Kazzaz told Reuters the pipeline was attacked on Sunday and a lack of security was preventing the resumption of operations along the line that runs from the Kirkuk oilfields to the Turkish port of Ceyhan.

"It was subject to an attack only three days ago. Security measures remain insufficient to start the pipeline," Kazzaz said by telephone from Kirkuk.

"We have not seen a change in the threat after the capture of Saddam Hussein."

Senior Iraqi officials had hoped that the capture of Saddam would demoralize resistance and boost security along the pipeline, allowing the country to raise exports above the current 1.5 million barrels per day (bpd), all of which pass through the southern Basra oil terminal.

The pipeline carried 800,000 bpd before the US invasion of Iraq in March, when Iraq had export capacity of 2.2 million bpd.

The United States has contracted Erinys International, a South African-based company, to provide security for Iraqi oil infrastructure, including refineries and the export pipeline.

The company has been hiring hundreds of Iraqi guards, equipping them with assault rifles and paying them an average of 150 US dollars a month for 12-hour shifts.

Kazzaz said Erinys has not taken enough measures to protect the pipeline. Erinys officials were unavailable for comment. — MNA/Reuters

## Canadian PM concerned with efforts to bid for Iraqi contracts

OTTAWA, 18 Dec— Canadian Prime Minister Paul Martin has said it remains to be seen if Canada will be able to bid for contracts for the reconstruction of Iraq, local Press reported Tuesday.

Martin said US President George W Bush made it very clear Canada is already a major participant in the reconstruction of Iraq, working on the rebuilding of the judicial system and the training of police, and is carrying what he called

"a very heavy load" in Afghanistan.

Last week, Martin's predecessor, Jean Chretien, claimed Bush had told him not to worry about Canada remaining on the list of countries excluded from contracts — a claim quickly

shot down by the White House.

But Martin, who took office Friday, acknowledged it remains to be seen if Canada will be able to bid on contracts, or will be limited to sub-contracts.

MNA/Xinhua



Soldiers of the US Army's 4th Infantry Division guard detained Iraqi men during a night raid in the town of Baquba in central Iraq on 17 Dec, 2003. —INTERNET

## Boeing gives go-ahead for "7E7" "Dreamliner"

WASHINGTON, 18 Dec — Boeing Company announced Tuesday that its board of directors has given the go-ahead to begin offering for sale the new 7E7 passenger airplane, which is also nicknamed "Dreamliner".

"The board's decision validates the 7E7's compelling business case and the tremendous customer interest in this airplane," Boeing president and Chief Executive Officer Harry Stonecipher told more than 3,000 7E7 team members gathered at Seattle's Washington State Convention and Trade Centre.

"The 7E7 is a game changer and we're anxious to begin offering it to our airline customers," Stonecipher said.

MNA/Xinhua

## SPORTS

**Former Utrecht coach Berger set for Japan move**

Tokyo, 18 Dec — Former FC Utrecht coach Han Berger is poised to become the new manager of J-League club Oita Trinita, a Japanese newspaper reported on Wednesday.

The 53-year-old, who spent 15 years at the Dutch club in various coaching capacities, is close to signing a one-year deal with the Kyushu-based Trinita, according to the Nikkan Sports.—MNA/Reuters

**Perugia cruise into Italian Cup quarterfinals**

ROME, 18 Dec—Perugia reached the quarterfinals of the Italian Cup on Tuesday with a comfortable 3-0 win in the second leg of their tie against Chievo Verona.

The Umbrian club — who trailed 2-1 after the away leg and who are yet to win a match in Serie A this season — took the lead two minutes before the interval when midfielder Chris Obodo headed powerfully in from a corner.

In the 61st minute defender Souleymane Diamoutene hooked in the rebound after Chievo keeper Giorgio Frezzolini saved Zisis Vryzas' close-range shot.

Ex-Coventry City striker Jay Bothroyd completed the victory six minutes later, firing low past Frezzolini.

MNA/Reuters



Valencia's player Jorge Lopez, left, heads the ball while Luis Garcia of Murcia looks on during a Copa del Rey (King Cup) soccer match at Mestalla Stadium in Valencia, Spain, on 17 Dec, 2003. —INTERNET

**King's Cup holders Mallorca fall to Levante**

MADRID, 18 Dec—Second Division Levante beat King's Cup holders Real Mallorca 2-0 to provide the biggest upset of the second round on Wednesday.

David Aganzo scored both goals for promotion-chasing Levante, turning in a cross from Felix Ettien after 14 minutes and adding a second 12 minutes from time after beating Javier Olaizola and slipping a shot past keeper Miki.

Racing Santander followed Mallorca out of the competition. They went down 3-2 on penalties at Second Division Eibar after the match had finished goalless over 120 minutes, but there were no further shocks in Wednesday action.

Barcelona reached the last 16 with a convincing 4-0 win away to Ciudad de Murcia, Valencia eased to a 2-0 win at home to fellow First Division side Murcia and Real Betis came from behind to beat Cordoba 3-1, with Dani claiming two of the goals. Barca have not had much luck in the Cup in recent seasons but they took a first-half lead against Ciudad de Murcia through Javier Saviola and ran away with the game

following the introduction of substitute Marc Overmars in the second half.

The Dutch winger scored an outstanding solo goal to make it 2-0 on 74 minutes and produced another precise shot for the third four minutes from time.

With a minute left on the clock, Ronaldinho won and converted a penalty to put a satisfying gloss on the scoreline.

The defeats for Mallorca, Racing Santander and Murcia brought the total of First Division casualties in the second round to five, following defeats for Real Sociedad and Espanyol among four games played on Tuesday.

Osasuna were set to become the sixth side from the top flight to go out but they scored twice in the last two minutes to come from behind and beat Cadiz 2-1.

Real Madrid will make the short trip to play Leganes on Thursday in the final tie of the round.—MNA/Reuters

**Villa stun Chelsea to join Boro in Cup semis**

LONDON, 18 Dec—Struggling Aston Villa pulled off a shock 2-1 victory over big-spending Chelsea on Wednesday to reach the semifinals of the League Cup.

Villa will play Bolton Wanderers for a place in the final on February 29 in Cardiff, while Middlesbrough, who beat Tottenham Hotspur 5-4 on penalties in Wednesday's other quarterfinal, will play Arsenal.

A fantastic goal by Colombian striker Juan Pablo Angel gave Villa a 16th-minute lead, Chelsea's England playmaker Joe Cole levelled in the 69th minute but Gavin McCann lashed home the winner nine

minutes later after an Angel shot had been blocked.

The result was a huge upset, with Villa lying just a point above the relegation zone and third-placed Chelsea challenging for Premier League and Champions League honours. Chelsea's squad has been assembled at a cost of 111 million pounds (194.7 million US dollars) since the July takeover by Russian billionaire Roman Abramovich and between the starting XI and the substitutes, coach Claudio Ranieri fielded virtually all his best players at Villa Park.

MNA/Reuters

**Inter saved by freak goal in Italian Cup**

ROME, 18 Dec—A freak own goal by Reggina keeper Emanuele Belardi sent Inter Milan through to the quarterfinals of the Italian Cup on Wednesday.

In the second minute of stoppage time, with the score 1-0 to Reggina, Inter looked to be heading out of the competition on the away goals rule.

But Argentine striker Julio Cruz' long-range drive struck the post, bounced off Belardi's head and rolled into the net to give the visitors an unlikely 1-1 draw on the night and a 3-2 aggregate win.

Reggina midfielder Julio Leon put his team ahead in the 38th minute when he nodded in Gianluca Falsini's cross at the far post.

The home side were then reduced to 10 men after defender Simone Giachetta committed a second bookable offence, but Inter failed to take advantage of their numerical superiority.

Reggina defended well and nearly made it 2-0 shortly after the interval when striker David Di Michele headed narrowly over the bar, before Inter's late goal provided an agonizing finale to the home side's evening.

Inter's quarterfinal opponents will be the winner of Thursday's fixture between Bologna and Udinese.

In an earlier match AS Roma moved

through to the quarterfinals with a laboured 2-1 win at Serie B side Palermo. The victory gave the Serie A leaders a 3-1 aggregate success in the second round tie.

Inspired by playmaker Eugenio Corini, Palermo dominated Roma early on and took the lead in the 30th minute when striker Simone Pepe headed Corini's cross past Roma reserve keeper Andrea Zotti.

Shorn of several first team regulars including Francesco Totti, Roma lacked ideas and were fortunate to equalize in the 69th minute when a Damiano Tommasi lob took a deflection and ended in the back of the net.

Eleven minutes later striker Marco Delvecchio made it 2-1 when he shook off his marker to slot home a low cross from close range.

In the last eight Roma will face the winner of Thursday's fixture between AC Milan and Sampdoria, which European champions Milan lead 1-0 after the first leg.

Lazio and Parma set up a quarterfinal clash by beating Modena and Venezia respectively on aggregate. Parma lost 1-0 at home to Serie B team Venezia but went through 2-1 overall. —MNA/Reuters

**Stuttgart lose again, drop to fourth**

BERLIN, 18 Dec—VfB Stuttgart suffered their second consecutive defeat when they lost 3-2 at home to Bayer Leverkusen on Wednesday and dropped to fourth place in the Bundesliga.

Stuttgart, who were top and undefeated until they lost 1-0 to champions Bayern Munich on Saturday, failed to bounce back in their last game before the winter break.

The southerners remain four points behind leaders Werder Bremen, who beat Hansa Rostock 3-0 on Tuesday to secure top spot at the halfway stage.

Bayern, who crushed SC Freiburg 6-0 on Tuesday, and Leverkusen are second and third respectively. Like Stuttgart they have 35 points.

The battle for the title, which will resume on January 31, is likely to become a race between the top four

sides with fifth-placed VfL Bochum now 13 points off top spot after fighting for a 2-2 draw at Hanover 96 on Wednesday.

Stuttgart, who face Chelsea in the first knockout stage of the Champions League, disappointed their fans with a dismal show before the break and trailed 2-0 at halftime after goals from midfielder Carsten Ramelow and striker Dimitar Berbatov.

The home side woke up after the interval and Germany striker Kevin Kuranyi pulled one back 11 minutes into the second half but Berbatov was on target again after 62 minutes with a superb effort from the edge of

the box to make it 3-1.

Midfielder and captain Zvonimir Soldo restored Stuttgart's hopes in an entertaining game by scoring from close range in the 68th minute. Stuttgart kept pushing but Leverkusen held on.

Stuttgart, whose defence made uncharacteristic errors on Wednesday, have conceded more goals in their last two games than they had in the previous 15.

Leverkusen, the 2002 Champions League finalists, narrowly escaped relegation last season but have recovered and remain in contention for their first German title. —MNA/Reuters

Dortmund's  
Lars Ricken,  
left, fights for  
the ball with  
Stefan Malz,  
right, of  
Kaiserslautern  
During the  
German First  
Division soccer  
match between  
Borussia  
Dortmund and  
1. FC  
Kaiserslautern  
at the  
Westphalia  
Stadium in  
Dortmund,  
Germany, on 17  
Dec, 2003.  
INTERNET





## New finds in Pondaung region further strengthens theory — anthropoid primates originated in Asia



Myanmar-French team searching Pondaungia fossilized evidences.  
(News reported) — MNA



Jaws, teeth, tusks and bones of primitive elephants found by Myanmar-Japan team.  
(News reported) — MNA



Friday, December 19

View today:

- 7:00 am  
1. ကျေးဇူးတင်မင်းကွန်ဆာတော်ဘုရား  
ကြိုးကိုင်တော်မူသော မဟာဗျာဏက  
အမ္ဘိအထွန်းတော်ဆောင်ရွက်အားခံစား  
မဟာရာဇဂုဏ်အားခံစားမဟာသဒ္ဓမ္မ  
ဓမ္မာတိတော်မူသောဓမ္မာနန္ဒာဂါရိက  
ဆရာတော်အာနန္ဒပိတ္ထဘူရာတိသံဃာ  
၏ ဖိုလ်တရားတော်
- 7:25 am  
2. To be healthy exercise
- 7:30 am  
3. Morning news
- 7:40 am  
4. Nice and sweet song
- 7:55 am  
5. ရိုးရာကျေးလက်ကဏ္ဍစုံညှိ
- 8:05 am  
6. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 8:15 am  
7. The mirror images of the musical oldies
- 8:20am  
8. ကျောက်ကြီးပေါက်တံတား
- 8:30 am  
9. International news
- 8:45 am  
10. English for Everyday Use
- 3:15 pm  
1. ဂုဏ်ထူးဆောင် (၄၂) ကြိမ်မြောက်  
တပ်မတော်ကာကွယ်ရေးဦးစီးချုပ်  
ဇနီးတပ်မတော်ကြီးကြီးဇနီး  
ဘေးလုံပြင်ပွဲတိုက်ရိုက်ထုတ်လွှင့်  
စနစ်အစဉ် (ဒီလီလူပွဲ) (ရန်ကုန်တိုင်း  
စစ်ဌာနချုပ်အသင်းနှင့်တောင်ပိုင်း  
တိုင်းစစ်ဌာနချုပ်အသင်း)
- 5:15 pm  
2. Song to uphold National Spirit
- 5:30 pm  
3. အထွေထွေသတင်းအချက်အလက်  
စုံစုံလင်လင် (စာတည်းအဖွဲ့ပြု)  
(စာတည်း)
- 5:45 pm  
4. Song of national races
- 6:00 pm  
5. ရုပ်ရှင်ဓမ္မစုံစုံအားကစားအခြေခံ
- 6:15 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. Songs of Yesteryears

MRTV-3

Radio Myanmar

Friday, December 19

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  
-X'mas waltz  
(Givayra Fanoly)
- 9.00 pm Special Talk :Defend  
our Independence
- 9:15 pm Article/Music
- 9:20 pm Myanmar Traditional  
Medicine Exhibition
- 9:25 pm Music at your request  
-Mary's boy child  
(Boney M)
- 9.45 pm News/Slogan
- 10.00 pm PEL
- 7:25 pm  
11. ဒုတိယအကြိမ်အားကစားပြိုင်ပွဲ  
မသန်စွမ်းသူများအားကစားပြိုင်ပွဲ  
မသွားရောက်မိခြင်းမရှိစေရန်  
သူများအားကစားအဖွဲ့ချုပ်၏ကြိုတင်  
ပြင်ဆင်မှုများ
- 7:40 pm  
12. အချစ်အမြင်အာသာစွန့်-ရှည်ကြာ  
ခိုင်ခံ့စေ့စွာ ခိုဓား  
“ဂုဏ်ပြုတော်မူပေလိမ့်မည်”
- 8:00 pm  
13. News
14. International news
15. Weather report
16. Myanmar movie  
“ရွှေအင်ကြင်း” (အပိုင်း-၁)  
ရန်အောင်မင်းဦး၊ ဖိုးမြတ်သူစာ၊  
စုလှိုင်နင်း (ဒါရိုက်တာ-ဝင်းမင်းဆွေ)
17. The next day's  
programme

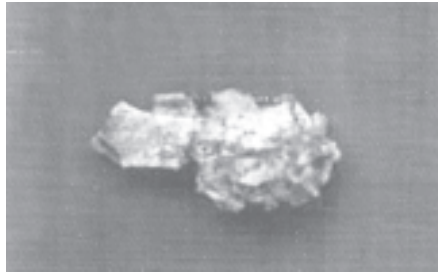
19-12-2003 (Friday)  
(Programme Schedule)  
Morning Transmission  
(9:00 - 10:00)

- 9:00 Signature Tune  
Greetings
- 9:02 Song of Myanmar  
Beauty & Scenic  
Sights “Mingalabar”
- 9:06 Myanmar Toddy Palm :  
A Source of Rural In-  
come
- 9:10 **Headline News**  
9:12 Easily Cooked Tasty  
Dishes “(Saute Prawn  
with Asparagus)”
- 9:15 **National News**  
9:20 The National Museum  
(I)
- 9:25 Nay Yar Daw Khin
- 9:30 **National News**  
9:35 Myanmar Movie Im-  
pact “Love without  
Comparison”
- 9:40 Song “Love Slave”
- 9:45 **National News**  
9:50 A Cozy Haven  
9:58 Song of Myanmar  
Beauty & Scenic  
Sights  
“Come and See  
Myanmar”

No 2 and No 3 molars of  
an Amphipithecus found by  
Myanmar-French team at  
Paukkaung Kyitchaungs  
in November, 2003.  
(News reported)

MNA

**AGRI & LIVESTOCK  
BREEDING WORKS  
INSPECTED: Yangon City**  
Mayor Brig-Gen Aung  
Thein Lin, accompanied  
by Head of Information  
Division of YCDC U Hla  
Myint Swe and Head of  
Production Department U  
Tin Pe, inspected the  
agricultural and livestock  
breeding works at wetlands  
of Kyaikthalair region,  
Twantay Township, on 18-  
12-2003. The Mayor seen  
inspecting the fish breeding  
work. —YCDC



## WEATHER

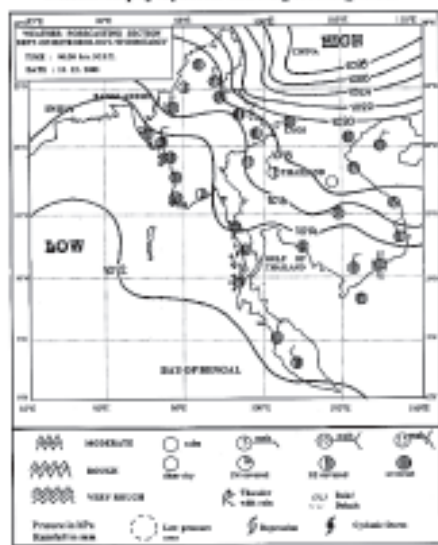
Thursday, 18 December, 2003

**Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours  
MST:** During the past 24 hours, light rain has been  
isolated in Chin State, Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions  
weather has been partly cloudy in Rakhine State and  
Magway Division and generally fair in the remaining areas.  
Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in  
Kayin State and Taninthayi Division, (5°C) below normal  
in Mon State, Yangon Division, (6°C) to (7°C) below  
normal in Bago and Ayeyawady Divisions, (3°C) to (4°C)  
above normal in Kachin, Shan States and upper Sagaing  
Division, (6°C) above normal in Rakhine State, Mandalay  
and Magway Divisions, (7°C) above normal in Chin State  
and lower Sagaing Division and about normal in the  
remaining areas.

Maximum temperature on 17-12-2003 was 32.0°C  
(90°F). Minimum temperature on 18-12-2003 was 13.0°C  
(55°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 18-12-2003  
was 74%. Total sunshine hours on 17-12-2003 was (8.7)  
hours approx. Rainfall on 18-12-2003 was nil at Yangon  
Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfall since  
1-1-2003 was 2211 mm (87.05 inches) at Yangon Air-  
port, 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 11 mph from East at (13:10)  
hours MST on 17-12-2003. **Bay inference:** Weather is  
partly cloudy in the Bay of Bengal.

**Forecast valid until evening of 19-12-2003:** Except  
for possibility of isolated rain in Taninthayi Division,  
weather will be generally fair in the whole country. De-

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



gree of certainty is (40%). **State of the sea:** Seas will be  
moderate in Myanmar waters. **Outlook for subsequent  
two days:** Likelihood of slight decrease of night tempera-  
ture in the whole country.

**Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for  
19-12-2003:** Partly cloudy. **Forecast for Mandalay and  
neighbouring area for 19-12-2003:** Fair weather.

**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 receives environmental ministers of ASEAN countries at Zeyathiri Beikman.—MNA

## Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives British professor

YANGON, 18 Dec—Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt received Professor Robert H Taylor (Former Pro-Director, SOAS, and

Retired Vice-Chancellor, Buckingham University, UK) at Zeyathiri Beikman on Konmyintha at 4 pm today.

Also present at the call

were Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Khin Maung Win and Director-General Thura U Aung Htet of the Protocol Department.—MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt greets Professor Robert H Taylor (Former Pro-Director, SOAS, and Retired Vice-Chancellor, Buckingham University of UK).—MNA

## Delegates to ASEAN+3 Environment Ministers Meeting arrive

YANGON, 18 Dec — Environmental Deputy Minister of the Republic of Korea Mr Kwak Kyul-Ho arrived here to attend the Second ASEAN+3 Environment

Ministers Meeting this morning. Similarly, a delegate to the meeting, Environmental Deputy Minister of Japan Dr Shuichi Katoh, also arrived here this

evening. They were welcomed at Yangon International Airport by officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and embassies concerned in Yangon.—MNA

## Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives Environmental Ministers of ASEAN countries

YANGON, 18 Dec—Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt received Minister of Development Dato Seri Setia Dr Awang Hj Ahmad Hj Jumnat of the Brunei Darussalam, Environment Minister Dr Mok Marcth of Cambodia, Environment Minister Mr Nabel Makarim of Indonesia, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office of the Lao People's Democratic Republic Dr Bountiem Phissamay, Minister of Science, Technology and Environment Dato

Seri Law Hieng Ding of Malaysia, Under Secretary of Environmental Conservation and Natural Resources of the Republic of Philippines Mr Deme Trio L Ignacio, Environment Minister of the Republic of Singapore Mr Lim Swee Say, Minister of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation Mr Prapat Panyachatrask of Thailand, Permanent Joint Minister of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation Dr Pham Khoi Nguyen of the Socialist Republic of

Vietnam and Secretary-General of ASEAN Mr Ong Keng Yong who are attending the 9th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Environment, here, at Zeyathiri Beikman on Konmyintha at 9 am today.

Also present at the call were Chairman of the National Commission for Environmental Affairs Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung, Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Win and Director-General Thura U Aung Htet of the Protocol Department.—MNA

## Myanmar-China agreements signed

YANGON, 18 Dec—Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Khin Maung Win and Assistant Minister of Commerce Mr Chen Jian of the People's Republic of China signed the agreement on economic and technical cooperation together with the

agreement on provision of a loan at low interest rate at the meeting hall of the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development at 9.30 am yesterday.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue Col

Hla Thein Hsu, Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation Thura U Thauang Lwin, Deputy Attorney-General Dr Tun Shin, Chinese Ambassador Mr Li Jinjun, departmental officials and staff of the Chinese Embassy.

MNA



Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Khin Maung Win and Assistant Minister of Commerce Mr Chen Jian of PRC sign agreements.—MNA

**INSIDE****Perspectives**

Let's actively take part in regional and national development tasks  
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