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Sunday, 21 December, 2003



Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing attend the graduation dinner of the 46th Intake of DSA. MNA

## Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing attend graduation dinner of 46th Intake of DSA

YANGON, 20 Dec— The graduation dinner of the 46th Intake of Defence Services Academy was held at the parade ground at DSA in PyinOoLwin, Mandalay Division, at 6 pm yesterday, attended by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing.

Also present at the dinner were 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, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win 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, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, the ministers, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, the Mandalay Mayor, the Commander of PyinOoLwin Station, Commandant of DSA, senior military officers of PyinOoLwin Station, departmental heads, faculty members of DSA, graduate officers and their parents and relatives.

MNA

## National races to reside in the Union in weal or woe

Ours is a Union where over 100 national races are living in unity and togetherness. The Union will fall apart and will become weak if the spirit to live in weal or woe or Union Spirit deteriorates. In addition, the nation will be subject to alien intrusion and insults.

The fact that the backwardness of the nation is the result of the internal conflicts, which broke out soon after the regaining of independence, is an unforgettable lesson for all of us.

As we have restored national consolidation, and the whole Union is working in harmony, there emerge the favorable foundations in our nation. Therefore, it is necessary to end internal strife once and for all.

Senior General Than Shwe,  
State Peace and  
Development Council Chairman,  
Defence Services  
Commander-in-Chief  
(From addresss delivered at the graduation parade of 46th intake of the Defence Services Academy)

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

## Senior General Than Shwe gives guidance on Zeebingyi training centres in PyinOoLwin

YANGON, 20 Dec — Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance on training centres of Zeebingyi on 17 Dec afternoon at the Central Fire Services Training School in Zeebingyi, PyinOoLwin Township, Mandalay Division.

At the training school,

Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing reported to the Senior General and party on progress in implementing the guidance given by the Senior General at the training school in 2001, training of Myanmar Police Force members to become ones equipped with Union Spirit and firm belief and to become reserve force for defending the nation, and agriculture and livestock breed-

ing at the training school; Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa, on translating of the guidance given during the inspection tour of the training school by the Senior General, conducting of basic and advanced fire fighting courses for the staff of Fire Services Department and members of Auxiliary Fire Brigade to stand as a reserve force to carry out

national defence duties, sending outstanding ones abroad for further studies, training them to possess full sense of Union Spirit and patriotism and agriculture and livestock breeding work; the director-general of the FSD, on training schedules; and Chairman of the Civil Service Selection and Training Board Dr Than Nyun, on training of the staff to become ones capable of serv-

ing the interest of the people, courses conducted in the Central Institute of Civil Service (Upper Myanmar) and strength of the trainees, agriculture and livestock breeding, and staff welfare services.

In response to the reports, the Senior General gave guidance, saying that continuing efforts are to be exerted systematically and

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### Circulation

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Senior General Than Shwe hears reports on matters relating to Zeebingyi Central Fire Services Training School by Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing in PyinOoLwin.— MNA

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

## PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 21 December, 2003

### Build modern, developed nation while safeguarding the State with full sense of Union Spirit

The Union of Myanmar is home to over 100 national races, residing together in weal and woe.

If we study the history of Myanmar, we will see that the country lost her independence and sovereignty because of the deterioration of national solidarity and lack of a Tatmadaw capable of repulsing the colonialists. Therefore, it is required for the entire national races to safeguard, hand in hand with the strong Tatmadaw, independence and sovereignty.

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance concerning peace and prosperity of the independent and sovereign State at the graduation parade of the 46th Intake of Defence Services Academy in PyinOoLwin on 19 December 2003 as follows:

"The fact that the backwardness of the nation is the result of the internal conflicts, which broke out soon after regaining of independence, is an unforgettable lesson for all of us. As we have restored national consolidation, and the whole Union is working in harmony, there emerge favourable foundations in our nation. In line with the Pali saying which goes 'Samagganam Tapo Sukho, meaning unity contributes to prosperity, all our people will be free from dangers and enjoy peace and safety only if the national solidarity is consolidated.'"

To ensure security and peace of the State, the Tatmadaw has placed greater emphasis on development of border areas and national races since its assumption of the State duties. Thanks to these efforts, amazing developments can be seen in the border areas.

At the same time, rural development tasks or projects for the progress of the entire nation were undertaken for the equitable development of the State. These tasks have been and are being undertaken to see that each and every region is not left unattended.

Being able to undertake such essential tasks must be attributed to the concerted efforts of the State and the people prompted by the desire to bring about development of the Union.

So, we would like to urge the entire national people to strive for the continued development of the State while the Tatmadaw is discharging duties at risk of lives to ensure peace and tranquillity, rule of law and internal stability of the State.

### 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.

### 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

Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar  
General Khin Nyunt receives Most Venerable Dr Kori Yoshihiko, Chief High Priest of Nenbutsushu Sect of Japan and Vice-President of Buddhist Summit at Zeyathiri Beikman.— MNA



### General Khin Nyunt meets Japanese Chief High Priest of Nenbutsushu Sect, Vice-President of Buddhist Summit

YANGON, 20 Dec— Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt met Most Venerable Dr Kori Yoshihiko, Chief High Priest of Nenbutsushu Sect of Japan and Vice-President of Buddhist Summit, and party at Zeyathiri Beikman on Konmyintha at 10 am today.

The Japanese guests arrived here to coordinate the tasks of the Fourth World Buddhist Summit.

At the call, Most Venerable Dr Kori Yoshihiko presented a Buddha image to Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt who also gave away a Buddha image to the Japanese priest.

Also present on the occasion were Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung,

Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Khin Maung Win, Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko, Director-General of the State Peace and Development Council Office Lt-Col Pe Nyein, Director-General U Soe Tint of the Government's Office, Director-General of the Protocol Department Thura U Aung Htet, Adviser to the State Peace and Development Council Office U Arnt Maung, Director-General of Religious Affairs Department Dr Myo Myint, Director-General of the Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana U Sann Lwin and Pro-Rector (Admin) Dr Hla Pe of the International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University.

MNA

### ASEAN and +3 Environmental Ministers go sightseeing in Bagan-NyaungU

YANGON, 20 Dec— Environmental Ministers and Deputy Minister and delegation members of ASEAN

countries, Deputy Ministers and delegation members of ASEAN dialogue partner countries which are the People's Republic of China and Japan, the ASEAN Secretary-General and officials led by Chairman of National Committee for Environmental Affairs Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung left here by air this morning to visit ancient cultural heritage and success of the arid zone greening project and arrived at Bagan-NyaungU Airport at 7.30 am.

They were welcomed there by Chairman of NyaungU District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Khin Maung Oo and officials. Next, the guests visited Bagan Archaeological Museum in Bagan

Archaeological zone where Minister U Win Aung conducted them round the museum. Afterwards, they viewed beautiful scenes of pagodas and stupas there. The guests then signed in the visitors' book. On arrival at Ananda Temple, they donated flowers to the Buddha image. Similarly, they offered flowers to the Buddha image at the eastern prayer hall at Shwezigon Pagoda.

Afterwards, they viewed successes of the arid zone greening project at Popa Park in Kyaukpadaung Township. While in the park, Minister U Win Aung hosted lunch in their honour at Popa Mountain Resort.

Officials then explained matters related to

the park and extension of Nine-District Greening Project to 13-district one. Minister U Win Aung then explained accomplishments of the arid zone greening project.

At the office of Myanmar-Japan Friendship Forest Reforestation Project in NyaungU Township, officials reported on reforestation tasks being carried out at Kyubinkywe reserve forest.

The guests inspected five-year old perennial trees.

They proceeded to Bagan Lacquerware College and viewed production process of lacquerware. Next, they visited Lacquerware Museum. They arrived back here by air this evening.

MNA



ASEAN Environmental Ministers and party led by Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung views plantations of Myanmar-Japan Friendship Reforestation Project in NyaungU Township.— MNA

# Truck blast wounds two US soldiers in Iraq

**BAGHDAD, 20 Dec—** A roadside bomb exploded near a US military truck outside Baghdad on Friday, wounding two US soldiers, the military said, while an Iraqi woman died as another blast hit the office of a major Shiite party.

Capt Tammy Galloway of the US Army's 82nd Airborne Division said a homemade explosive device exploded on the roadside as a military truck was passing. Iraqi witnesses said earlier that it was an oil tanker and that two soldiers were killed in the blast.

The predawn attack on

the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution Party office, which also wounded five others, came a day after Shiites buried a senior politician assassinated Wednesday as he left his home in Baghdad.

Officials of the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution party blamed

both attacks on loyalists of Saddam Hussein, who was captured by US forces on Saturday.

Rahim Jabar, who lives in the building in western Baghdad, said his sister was killed and five other residents were wounded in the explosion, which brought down half of a one-story residential building

that also housed a party branch office. Supreme Council members were rushing to the scene.

The tanker truck blew up about 7:50 am and television footage showed clouds of black smoke rising from the tanker near Abu Ghraib, about 20 miles west of Baghdad.

One witness, 19-year-old Jassim Mohammed, said he saw the bodies of two Iraqis in a civilian car that was damaged in the blast.

Internet

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## Italy opposes death penalty for Saddam

**ROME, 20 Dec —** Both the Italian Government and most Italian people are opposed to sentencing former Iraqi president Saddam Hussein to death, Italian Defence Minister Antonio Martino has said.

Martino said the most important thing is to give Saddam a fair trial, Italian media reported Thursday.

The trial must not be a "revenge" the minister said.

Saddam should be tried in an Iraqi court and the trial should be chaired by judges of the International Court of Justice and open to the Iraqi people and other Arab countries to ensure its "fairness," Martino said.

The governments of Kuwait and Iran should act as plaintiffs in Saddam's trial, the minister said, adding that the Italian Government would also be a plaintiff if there is concrete evidence that Saddam was involved in a November blast that killed 19 Italians in the southern Iraqi town of Nassiriyah. — MNA/Xinhua



*Iraqi youths watch an unidentified US soldier securing the area during a patrol in Samarra 100 kilometres (60 miles) north of Baghdad, Iraq, on 19 Dec, 2003. —INTERNET*

## US kills two, arrest 86 in raid in northern Iraq

**BAGHDAD, 20 Dec—** US forces killed two Iraqis and captured 86 suspects in an operation in Iraq's northern city of Samarra, the military said on Thursday.

Of the 86 arrested, 12 were on the targets believed to conduct anti-coalition activities, Sergeant Robert Cargie, spokesman for the 4th Infantry Division told reporters.

Two hundred AK-47 rifles and explosive equipments were among other confiscated weapons in the operation, code-named Ivy Blizzard, which started Wednesday.

One man shooting at the troops and another acting suspiciously were shot dead

during the operation, said Cargie.

Samarra, 100 kilometres north of Baghdad, has witnessed frequent ambushes on US military convoys.

US forces said they had killed over 60 attackers when they repelled two separate ambushes in the restive city, while locals said only ten died as a result of random shooting.

MNA/Xinhua

## UN calls for action to prevent millions of unnecessary deaths

**UNITED NATIONS, 20 Dec —** Millions of people could be saved from premature death and years of disability through a combination of financial aid and targeted improvements in health services, a UN health agency said in a report released Thursday.

In its World Health Report 2003 released here at the UN headquarters in New York, the World Health Organization (WHO) called for urgent investment and international support for medical services in developing countries. "In some parts of the world there is a continued expectation of longer and more comfortable life, while in many others there is despair over the failure to control disease although the means to do so exist," it said, noting that HIV/AIDS has cut life expectancy by as much as 20 years for many millions of people in sub-Saharan Africa. It said that every day in the poorest African countries, 5,000 adults and 1,000 children die from HIV/AIDS, and even without the impact of the pandemic,

millions of children born on the continent face greater risk of dying before their fifth birthday than they did a decade ago.

Illustrating the vast gap in life expectancy between developed and developing countries, the report, entitled Shaping the Future, contrasts the prospects of baby girls born at the same moment in Japan and Sierra Leone. "While the baby born in Japan can expect to live for about 85 years, life expectancy for the child in one of Africa's poorest countries is just 36 years," it said.

"The Japanese girl will receive some of the world's best health care whenever she needs it, but the girl in Sierra Leone may never see a doctor, nurse or health worker," it added. — MNA/Xinhua

## Arab lawyers to form defence team for Saddam

**MANAMA, 20 Dec—** A Bahraini lawyer said on Thursday he was teaming up with other Arab attorneys to defend former Iraqi president Saddam Hussein when he goes on trial.

"I am discussing with lawyers from Egypt, Jordan and other countries to form a defence committee for Saddam," said Mohammed Redha Abu Hussein, who specializes in international law. "We know Saddam has committed some mistakes. Our goal is not just to defend Saddam but also to expose the United States for its wrong foreign policy in our region," he told Reuters.

Abu Hussein criticized the United States for supporting the ousted Iraqi leader during Iraq's 1980-1988 war with Iran.

"America covered up Saddam's crimes for many years. We don't have a problem with trying him but we think those who supported him should also be tried," he said.

Saddam is in US custody after his capture on Saturday by US forces. Iraq's Governing Council has said he would stand public trial.

Abu Hussein said the lawyers were acting on their own initiative. They had not been in contact with Saddam nor had they yet tried to reach him through his US captors.

MNA/Reuters



*US soldiers from the 1st Battalion 8th Infantry Regiment of the 4th Infantry Division secure a street in Samarra, 100 kilometres (60 miles) north of Baghdad on 19 Dec, 2003. — INTERNET*

## Foreign banks line up to operate in Iraq

**BAGHDAD, 20 Dec —** HSBC, Standard Chartered and Arab Bank are among at least 15 foreign banks that have applied to operate in Iraq, a senior Iraqi Central Bank official said on Thursday.

"Competition is tight. The banks in the process of applying are all leading international names. They will be short-listed in the next few weeks," the official, who declined to be identified, told Reuters.

The central bank has invited international banks to bid for six five-year licences. Each foreign bank making a bid has to pledge to have minimum capital in Iraq of 25 million US dollars.

Standard Chartered has been expanding

in the Middle East, opening branches in Jordan and Lebanon in recent years and focusing on retail.

HSBC, the world's second-largest bank by market value, has also expanded its global network. HSBC already has operations in 12 Middle East countries.

Thirteen years of UN sanctions and over-regulations have damaged Iraq's banking system, which badly lags behind the world, including in settlements, retail banking and credit. — MNA/Reuters

# War in Iraq voted top story of 2003

WASHINGTON, 20 Dec—The "major combat" phase was over in six weeks, but the war in Iraq — from its tumultuous prelude to a still-active insurgency — was in the global spotlight throughout the year.

By an overwhelming margin, the US-led invasion and occupation was voted the top story of 2003 in The Associated Press' annual survey of American editors and news directors. Even with voting ending the day before Saddam Hussein's capture, the Iraq story received first-place votes from 280 of the 287 AP newspaper and broadcast members who cast ballots.

The clear runner-up, with five first-place votes and most of the second-place votes, was the Columbia space shuttle disaster, the explosion that killed seven astronauts during their descent

on 1 Feb.

Another top story was SARS: The first unsettling reports emerged from Asia in February of a new, unnamed disease. Within a few weeks, SARS was a household name.

Cases of severe acute respiratory syndrome spread to more than 25 countries in North America, South America, Europe and Asia. About 8,000 people were infected; roughly 780 died, though health experts generally were pleased with efforts to control the outbreak.

One of the top stories was Northeast

Blackout: A computer malfunctioned at an Ohio utility on Aug. 14, and North America's worst-ever blackout swiftly spread through eight states and part of Canada. Millions of people lost power, including all of New York City, Cleveland and Detroit.

It marked the second straight year that Iraq was judged the dominant story — the threat of war and demands for disarmament directed at Saddam ranked No 1 in the poll for 2002.

Internet

ဝက်ဘ်ဆိုက်: အသံသေကြေး

## Bremer says he was ambushed in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 20 Dec — Iraq's US administrator said Friday he escaped an ambush on his convoy earlier this month, as a blast in Baghdad underlined the political violence hindering efforts to rebuild the country.

Paul Bremer came under guerrilla attack on 6 December when his convoy was attacked on the same day Defence Secretary

Donald Rumsfeld was visiting.

"Yes, this is true, but thankfully I am still alive and here I am in front of you," Bremer told reporters on a visit to the southern city of Basra, when asked about reports of the ambush.

Rumsfeld, who was making his third visit to Iraq since Saddam Hussein's fall in April, was not in the convoy.

Dan Senor, a spokesman for Bremer's Coalition Provision Authority (CPA), told a news conference it was too early to draw conclusions but "we have good reason to believe it was a random opportunistic attack not necessarily targeting him."

"The party was traveling from an impromptu meeting, that was not scheduled," he said.

US television network NBC said Bremer's convoy had been hit an explosive device and came under small arms fire as it drove from Baghdad airport. The convoy was able to speed away.

Internet

## 460 US service members killed since beginning of military operations in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 20 Dec — 460 US service members have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq, according to the Department of Defence. Of those, 315 died as a result of hostile action and 145 died of non-hostile causes, the department said.

The British military has reported 52 deaths; Italy, 17; Spain, eight; Denmark, Ukraine and Poland have reported one each. On or since 1 May, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 322 US soldiers have died — 200 as a result of hostile action and 122 of non-hostile causes, according to the Defence Department's figures.

Since the start of military operations, 2,293 US service members have been injured as a result of hostile action, according to the Defence Department's figures. Non-hostile injured numbered 364.

The latest death reported by the military:

—A Task Force Ironhorse soldier was killed Friday morning in a vehicle accident north of Balad, Iraq.

The latest identification reported by the military:

—Army Spc Christopher J Holland, 26, Brunswick, Ga; killed Wednesday in an ambush in Baghdad; assigned to Battery A, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Armored Division, Smith Barracks, Germany.

Internet



An Iraqi man stands next to a burning tanker truck destroyed by a Improvised Explosive Device while travelling in a US army convoy along the highway from western Baghdad to the town of Fallujah. According to witnesses the driver suffered injuries.—INTERNET

## Chinese State Councillor meets Thai guests

BEIJING, 20 Dec — Chinese State Councillor Tang Jiaxuan said here Thursday that China is willing to promote peace, stability and development in Asia together with the countries in the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN).

He made the remark while meeting with Senate Speaker Manoonkrit Roopkachorn of the National Assembly of Thailand and his delegation.

China and Thailand have been maintaining friendly cooperation for a long period of time, Tang said. Frequent high-level visits have enhanced mutual friendship and cooperation, and economic, trade and cultural exchanges have become more active in the past year.

Roopkachorn said the visit enabled him and his delegation to have a better understanding of China. The Thai National Assembly is willing to contribute more to bilateral cooperation.

MNA/Xinhua

## France seeks clarity on Iraq sovereignty

PARIS, 20 Dec — France is ready to help rebuild Iraq but wants greater clarity on how the United States plans to hand back sovereignty to the Iraqis, Foreign Minister Dominique de Villepin said here.

The United States and France announced this week they had agreed to put aside their differences over the Iraq war and promote international efforts to rebuild the country.

"In a spirit of international unity, we (the French) are extending our hand. But the road ahead must be clarified and made concrete," Villepin told a news briefing. "The key for us is progress in the political situation."

"If the process does not appear sufficiently backed by the international community, there is the risk that terrorists will take advantage, that divisions will emerge in Iraq," he said.

A US-Iraqi plan calls for the election of a transitional government by the end of next June, the writing of a new Constitution by March 15, 2005 and the election of a permanent government by the end of that year.

France wants a faster handover of sovereignty and, backed by Germany and Russia, has called for greater UN involvement.

France has offered a partial write-off of the French share of Iraq's 40 billion US dollars debt to the Paris Club of foreign government creditors but Villepin declined to say what proportion of the debt it might write off.

Only a sovereign Iraqi Government could sign a debt deal, and the International Monetary Fund must assess the situation first, he said.

President Jacques Chirac led the international campaign against the US-led war in Iraq, sparking a major diplomatic row with Washington.

Since the war, both sides have tried to patch up relations and Villepin said he had noticed a recent "spirit of openness" on the US side, whose officials have increasingly recognized the need for international help. France has said it will consider offering training to police in Iraq — depending on the timetable for the transfer of sovereignty — and help with drafting a new Constitution. — MNA/Reuters

## Indonesian warships on tour to three countries

JAKARTA, 20 Dec — Three Indonesian warships on Thursday began their visit to Brunei, the Philippines and Papua New Guinea to enhance friendship and cooperation, said fleet commandant Agus Suhartono.

The warships are expected to go as far as 6,642.5 miles in 44 days, he was quoted by state news agency Antara as saying, adding that the trip is also aimed at promoting Indonesian tourism and culture to foreign countries. — MNA/Xinhua



Wounded members of an Iraqi family who lost one of their relatives in an explosion at a school attached to the Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq offices, stare at the explosion site in western Baghdad. Residents blamed the explosion on a bomb and said about 10 people were wounded and one killed. — INTERNET

## CONTINUING RESISTANCE AGAINST US TROOPS



Supporters of Saddam Hussein chant anti-US slogans in Mosul, Iraq, on Wednesday, 17 Dec, 2003. — INTERNET



Residents of Baghdad gather around the wreckage of a small bus at the scene of an explosion in Baghdad, on Wednesday, 17 Dec, 2003. A truck loaded with explosives rammed into the bus and exploded near a police station, killing at least 10 people.—INTERNET



Mourners chant anti-American slogans during the funeral procession for Iraqi Shamil Nafe, 30, along the streets of Baghdad's Adhamiya area, on Tuesday, 16 Dec, 2003. Nafe was killed by the US forces the previous day when a demonstration supporting former captured Iraqi President Saddam Hussein took place in Adhamiya and ended with clashes with the US forces. — INTERNET



Iraqis stand next to a Toyota Land Cruiser that a suicide bomber detonated next to the gate of a police station in Baghdad's northern Husainiyah district, on Monday, 15 Dec, 2003. Eight policemen were killed in the attack. — INTERNET



An Iraqi gunman brandishes his weapon while others celebrate around the wreckage of a burning tanker truck near Abu Ghraib, west of Baghdad, on Friday 19 Dec, 2003. A homemade explosive device exploded on the roadside as the military truck was passing, wounding two US soldiers. INTERNET



US Army soldiers from the 1st battalion 8th Regiment of the 4th Infantry Division secure a street in Samarra, 100 kilometers (60 miles) north of Baghdad on Friday, 19 Dec, 2003. — INTERNET

Hailing the 56th Anniversary Independence Day:

# Inherent patriotism in the hearts of national brethren

## Chit Naing (Psychology)



*"Traditions and customs cannot be changed and destroyed. Only the artistes who possess the conviction to preserve traditions and customs as long as the world exists are honourable ones."*

Wunna Kyaw Htin  
U Sein Aung Min

I love cartoons. So, I always read them first whenever I get a journal or magazine. They always make me laugh and happy. As for the short stories, poems and paintings, they may include humour. But some cartoons are not humorous.

It is not easy to crack a joke or create a humour.

Humour is a difficult branch of art. It is an art that makes people laugh and feel happy by presenting

things in a sarcastic way. But sincerity is important in creating a cartoon. If the work includes instigation, it will not be humorous, instead, it will be a blunder in the eyes of literary critics. Then, it will not be a humour.

Humour or comedy is a difficult branch of art. But what about the portraying of grief?

It is difficult to make people feel sad or cry. But it was a wonder for me that Myanmar dramatic art could make

the audience's eyes soak with tears within five minutes.

I was the secretary to organize the Exhibition '98 — To Revitalize and Foster Patriotic Spirit. I was happy to see the ardent participation of all the people of the literati, musicians, artists and film artistes.

However, I got into trouble at a meeting when U Sein Aung Min of the Thabin (Theatrical) Asiayon suggested that he would like to present a 15-minute play about King Thibaw being taken away by the colonialists to India at the Exhibition. He even recited verses of the play at the meeting. I was not sure whether the Yangonites would like such a play. I was thinking that some of the youths might be under the influence of the international performing arts instead.

The urbanites were trying to adapt themselves to the process of globalization.

Besides, I didn't believe that a 15-minute act would help vitalize patriotism of the people.

But the patrons of the Exhibition permitted U Sein Aung Min to present his act, but not on the stage, just on the

floor of the Exhibition hall. I understood that the Exhibition could help vitalize patriotism through the paintings and photos and the performance of film artistes, musicians and vocalists. But I did not believe that the participation of the dramatic artistes could do the job, or in other words, I was not able to see or understand the power of their profession.

It was so amazing that when the exhibition was opened, the 15-

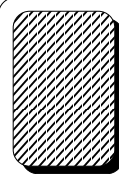
minute act was able to capture the hearts of the audience. Their eyes were soaked with tears, and their mind understanding to love and cherish the race and the nation. Other shows were also good, and the performance of the artistes of other art associations were excellent. Originally, the Exhibition was to be opened for ten days. But due to the popular demand, it was opened for ten more days.

The most popular

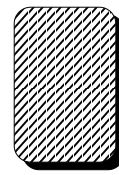
and song. Characters in the programme also did very well.

There cannot be anything more bitter and heart-rending for us than to see the nation under exploitation and manipulation of the aliens.

Throughout the Exhibition, the dramatic artistes had reminded the people that all must be aware of the danger of losing independence; that as there was no balance of power in the world, the colonialist power was at



Young students earnestly take notes at the Exhibition '98— To Revitalize and Foster Patriotic Spirit.



Exhibition '98— To Revitalize and Foster Patriotic Spirit opened at the Tatmadaw Convention Centre on U Wisara Road in Yangon from 1 to 30 November 1998.

programme that helped vitalize patriotism of the audience to the greatest degree was the 15-minute act of the Thabin Asiayon. The artistes managed to make the viewers hate the colonialists. The act was very artistic.

I thought that octogenarian U Sein Aung Min's act would not win the hearts of the audience or interest of the people. But I was totally wrong. In the act U Sein Aung Min sang a song describing the scene of the King taken away to exile by the enemy troops.

His voice and the words of the song were so breathtaking. I also was captivated by his act

its height, reaching the most dangerous level; that all should rise up and have unity to safeguard the nation and the people to be free from all dangers. I honour them with admiration.

Now, let me conclude my article. Making people cry or laugh is no easy job. But the artists and the performing artistes have the ability to make people laugh and cry.

The power of art is really great. The brief act has proved that there is hidden patriotism in the hearts of national brethren. Thanks to the artistes we have come to realize that patriotism is there in our hearts.

(Translation: TMT)

Hailing the 56th Anniversary Independence Day:

# Images vitalizing patriotism



*Scene demonstrating the sorrow of the people when the King and Queen were taken away by the colonialists at the Exhibition '98— To Revitalize and Foster Patriotic Spirit opened from 1 to 30 November 1998 moves the feeling of visitors.*



*Cartoons showed at the Exhibition '98— To Revitalize and Foster Patriotic Spirit opened from 1 to 30 November 1998 inspire nationalistic spirit.*

The power of art is really great. The brief act has proved that there is hidden patriotism in the hearts of national brethren. Thanks to the artistes we have come to realize that patriotism is there in our hearts.



*Scene demonstrating the King and Queen taken away by the colonialists at the Exhibition '98— To Revitalize and Foster Patriotic Spirit opened from 1 to 30 November 1998 provoked antipathy of visitors against the colonialists.*



*Seeing the King and Queen taken away by the colonialists, patriotic Myanmar national races burst into anger and entertained a strong antipathy to fight against the colonialists at risk of their lives.*



Senior General Than Shwe gives guidance on training schools in Zeebingyi to officials.— MNA

## Senior General Than Shwe gives guidance...

(from page 1)

firmly not only to enhance the work proficiency of the trainees from States and Divisions attending the courses at the three training schools in Zeebingyi but also to combine the curricula and training schedules with national defence tasks in training them to possess correct belief and concept for the State and the people.

The Senior General called on the officials to carry out

the duties after laying down correct objectives for development of the nation, flourishing of Union Spirit and perpetuation of the State.

Next, the Senior General and party viewed plantations of vegetables, crops and perennial crops and progress in construction of buildings at the Central Fire Services training School, MPF Central Training Centre and the CISC (Upper Myanmar).

The Senior General and party visited Maha Kanthoo Kantha Pagoda and offered *soon*, fruits, lights, flowers and water to Maha Kanthoo Kantha Hsutaungpyi Buddha Image yesterday morning.

The Senior General donated cash to the pagoda funds and signed in the visitors' book.

The Senior General and party viewed the greening of the surrounding areas of the pagoda. They also viewed progress of Padetha Myothit in PyinOoLwin.

MNA

## Myanmar Women's Affairs...

(from page 16)

safeguard women's rights, to develop economic, health and education sectors of women and to safeguard their social security, to nurture women to cherish and value the traditional culture and customs of the national races, to systematically implement the tasks, as a national duty, for prevention of violence against women and rehabilitation, to launch campaign on eradication of human trafficking of women and children, and to cooperate with international, regional, internal and external organizations in carrying out matters on women's rights in accord with the traditional culture and customs of the national races. Myanmar women fully enjoyed the equal rights as men did from the earliest times and they were outstanding in economic, education and health sectors. Moreover, Myanmar women enjoyed social security rights in Myanmar society, he said.

He said in efforts to develop the women sector there are some matters to be carried out in relation with the activities of international women sector. Some successful aims on formation of the MAAF are to be implemented in coordination with international communities. He said the majority of Myanmar women preserve and safeguard traditional culture, traditions and customs.

But it is required to preserve and promote Myanmar traditional culture with added momentum as there are some young women who still think highly of alien culture, drifting down the modern current. Like-



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt gives instructions on formation of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation.— MNA

wise, systematic measures are to be taken to inculcate young men as well as young women with the spirit to preserve own culture and traditions.

Therefore, it is needed to preserve the essence of Myanmar family life that is deeply rooted in the Myanmar society from deterioration. Myanmar family life is full of essence since it is made up of parents and offspring as well as ancestors and grandchildren and great grandchildren. With this end in view, it is necessary to preserve the fine tradition of the set-up of Myanmar family life.

Similarly, all are to safeguard and defend the Union that exists in the form of a family with family spirit, the spirit of national unity and Union Spirit for its perpetuation.

Hence, Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation will have to make relentless efforts to successfully implement the fine and noble objectives. To enable Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation to be in line with rules and regulations, rules and basic principles of the federation have already been laid down.

To be able to widely carry out the tasks on women sector Myanmar

Women's Affairs Federation at different levels are to be formed from central level to ward and village level. At the same time, to be able to effectively carry out tasks for development of the women sector across the nation officials who are to lead the women affairs committees at different levels are to take steps in serving the interest of the Myanmar women sector as well as the State and the people. In addition, strenuous efforts are to be made for development of the women sector and their welfare and social security.

The Government has laid down projects for development of border areas and national races, the five rural development tasks and the 24 special development zones and is implementing them to bring about equitable and harmonious development the length and breadth of the nation. Only when there is harmonious development across the nation will the whole Union make significant progress. That is why all women are to lend themselves to the three national development projects.

Accordingly, the women sector is also to actively take part in successful realization of the seven-point

future work programmes of the State by doing their bit with nationalistic spirit and Union Spirit for the emergence of a modern developed democratic nation.

In conclusion, the Prime Minister urged all the women mass to make concerted and collective efforts for successful implementation of the fine objectives of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation and for the emergence of a modern developed democratic nation under the flag of MAAF emerged with new outlook. After the ceremony, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt greeted those present on the occasion.—MNA

YANGON, 20 Dec — A combined team comprising members of local intelligence unit and Bago Special Anti-drug Squad, acting on information, searched the house of Zaw Myint of No 12/4, Thirimingalar Street, Kalayani Ward, Bago, on 18 April 2003 and arrested him together with one kilo of marijuana packed in a polythene bag in the compound of the house.

In connection with the case, Bago No 1 Police Station filed a lawsuit against

**ဆောင်းရာသီတွင်ဖြစ်ပွားစေသောကူးစက်ရောဂါများ**

**ကာကွယ်နိုင်ရန်နှင့်ရေရှည်ဆေးကုသရန်**

၁။ ဆောင်းရာသီတွင် အအေးမိနာစေး ရောင်ဆိုးရောဂါ၊ ဦးနှောက်အမြှေးရောင်ရောဂါ၊ ဝက်သက်ရောဂါ၊ ဆွဲဆီနာရောဂါ၊ ကြွက်ညှာရောင်ဆိုးရောဂါ၊ ရေကျောက်ရောဂါ၊ နမ့်နီနီယာ အဆုတ်ရောင်ရောဂါနှင့်မျက်စိနာရောင်ရောဂါတို့ကူးစက်ရောဂါများအဖြစ်များတတ်ပါသည်။

၂။ ၎င်းရောဂါများကိုကြိုတင်ကာကွယ်ရန်အတွက်

- \* ပွဲလမ်းသတင်းလူထုထပ်သောနေရာနှင့် ဖုလူထုသောနေရာများကို တတ်နိုင်သမျှ ရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။
- \* နာစေးရောင်ဆိုးလျှင် ရောဂါမပြန့်ပွားစေရန် လက်ကိုင်ပုဝါကို အသုံးပြုပါ။
- \* တစ်ဦးအသုံးပြုထားသော အသုံးအဆောင်နှင့်အဝတ်အစည်းများကို အခြားတစ်ဦးမှအသုံးပြုခြင်းကို ရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။
- \* ၅-နှစ်အောက် ကလေးများအား ပုံမှန်ကာကွယ်ဆေးထိုး၍ ကာကွယ်၍ရသောရောဂါများဖြစ်သည့် ဆွဲဆီနာ ကြွက်ညှာရောင်ဆိုး၊ ဝက်သက်ရောဂါ ကာကွယ်ဆေးများထိုးနှံပါ။
- \* တစ်ကိုယ်ရေ သန့်ရှင်းရေးကို အလေးထားဆောင်ရွက်ပါ။
- \* အာဟာရပြည့်ဝသော အစားအစာများကိုစားသုံးပါ။
- \* လုံလောက်စွာအနားယူပါ။

၃။ ရောဂါလက္ခဏာများရှိလျှင် အသက်ဆုံးရှုံးနိုင် ရောဂါပြန့်ပွားမှုများမှကာကွယ်နိုင်ရန် နီးရာကျန်းမာရေးဌာနတွင် ဆေးလျှင်စွာ ဆေးကုသမှုခံယူပါ။

**ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန**

## Drug dealers sentenced

Zaw Myint, son of U Ngwe Khaing, under section 15/19 (A) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. And Bago District Court sentenced him to 20 years' imprisonment under section 19 (A) on 26 November.

Similarly, a combined team comprising members of local intelligence unit and Tachilek Special Anti-drug Squad, acting on a tip-off, searched the house of Daw Nam Am of Wanlon Village, Houngleik Village-tract, Tachilek Township,

on 29 July 2003 and arrested her along with 2,000 stimulant pills bearing WY letters under a bed in the house.

In connection with the case, Tachilek Police Station opened a case against Daw Nam Am, daughter of U Aik Shel, under section 15/19 (A) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. And Tachilek District Court sentenced her to 17 years' imprisonment under section 19 (A) on 6 November.

MNA

## Ministry of Defence team crowned champion in State Peace and Development.....

(from page 16)

In the tournament, the Ministry of Defence team secured the first prize with 500 strokes, the Ministry of Finance and Revenue team the second with 550 and the Ministry of Home Affairs team third with 559 in the team handicap event.

In the team scratch event, the Ministry of Defence team bagged the first prize with 644 strokes, the Ministry of Finance and Revenue the second with 694 and the Ministry of Home Affairs

team 695.

In the individual handicap event, the first prize with 122 strokes went to Maj Tin Ko Ko, the second with 123 to Maj Khin Zaw Win and the third with 127 to Maj Moe Aung. The three were from the Ministry of Defence team.

Similarly, Maj Tin Ko Ko won the first prize with 158, Maj Khin Zaw Win the second with 159 and Maj Moe Aung third with 163.

MNA

## Measures for holding of 4th World Buddhist Summit coordinated

YANGON, 20 Dec — The subcommittees and Japanese Buddhist delegation held a coordination meeting for organizing the 4th World Buddhist Summit to be held in Myanmar at the International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University on Dhamma Pala Hill in Mayangon Township this afternoon.

Present on the occasion were member of Ovadacariya for holding the summit Thitagu Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Maha Dhamma Kathika Bahujana Hitadhara Dr

Ashin Nanissara, Chief High Priest of Nenbutusushu Sect, Vice President of Buddhist Summit Most Ven. Dr Kori Yoshihiko and Secretary Ven Fujikura Hiroshi, the secretary of the work committee for holding the summit, chairmen of respective subcommittees and secretaries, officials, members of the Japanese delegation and guests. Secretary of the work committee Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko made a speech.

Next, Chairman of decoration subcommittee Deputy Minister for Construction U

Tint Swe, Deputy Director-General U Soe Win Hlaing of the Forest Department under the Ministry of Forestry from the greening subcommittee, Chairman of the invitation and accommodation subcommittee Director-General U Sann Lwin of the Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana, Chairman of the reception subcommittee Deputy Minister for Transport Col Nyan Tun Aung, Chairman of the subcommittee for holding meetings Director-General Dr Myo Myint of the Religious Affairs Department, Secretary

of the information subcommittee Director-General of Myanmar Radio and Television U Khin Maung Htay and Chairman of the financial subcommittee Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue Col Hla Thein Swe reported on work carried out subcommittee-wise.

Afterwards, the Thidagu Sayadaw gave an Ovada Katha.

Director of the Japanese Organizing Committee for Fourth World Buddhist Summit explained work to be carried out and officials replied to the queries raised by those present. — MNA



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and General Khin Nyunt arrive at opening ceremony of State Peace and Development Council Chairman's Trophy Golf Tournament. — MNA

## Lt-Gen Maung Bo attends launch of coast liner-27 in Myeik

YANGON, 20 Dec — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo of the Ministry of Defence, together with Chairman of Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Coastal Region Command Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, attended the launching of coast liner-27 at Seiknge Jetty in Myeik this morning.

First, Lt-Gen Maung Bo and the commander formally opened the launching ceremony and inspected the ship. The ship with the seating capacity for 250 can run

31 nautical miles per hour. It will run along Dawei-Myeik-Kawthoung route.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party next went to Kyaukka Village in Palaw Township where they were welcomed by local authorities and people. Lt-Gen Maung Bo and the commander paid homage and presented offertories to the Sayadaws and members of the Sangha at Kyaukka Village Thandithukha Dhammayon.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo, the commander and party visited Kyaukka Village basic education middle school, gave necessary instructions to the headmaster and teachers and fulfilled construction materials for the construction of the new school building. Lt-Gen Maung Bo comforted the patients at

Kyaukka Station Hospital and presented cash assistance.

Later, Lt-Gen Maung Bo met with the chairman of the Village PDC and members, departmental staff, social organizations and townsenders at the village primary school and said that as Kyaukka Village was an island village, the leaders of the State were able to visit there only a few times in the past. Now, the State Peace and Development Council has been endeavouring for the equitable development of the all sectors including education, health, social, economy and transport. And they arrived there to fulfil regional requirements, he said.

MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attends opening ceremony of State Peace and Development Council Chairman's Trophy Golf Tournament. — MNA



Lt-Gen Aung Htwe tees string ball off at the opening ceremony of State Peace and Development Council Chairman's Trophy Golf Tournament. — MNA

## Minister inspects Myingyan Degree College, basic education schools

YANGON, 20 Dec — U Than Aung, Minister for Education, visited Myingyan Degree College on 18 December and met with students and planted trees together with them. The minister was accompanied by Director-General of the Higher Education Department (Upper Myanmar) Dr Thein Myint, Director-General of No 2 Basic Education Department Lt-Col Win Htein and rectors of Monywa University, Yadanabon University, Meiktila University, Pakokku University and Kyaukse University.

Next, the minister and party inspected learning of the students, the e-Education Learning Centre, Electronic Resource Centre, Computer Training Centre and Language Lab.

Accompanied by Myingyan District Peace

and Development Council Chairman Lt-Col Win Myint and education staff, Minister U Than Aung proceeded to Nabuai Village Basic Education Middle School in Myingyan Township. School Head U Kyaw Sein reported on the history of school and education and management matters. The minister presented books to students, inspected the classrooms and chose a site for construction of extended school building. The minister and party also visited Ngazun Township Myotha Basic Education High School, and urged the headmaster and teachers to make efforts for improvement of the pass rate of matriculation examination. He then donated books to the students and inspected the e-Education Learning Centre.

MNA

အိမ်တိုင်းမှာသစ်ပင် ရွာစဉ်မှာတောတန်း  
တစ်တောဝင်တစ်တောင်တက်၊ မြို့တက်မယ့်လမ်း။

## Myanmar Livestock Breeding Federation holds fourth annual meeting

YANGON, 20 Dec— The Myanmar Livestock Breeding Federation held the fourth annual meeting at International Business Centre on Pyay Road this morning.

Present were Patrons of the federation Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein and Deputy Minister U Aung Thein, departmental heads and officials.

First, Minister Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein delivered an address. Then, he explained sufficiency of meat, increase of consuming meat

and promotion to manufacture vaccines and feed-stuff for animal in accordance with the guidance of the Head of State.

Next, Director-General U Maung Maung Nyunt of Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department reported on production of meat and norms to be set for breeding farms, slaughter houses and labs. Afterwards, President of the federation Dr Mya Han gave a speech. General Secretary Dr Zaw Win Myat submitted the annual report and the financial statement.

MNA

## Prize presentation of Tatmadaw Volleyball Tournament for the disabled held

YANGON, 20 Dec— The final match of the 9th Defence Services Commander-in-Chief Shield Volleyball Tournament (2003) for the disabled and prize presentation ceremony took place at the sport ground of Yangon Command (Mingaladon) this morning.

No 66 LID team beat

Eastern Command team in the final match.

On behalf of the Defence Services Commander in-Chief, Deputy Director Col Myint Maung of the Directorate of Medical Services and officials presented the championship shield and other prizes to winner. — MNA

## Traditional Medicine and Medical Equipment Exhibition goes on

YANGON, 20 Dec — The fourth Traditional Medicine and Medical Equipment Exhibition, organized by the Traditional Medicine Department of the Ministry of Health, continued for the fourth day at the Tatmadaw Convention Centre on U Wisara Road here today.

Members of Traditional

Medicine Council physicians U Nyan Tun and U Htay Myint visited the exhibition where various kinds of traditional medicines were being displayed and sold.

As today being Saturday, a holiday, more visitors amounting to over 30,000 studied the exhibition.

MNA

## Ukraine not ready to join efforts in rebuilding Iraq

KIEV, 20 Dec— Ukraine will not participate in the reconstruction of Iraq until the war-ravaged country regains stability, Foreign Minister Kostyantyn Gryshchenko said recently.

Gryshchenko was quoted by the newspaper *Day* as saying the Ukrainian Government and companies were not ready to dispatch personnel to take part in rebuilding efforts in Iraq as the situation there was not satisfactory.

All the working staff would be informed of Iraq's security situation in advance and make their own judgments on whether the situation was acceptable or not, he said.

He expressed hope that Iraq will see a significant improvement in its situation following the capture of ousted president Saddam Hussein.

Ukraine would send experts to the country under acceptable security conditions, Gryshchenko added, pointing out that Iraq had yet to meet the security requirements.

Last week, United States authorities made public a memo listing 26 large-scale

postwar projects worth 18.6 billion US dollars in the reconstruction of Iraq, but barred nations that had opposed the coalition actions in Iraq from bidding for contracts.

As Ukraine sent anti-chemical weapons troops to Kuwait during the war to protect airports and ports, its companies also gained the right of bidding.

Ukraine is the fourth largest contributor of troops to the US-led stabilization effort in Iraq, with more than 1,600 soldiers on the ground.

MNA/Xinhua

## Toyota expects record high output in 2004

TOKYO, 20 Dec— Toyota Motor Corp. said Thursday it expects its global production to top 7 million units on a group basis for the first time in 2004.

Toyota said global production by Toyota, minicar maker Daihatsu Motor Co. and truck maker Hino Motors Ltd. is estimated at 7.28 million units in 2004, up 7 per cent over the estimated output for this year.

Toyota plans to manu-



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye tees sting ball off at the opening of State Peace and Development Council Chairman's Trophy Golf Tournament. (News on page 16) — MNA



Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than pose for documentary photo with golfers. (News on page 16) — MNA

## Philippines braces for potential resurgence of SARS

MANILA, 20 Dec— Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo said Friday the government is on alert against the potential resurgence of the severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS).

"As far as a potential resurgence of the SARS is concerned, we are on top of the situation," Arroyo said in a statement, adding that "the system is in place. We have never let our guard down."

"We have learned by ex-

perience. Screening at our international airports continues," she said.

Arroyo noted that the Philippine Department of Health has been strengthening health facilities for months and preparing SARS isolation rooms meeting international standards.

Likewise, the department has pursued the training of its health workers to deal not just with SARS but all kinds of infectious diseases, Arroyo said.

A Taiwanese researcher was infected with SARS after returning from a seminar in Singapore early this month, according to reports.

Public health officials in Taiwan later said the Army researcher was infected with SARS during his work in a laboratory, and has quarantined himself since then.

In Singapore, authorities have quarantined at least 75 people having contacted with the Taiwanese researcher as a precaution, but have said that there have been no signs of the recurrence of SARS in the island so far.

MNA/Xinhua

## Flights of "Hawk" suspended after air crash

KUALA LUMPUR, 20 Dec — All training flights by the Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF) using *Hawk-100* jet fighters have been suspended with immediate effect until the cause of the air crash in Pahang waters on Thursday.

RMAF Chief General Abdullah Ahmad said a board of inquiry had been set up to investigate the crash which occurred about one nautical mile from Sepat Village near Kuantan, capital of Pahang State.

The chief told reporters in Kuantan when visiting the remains of the two pilots who

were both captains. However, he declined to disclose their names until their relatives had been informed.

"The aircraft was on a training flight at 11:30 a.m. with two pilots, in their 30s, with the rank of captain. The last communication received from them was at 12:08 p.m. before we lost contact (with the aircraft)," he said.

The chief said the jet fighter was supposed to return to base at 12:30 p.m. The Armed Forces later received a call from the public informing that a jet fighter had crashed in the sea.

MNA/Xinhua

## Citibank sets up fifth branch in China

TIANJIN, 20 Dec— Citibank has opened its fifth branch in the northern Chinese municipality of Tianjin.

The US banking giant's four previous branches are in Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Shenzhen.

Stephen H. Long, a senior bank official, said Tianjin was a Chinese economic centre with active foreign investment and booming fi-

nancial services, and it had the potential to become a key city of finance.

Dai Xianglong, mayor and former president of China's central bank, the People's Bank of China, said, "Citibank and other leading international financial enterprises have expanded their business to Tianjin. It is good news for local commerce and the economy". — MNA/Xinhua

## Hailing the 56th Anniversary Independence Day:

# Endeavours for ensuring water supply to the rural area in the time of the State Peace and Development Council

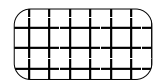
Division	Villages where water is scarce	Villages where water is insufficient	Villages where potable water is scarce	Villages to which sufficient potable water will be supplied	Villages to which potable water have been supplied
Sagaing Division	18	837	1599	2454	3006
Magway Division	220	740	509	1469	3323
Mandalay Division	297	2100	1722	4119	1431
Total	535	3677	3830	8042	7760

Supplying water for drinking and agricultural purpose includes in the five rural development tasks laid down for enhancing of socio-economic life of rural people under the guidance of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe.

The ten-year project from 2000-2001 to 2009-2010 has been laid down and is being implemented for availability of drinking water in Sagaing, Magway and Mandalay Divisions, the arid regions of upper Myanmar. The above table shows measures taken for availability of drinking water in villages of the three divisions.

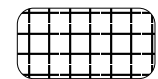
The following are sums of money already spent out of the funds contributed by the State:

Fiscal year	Kyats
2001-2002	321.61 million
2002-2003	537.47 million



By using drilling machines, water is being tapped from underground in Kantha Village in Budalin Township, Sagaing Division.

The project was implemented by Development Affairs Department.



Tanaunggon Village in NyaungU Township is not left in the efforts for obtaining potable water.



Village girls with traditional hairdo style filling their pots with clean water at Kaungbinsi Village tube-well in Taungzin Village-tract of NyaungU.



# မညာရေးဖြင့် ခေတ်မီပွဲပြီးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့

## Saddam's daughter calls for international trial

WASHINGTON, 20 Dec—Saddam Hussein's eldest daughter called on Thursday for an internationally supervised trial for her father, saying he would not receive a fair trial under the US-appointed Iraqi Governing Council.

Raghad Hussein, 35, spoke to CNN in an exclusive interview conducted in Jordan, where she and her younger sister and their children were granted asylum after the US-led invasion of Iraq in April.

"Of course I don't think he would receive a fair trial" under the current regime, she said. "The interim government is not recognized by anyone in the Arab world."

"I want a fair trial under international supervision. ... This is a legitimate right of any human being," she said.

Asked about video images of a dazed and haggard-looking Saddam released after he was flushed from a hole beneath a shack on a farm near his home town of Tikrit on Saturday, Raghad said she was convinced her father was drugged.

"Anyone with insight could tell from the first that my father was not fully conscious," she said, according to an unofficial translation of her remarks, made in Arabic.

"I am convinced that my father was drugged."

"It was a painful sight for each and every Arab because the aim of releasing those images was to break the spirit of each and every Arab," Raghad told CNN.

As to conditions in her country since the US-led coalition toppled her father's regime, "from what I see on TV on a daily basis the situation is bad and getting worse every day," she said.

Saddam was being held by US forces at an undisclosed location inside Iraq.

MNA/Reuters

## China to boost health, biotechnology cooperation with Cuba

HAVANA, 20 Dec—China and Cuba will extend cooperation in health, biotechnology and the exchange of professionals, a senior Chinese official said on Thursday.

Chinese Vice-Health Minister Zhu Qinsheng, who concluded a four-day visit to the Caribbean nation, said both sides have agreed to extend, through new and deep exchanges, the memorandum signed by health ministers of the two countries in 1998.

"We have a very productive dialogue and foresee a promising future," Zhu said after meetings with local officials and visiting research centers in Havana.

He expressed great interest in research by Cuban scientists, and promised to boost cooperation in this field.

The Chinese minister also invited the Cuban Health Minister, Damodar Pena, to visit Beijing.

MNA/Xinhua

## Influenza widespread in 36 US states

WASHINGTON, 20 Dec—Influenza is now widespread in 36 US states and has been found in all 50, but the outbreak is not yet an epidemic, the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention said here.

People may be filling hospital emergency rooms thinking they have flu, but only about a third of suspect cases actually are influenza, the CDC said in its weekly report on death and disease.

"All 50 states have reported laboratory-confirmed influenza this season," the report reads. This is typical of the flu season.

Public health laboratories tested 3,814 specimens for influenza viruses and found 1,365, or just under 36 per cent, were positive for influenza.

This year's flu season is worrying many because it started about two months earlier than usual, and began with some highly publicized deaths, including those of apparently healthy children.

Some of the worst cases of disease are being caused by a mutated flu strain called Fujian A, which the influenza vaccine only partially protects against. Some areas have reported shortages of the vaccine this season, but the US Government is working to redistribute supplies.

Health officials say it is not yet clear if the season may end early because it started early, or whether it will be a bad year for flu. In an average year 114,000 people are hospitalized with influenza in the United States and 36,000 die.

"The flu season is always notoriously difficult to predict," the CDC's Stephen Ostroff told reporters this week. "I would anticipate that we are in for a fair amount of activity in the coming weeks."

MNA/Reuters

## Iraqi FM welcomes Arab countries to participate in reconstruction

MARRAKECH (Morocco), 20 Dec — The Foreign Minister of the Iraqi Governing Council, Hoshiar al-Zibari, said here Thursday night that Iraq welcomes Morocco and other Arab countries to participate in Iraq's reconstruction.

Iraq has entered a "crucial and delicate" phase, which requires the understanding and help from other Arab countries to overcome the "temporary crisis" now facing Iraq, al-Zibari said during a joint conference with Moroccan Foreign Minister Mohamed Benaissa.

Al-Zibari stressed that Iraq will become a "biggest construction site", not only in the Middle East but also in the world as a whole. That is why the new Iraq welcomes help from all Arab countries, he said.

Al-Zibari arrived in Marrakech on Thursday night for a visit to Morocco and to attend the High-Level Conference on South-South Cooperation which opened on December 16 in the famous central Moroccan city. The new Iraq will abide by all international rules and peacefully coexist with all

Arab countries, al-Zibari said. At the same time, Iraq would actively take part in the South-South dialogue because "all problems encountered by the South countries in their development are closely connected with Iraq".

Benaissa reiterated that Morocco will actively take part in the reconstruction of Iraq and support all international advice conducive to restoring security, stability and reconstruction in Iraq.

He emphasized that resolutions adopted by the UN Security Council and the League of Arab States (LAS) were a guarantee for Iraq in restoring national sovereignty, legislating a new Constitution and establishing a new democratic government. These were also crucial in leading the Iraqi people in a correct direction. — MNA/Xinhua



An Iraqi man walks by a building destroyed in an explosion on 19 Dec, 2003, in Baghdad. — INTERNET

## Dean defends his opposition to Iraq war

MANCHESTER, 20 Dec — Presidential hopeful Howard Dean on Thursday defended his claim that the United States is no safer with Saddam Hussein in custody, contending that the "capture of one bad man" doesn't allow President Bush or Democrats to declare victory in the war on terrorism.

Dean, whose foreign policy statement Monday garnered widespread criticism from Democratic rivals, said those in his party who supported the war "backed away from what was right."

"I think the Democratic Party has to offer a clear alternative to the American people. The capture of one bad man doesn't mean the president and Washington Democrats can declare victory in the war on terrorism," he said. "The question is what is right,

not what is popular."

Real dangers ranging from stateless terrorists to North Korea's capacity to make nuclear weapons remain, he said, and must be confronted.

"The truth is, Americans are no safer from these serious threats than they were the day before Saddam Hussein was captured," he said. "We are no safer today than the day the planes struck the World Trade Center."

Internet

## UNSG says New Year should be "year of kept promises"

UNITED NATIONS, 20 Dec — UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan said here that 2004 should be the "year of kept promises" to fight against global ills like poverty, hunger, disease and illiteracy.

Annan told an end of year Press conference at the UN headquarters in New York that a lack of progress in tackling the many serious problems currently facing the world have afflicted the lives of billions.

While recognizing the critical need to stabilize Iraq and halt the spread of deadly weapons and fight terrorism, the UN chief called on world leaders to renew their determination to focus on the challenging issues of poverty, hunger, disease and illiteracy.

"Leaders, politicians, diplomats and journalists... simply haven't paid enough attention to the many other pressing challenges that are facing us," he stressed. He urged efforts to reach the Millennium Development Goals, a set of time-bound targets adopted at a UN summit in 2000.

"Without action," he warned, "those aims would not be fulfilled, particularly in the poorest countries of sub-Saharan Africa, the Andes and Central Asia." — MNA/Xinhua



A visitor takes a photo of the sculpture 'Christmas Angel' at the 'Ice World' in the northern German town of Luebeck, on 19 Dec, 2003. The Ice World, Germany's first ice-sculpture-festival will run until on 25 Jan, 2004. — INTERNET

## SPORTS

## Real Madrid survive King's Cup scare at Leganes

MADRID, 20 Dec— Real Madrid needed a last-gasp equalizer from Santiago Solari and an extra-time goal from Raul to clinch a 4-3 victory away to second division Leganes in an epic King's Cup second-round clash on Thursday.

David Beckham put Real ahead with a free kick after 15 minutes and Raul made it 2-0 to the Primera Liga leaders with eight minutes to go before halftime.

Leganes, from a working class suburb south of Madrid and featuring nine Argentine-born players in their team following a takeover by music tycoon Daniel Grinbank, came back to equalize before the end of the first half with two Borja goals.

The mid-table second division side went ahead five minutes after the break with a Francisco Pavon own goal and Real were heading out of the competition before Solari scored with a deflected shot two minutes from time.

Leganes missed a string of chances in the first period of extra-time and Real capitalized as Raul scored his second goal of the night five minutes into the second half.

MNA/Reuters

## AC Milan set up Italian Cup clash with Roma

ROME, 20 Dec— AC Milan set up an intriguing Italian Cup quarterfinal clash with AS Roma, after completing a 2-0 aggregate win over last 16 opponents Sampdoria on Thursday.

The two teams currently top Serie A and met in the final of last season's Italian Cup, which Milan won 6-3.

Milan, who beat Sampdoria in the first leg of their fixture 1-0, broke the deadlock in the 13th minute when Filippo Inzaghi scuffed a Kakhaber Kaladze cross across the line.

Sampdoria pressed forward in the second half, but repeatedly ran into a wall of red and black shirts, coming closest to scoring a minute from the end when reserve keeper Valerio Fiori palmed Corrado Colombo's header round the post.

Milan were joined in the last eight by Juventus, who beat Siena 2-1 earlier in the day to complete a 4-2 win on aggregate.

Juve took the lead just before halftime at

the Stadio delle Alpi when Alessandro Del Piero beat the offside trap and slid the ball under keeper Marco Fortin.

Italian international midfielder Mauro Camoranesi fired in Juventus's second goal from the edge of the area in the 52nd minute.

Igor Tudor then handled which allowed Siena striker Nicola Ventola to pull one back from the penalty spot, but the visitors never looked capable of closing the deficit.

In the last eight Juventus will face Perugia, who eliminated Chievo Verona on Tuesday.

Elsewhere, Udinese followed up their 1-0 first leg win over Bologna with a 3-0 second leg victory thanks to goals by striker Carsten Jancker and defender Alessandro Pierini, and a Marek Jankulovski penalty. —MNA/Reuters

## FIFA says no more co-hosting of World Cup

ABUDHABI, 20 Dec — FIFA said that after the experiment of the joint hosting by Japan and South Korea of the 2002 World Cup, there will be no more such co-hosting of the big event.

"For one it is a very expensive aspect and two we are yet to study the effects of co-hosting the World Cup," said FIFA Vice President Jack Warner in Abu Dhabi.

In reply to a question on the two doping cases, FIFA said the action to be taken is being mulled and by Monday a definite decision will be made. Professor Jiri Dvorak, member of the FIFA Sports Medical Committee and FIFA chief medical officer, also revealed that the second sample of Egyptian player Amir Azmy for the banned nandrolone metabolites (anabolic steroids) was also positive.

Meanwhile FIFA officials hailed the UAE's organization of the ongoing World Youth Championship and termed it as "unparalleled" in the history of the Youth Cup.

FIFA also said that as and when UAE was ready for another FIFA event like the

Confederations Cup or the Clubs Championship, they will stand an excellent chance of getting the nod.

After a meeting of the FIFA officials and the local Organizing Committee, FIFA General Secretary Urs Linsi and Jack Warner, gave full marks for the way the 50 matches in the championship have been conducted so far.

"After reports from all the playing venues and match officials, doping, disciplinary, security and marketing sub committees there is no doubt that this has been an excellent championship," said Linsi.

Linsi, who said FIFA President Sepp Blatter was advised rest and hence will not be making it to the final, said the event has been watched by over 300 million viewers in over a hundred countries and regions.

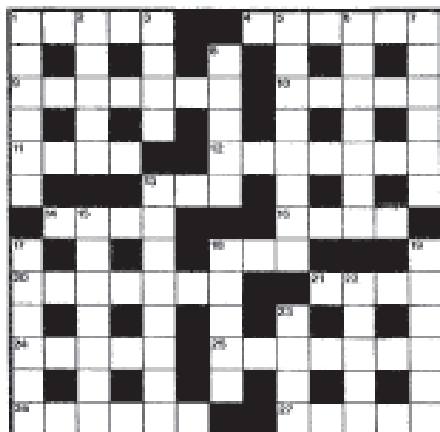
MNA/Xinhua



Brazilian midfielders Juninho and Dudu (R) raise the trophy after beating Spain at the FIFA world youth soccer championships final match in Abu Dhabi, on 19 Dec, 2003.

Brazil won 1-0 with a second half goal scored by Fernandinho. — INTERNET

## Crossword Puzzle



## ACROSS

- 1 Portable light
- 4 Mistakes
- 9 Least possible
- 10 Part of an egg
- 11 Row
- 12 Tedium
- 13 An extremity
- 14 British spa
- 16 Mountain goat
- 18 Marshland
- 20 Shut out
- 21 Cain's victim
- 24 Heath genus
- 25 Crack
- 26 Lay bare
- 27 Boxer's prize money

## DOWN

- 1 Love-apple
- 2 Scope
- 3 Abode
- 5 Hold back
- 6 Late
- 7 Grave
- 8 Sphere
- 13 Hand-outs (anag.)
- 15 Public sale
- 17 Traditional story
- 18 Palisade
- 19 Sheep's coat
- 22 Tobacco-pipe
- 23 Assist

## Juve cruise into Italian Cup quarterfinals

ROME, 20 Dec— Juventus eased into the Italian Cup quarterfinals with a 4-2 aggregate win over Siena after goals from Alessandro del Piero and Mauro Camoranesi on Thursday.

Juve, who won both legs 2-1, took the lead just before halftime at the Stadio delle Alpi when del Piero beat the offside trap and slid the ball under keeper Marco Fortin.

Italy midfielder Camoranesi fired in Juve's second goal from the edge of the area in the 52nd minute.

Juve's Igor Tudor then handled which allowed Siena striker Nicola Ventola to pull one back from the penalty spot but the visitors never looked capable of closing the deficit.

In the last eight Juventus will face Perugia, who eliminated Chievo Verona earlier in the week.

MNA/Reuters

## Newcastle eye double transfer swoop

NEWCASTLE (England), 20 Dec— Newcastle United manager Bobby Robson is planning to strengthen his club's bid to return to the Champions League by signing two players in next month's transfer window.

Newcastle finished third in the English Premier League last season, during which they splashed out 9 million pounds on defender Jonathan Woodgate, but the only arrival since was midfielder Lee Bowyer on a free transfer. "If it was humanly possible, or financially possible, we could do with two more players and the chairman (Freddie Shepherd) is aware of that," Robson told reporters on Friday.

"In an ideal world, we would sign another two players when the transfer window opens. We have to do what we feel we have to do, and do it when it's necessary.

"In the summer, for us to go one better, we perhaps needed two more players in addition to Lee Bowyer, but we didn't move.

"That became a bit more

scary because of the start we had, when we lost games and did not qualify for the Champions League, but we've recovered fairly favourably since then." Robson, whose fifth-placed side visit

Charlton Athletic in the Premier League on Saturday, has been able to spend more than 60 million pounds on new players since taking over at St. James' Park in 1999.

MNA/Reuters



Antonio 'Juninho' Ribeiro Reis, right, of Lyon, and Modeste M'Bami of Paris Saint Germain challenge for the ball during their French League One soccer match played in Lyon, central France, on 19 Dec, 2003. —INTERNET



9:00	Signature Tune Greetings
9:02	Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Myanmar Panorama & Myanma Sentiment"
9:06	The City of Kalay to Tamu, Border Town
<b>9:10</b>	<b>Headline News</b>
9:12	Myanmar Cuisine Easily Cooked Tasty Dishes (Featherback clean soup with tender gourd Leaves)
<b>9:15</b>	<b>National News</b>
9:20	Decoration of Myanmar Lacquerware
9:25	The Horse Dance
9:28	The National Museum (III)
<b>9:30</b>	<b>National News</b>
9:35	Tour In Myanmar "Taunggyi, Inlay"
9:40	Song "The Beauty of the Ayeayawady River"
<b>9:45</b>	<b>National News</b>
9:50	Thanakha, a Myanmar Cosmetic
9:58	Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"

15:30	(15:29) Signature Tune Greetings
15:32	Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Mingalabar"
15:36	The City of Kalay to Tamu, Border Town
<b>15:40</b>	<b>Headline News</b>
15:42	Easily Cooked Tasty Dishes (Featherback clean soup with tender gourd Leaves)
<b>15:45</b>	<b>National News</b>
15:50	Decoration of Myanma Laquerware
15:55	The Horse Dance
15:58	The National Museum (III)
<b>16:00</b>	<b>National News</b>
16:05	Tour In Myanmar "Taunggyi, Inlay"
16:10	Song "The Beauty of the Ayeawady River"



**View today:**

**View today:**

**7:00 am**  
1. Recitation of Parittas by  
Missionary Sayadaw U  
Ottamathara.

**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. ထိုင်းဘူးလီ(ခွေ)ဖြာမိလော

**8:05 am**  
6. အစပြန်မိုး

**8:15 am**  
7. မိန့်ကူးရေထိန်းတမ်း

**8:30 am**  
8. International news

**8:45 am**  
9. Say it in English

**11:00 am**  
11. Martial Song

**11:10 am**  
2. Musical Programme

16:15	<b>National News</b>
16:20	Thanakha, a Myanmar Cosmetic
16:25	Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Myanma Panorama & Myanma Sentiment"
16:30	<b>National News</b>
16:35	Uplifting Health and Fitness for All
16:40	Myanmar Cuisine "Squid Salad"
16:45	<b>National News</b>
16:50	Electronic Library (Shwebo)
16:55	Kayin Dance (Kywe Min Done)
17:00	<b>National News</b>
17:05	Myanmar Traditional Art Silversmith
17:10	Song "Be Back To Neem Lane"
17:15	<b>National News</b>
17:20	Myanma Traditional Products From Bogyoke Aung San Market
17:25	Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"

**(19:30 - 23:30)**  
19:30 Signature Tune  
Greetings  
19:32 Song of Myanmar  
Beauty & Scenic  
Sights "Myanma Pana-  
rama & Myanma Sen-  
timent"  
19:36 Yangon, The Capital  
**19:40 Headline News**  
19:42 Easily Cooked Tasty  
Dishes (Fried Fer-  
mented Prawn)  
**19:45 National News**  
19:50 The Beauty of Myeik  
Archipelago and The  
Life of Salon  
19:55 King Alaung Mint-  
aya's Palace Site  
**20:00 National News**  
20:05 Myanmar Traditional  
Musical Instrument  
(Kyay-Naung)  
20:10 Son "Wonderful Coun-  
try"  
20:12 Gold Honey, Honey  
Gold  
**20:15 National News**  
20:20 The National Museum  
(II)  
20:25 Myanmar Modern  
Song "Beauty of  
Wakema"  
**20:30 National News**  
20:35 The Excellent Photo-  
graphs in Shan State  
20:40 Myanmar Cuisine "Co-  
conut Rice with  
Chicken Curry"  
**20:45 National News**  
20:50 Myanmar Movie Im-

**National News**  
Myanmar Traditional Fan  
Song on Screen  
“The Outstanding Ones”  
Painting point out Myanmar Genuine Spirit and Splendid Scenery  
**National News**  
King Thayawaddy’s Bell  
Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights “Mingalabar”  
The City of Kalay to Tamu, Border Town  
**Headline News**  
Easily Cooked Tasty Dishes(Featherback clean soup with tender gourd Leaves)  
**National News**  
Decoration of Myanma Lacquerware  
Culture Stage “ The Horse Dance”  
The National Museum (III)  
**National News**  
Tour in Myanmar  
“Taunggyi, Inlay”  
Thanakha, a Myanmar Cosmetic  
Myanmar Modern Song  
“The Night When We Celebrate Doneyin Dance”  
**National News**  
Uplifting Health and Fitness for All  
Myanmar Cuisine  
“Squid Salad”  
**National News**  
Electronic Library (Shwebo)  
National Dance “Kayin Dance Kye Min Done”  
**National News**  
Myanmar Traditional Art Silversmith  
Song “Be Back To Neem Lane”  
**National News**  
Myanma Traditional Products From Bogoyoke Aung San Market  
Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights “Come and See Myanmar”

23:30 Signature Tune  
Greeting  
23:32 Song of Myanmar  
Beauty & Scenic Sights  
“Mingalarbar”

11:25 am  
3. Round up of the week's  
International News  
11:40 am  
4. Myanmar Video Feature:  
“ကိုကိုမောင်: ခု့ ကိုကိုကောင်း”  
ရန်ကုန်ဆောင်ရွက်မှုအတွက် အောင်ပေးလို့  
(ဒီရိုက်တာ-မင်းမောင်၊ ရိုက်ကူးသူ-မင်းမောင်)  
1:40 pm  
5. Milo Success in Soccer  
1:50 pm  
6. “ကိုယ့်ရဲ့စာ”  
မြေပုံတိုက်ဆင်စာဖြည့်ကွက်  
(ဒီရိုက်တာ-မင်းမောင်)  
2:20 pm  
7. ဆရာတော်ဘုရားပေးအပ်သော  
သံဃာ(လွတ်လပ်ရေး)  
2:30 pm  
8. ပထမဆုံးတံတား  
2:45 pm  
9. International News  
4:00 pm  
1. Martial song  
4:15 pm  
2. Song to uphold National  
Spirit  
4:30 pm  
3. English for everyday Use  
4:45 pm  
4. အာဟာရဗျူဟာ(၃၈)ပြာမဟာမင်း  
5:00 pm  
5. အထူးသတင်းစာဖြည့်ကွက်  
အကြောင်းအရာအားလုံး

(ရက်စဉ်အားဖြင့် အချိန်အတိုင်း)

**5:15 pm**  
6. Songs of National Races

**5:30 pm**  
7. Musical Programme

**5:45 pm**  
8. Sine and Enjoy

**6:30 pm**  
9. Evening news

**7:00 pm**  
10. Weather report

**7:05 pm**  
11. Industrial Achievement.

**7:15 pm**  
12. Musical Programme

**7:30 pm**  
13. Agricultural Source Country's Development.

**7:40 pm**  
14. အချိန်အတိုင်းအားဖြင့် အချိန်အတိုင်း  
ပြောဆိုသော အချိန်အတိုင်း  
ပြောဆိုသော အချိန်အတိုင်း  
ပြောဆိုသော အချိန်အတိုင်း

**8:00 pm**  
15. "News"  
16. International news  
17. Weather report  
18. Calcio Serie A:  
တောဝှက်ပွဲတွင် တောဝှက်ပွဲတွင် တောဝှက်ပွဲတွင်  
19. The next day's programme



23:36	The City of Kalay to Tamu, Border Town
<b>23:40</b>	<b>Headline News</b>
23:42	Easily Cooked Tasty Dishes (Featherback clean soup with tender gourd Leaves)
<b>23:45</b>	<b>National News</b>
23:50	Decoration of Myanma Lacquerware
23:55	The Horse Dance
23:58	The National Museum (III)
<b>24:00</b>	<b>National News</b>
00:05	Tour In Myanmar "Taunggyi, Inlay"
00:10	"The Beauty of the Ayeyawady River"
<b>00:15</b>	<b>National News</b>
00:20	Thanakha, a Myanmar Cosmetic
00:25	Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights
	"Myanma Panorama & Myanma Sentiment"
<b>00:30</b>	<b>National News</b>
00:35	Uplifting Health and Fitness for All
00:40	Myanmar Cuisine "Squid Salad"
<b>00:45</b>	<b>National News</b>
00:50	Electronic Library (Shwebo)
00:55	Kayin Dance (Kywe Min Done)
<b>01:00</b>	<b>National News</b>
01:05	Myanmar Traditional Art Silversmith
01:10	Song "Be Back To Neem Lane"
<b>01:15</b>	<b>National News</b>
01:20	Myanma Traditional Products From Bogyoke Aung San Market
01:25	Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"

YANGON, 20 Dec—A ceremony to demonstrate proficiency in English language by students of the proficiency course conducted by ES4E Language and Training Centre was held in conjunction with the Parents' Day at the school this morning.

ES4E will open summer English courses beginning March 2004. Those wishing to attend the courses may contact Tel: 662970 and 663820 for further information. *H*

**Saturday, 20 December, 2003**

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

Maximum temperature at Yangon, 19-12-2003 was 32.5°C (90°F). Minimum temperature on 20-12-2003 was 15.2°C (59°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 20-12-2003 was 74%. Total sunshine hours on 19-12-2003 was (8.5) hours approx. Rainfall on 20-12-2003 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2003 was 2211 mm (87.05 inches) at Yangon Airport, 2315 mm (91.14 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 2394 mm (94.25 inches) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 13 mph from Northeast at (14:05) hours MST on 19-12-2003.

**Bay inference:** Weather is partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and South Bay and fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

**Forecast valid until evening of 21-12-2003:** Likelihood of isolated to scattered light rain in Kachin, Chin and northern Shan States, Mandalay and Taninthayi Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy in Yangon, Bago and Ayeyawady Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%). **State of the sea:** At times strong easterly winds with (35)mph and moderate to rough seas are likely off and along Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, Mon-Taninthayi Coast. Seas will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

**Outlook for subsequent two days:** Continuation of likelihood of isolated rain in the Northern Myanmar areas.

**Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 21-12-2003:** Partly cloudy. **Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 21-12-2003:** Partly cloudy.

**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

## Ministry of Defence team crowned champion in State Peace and Development Council Chairman's Trophy Golf Tournament

YANGON, 20 Dec— The 2003 State Peace and Development Council Chairman's Trophy Golf Tournament was opened at Okkalapa Golf Resort in South Okkalapa Township yesterday morning, attended by Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt.

Also present were members of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Aung Htwe of the Ministry of Defence, ministers, Chairman of the Leading Committee for Organizing the Golf Tournament Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint and members, the Chief Justice, the Attorney-General, the Auditor-General, the Yangon mayor, deputy ministers, senior military officers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council, sub-committee members and golfers of 30 ministry teams plus the Supreme Court team, the Attorney-General's Office team and Yangon City Development Committee team.

First, the golfers took the designated places.

Before the opening ceremony, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and General Khin Nyunt and party arrived at the venue at 5.45 am and greeted the golfers.

Next, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and Minister

Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint teed string balls off to open the tournament.

The team comprising Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe, Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa and Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun, the team comprising Minister at the Prime Minister's Office U Ko Lay, Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung, Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, Minister for Labour U Tin Winn and Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, that of Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office Maj-Gen Thein Swe and Minister for Co-operatives Maj-Gen Htay Oo participated in the tournament. Similarly, 33 teams took part in the first round of the tournament.

This morning, the second and final round of the golf tournament followed. Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, ministers and deputy ministers as well as 33 ministry teams participated in the golf tournament.

The ceremony to present prizes to winners in the golf tournament was held at the club house of Okkalapa Golf Resort at 6 pm today, attended by Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and General Khin Nyunt. Before the ceremony, vocalists to the accompaniment of Myanmar Athan modern music troupe

presented songs. Also present on the occasion were members of the State Peace and Development Council, the chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command, ministers, the chief justice, the attorney-general, the auditor-general, the chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board, the mayor, deputy ministers, officials and golfers.

First, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and General Khin Nyunt cordially greeted the players.

Next, Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint gave a speech.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe presented first, second and third prizes to teams from the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Finance and Revenue and the Ministry of Home Affairs respectively in the team handicap event and in the team scratch event and gifts for markers to the administrator of Yangon Golf Resort.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than presented prizes to team leaders for best losers in the team handicap and scratch events, most birdie, most par, longest drive and nearest pin awards to respective winners, first, second and third prizes to Maj Tin Ko Ko (Defence), Maj Khin Zaw Win (Defence) and Maj Moe Aung (Defence) in the individual handicap and scratch events and prizes to winners in the best scorer

teams.

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win also gave away prizes to the players from best scorer teams individually.

Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint also presented prizes to winners at fourth to 20th positions in the individual handicap event.

On behalf of the State Peace and Development Council Chairman Senior General Than Shwe, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt presented the championship trophy to the leaders of the Ministry of Defence team which won first prizes in the team handicap and scratch events.

After the ceremony, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than posed for documentary photos together with the Ministry of Defence team

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Vice-Senior General Maung Aye participates in the State Peace and Development Council Chairman's Trophy Golf Tournament. — MNA

## Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation formed in order to promote wider and greater functions of Myanmar women sector

### Prime Minister discusses formation of MWAF

YANGON, 20 Dec— Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt met officials of women's affairs sector at the National Theatre on Myoma Kyaung Street this afternoon and gave instructions on formation of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation.

Present were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command

Maj-Gen Myint Swe, the ministers, the chief justice, the attorney-general, the Yangon mayor, the deputy ministers, the vice-mayor, officials of women's affairs sector, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of departments and officials.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt delivered an address. He said he would discuss formation of a women organization that would take charge of Myanmar women sector widely. He said over half of the population in Myanmar are women. The functions of the women sector are becoming wider and greater. He said Myanmar is participating in activities of the world women sector. The Myanmar National Committee for Women's Affairs was formed in accord with guidance on international women's affairs sector laid down at the fourth world women's conference held in Beijing and tasks for development of Myanmar women sector were carried out.

As a committee for women affairs, MNCWA including majority of the government

service personnel has limits to undertake the matters of the entire Myanmar women widely and effectively. Moreover, international activities for the care and development of the women sector are growing, he said. Relations with UN agencies and international social organizations have to be extended.

He said Head of State Senior General Than Shwe had given guidance on formation of a wider organization from a committee in order to promote the measures of Myanmar women sector.

Therefore, he said, Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation is to be formed to be able to take measures for Myanmar women sector effectively, to ensure participation of Myanmar women and to enable the federation to stand as an organization responsible for women sector.

He said Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation will be established with the following lofty aims—to promote the role of women in building a peaceful modern developed nation, to

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On behalf of Senior General Than Shwe, General Khin Nyunt presents championship trophy to Ministry of Defence team in team handicap and scratch events of State Peace and Development Council Chairman's Trophy Golf Tournament. MNA