

# The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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## Internal unity

In the course of history, our country once lost her independence and sovereignty due to the absence of a Tatmadaw that was able to repulse the colonialists. Hence, the Tatmadaw must be a strong, efficient and modern institution. Only then will it be able to safeguard the nation, ensuring that even an inch of the territory will not be subject to alien intrusion.

We must have internal unity so that the sovereignty will be free from transgression.

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



Senior General Than Shwe views scenes of PyinOoLwin from the tower.— MNA

## Senior General Than Shwe inspects National Kandawgyi Gardens in PyinOoLwin

YANGON, 21 Dec—Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe inspected Nanmyint Tower at National Kandawgyi Park in PyinOoLwin, Mandalay Division on 18 December morning and gave necessary instructions.

Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior Gen-

eral Than Shwe together with member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, members of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, 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, the commanders and the ministers were reported by Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung on construction of Nanmyint Tower in accordance with the guidance of the Senior General and the salient points of the tower at the restaurant on the ground floor of the tower.

Next, Minister Brig-Gen Thein Aung also reported on upgrading of the National Kandawgyi Gardens, collection and growing of tree and bamboo species at home and abroad and flowery plants including orchid, display of endangered species and greening tasks.

In response to the report, Senior General Than Shwe gave instructions. He said that various kinds of trees and bamboo and flowery plants at home are to be collected and shown at the National Kandawgyi Gardens to enable the enthusiasts to study them at a place, adding that replicas of natural landmarks in the states and divisions are to be shown there. He urged officials concerned to make

efforts to gradually turn the garden into a famous Landmark Garden of Myanmar.

Next, Minister Brig-Gen Thein Aung presented a souvenir to mark the opening of Nanmyint Tower to Senior General Than Shwe.

Afterwards, Senior General Than Shwe and party viewed the scenery of PyinOoLwin from Nanmyint Tower.

Next, Senior General Than Shwe and party inspected the National Kandawgyi Gardens by car.

The Nanmyint Tower was opened on 18 December morning. Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint, Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung and Managing Director of Asia World Co U Tun Myint Naing formally opened the tower.

Next, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win unveiled the stone inscription of the tower.

The Nanmyint Tower was constructed with the aim of enabling the visitors to enjoy the scenery of the environs of PyinOoLwin from it. The 12-storey tower with two lifts includes the viewing deck on the 10th floor that can hold 100 people. There is a reserved room on the 11th floor for meeting and function. The project started on 11 June 2002 and completed on 31 October 2003. It was developed by Asia World Co. — MNA

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#### Circulation

23,599

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



Scenic and idyllic view of National Kandawgyi Gardens in PyinOoLwin seen from the tower.— MNA

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

## PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 22 December, 2003

### For flourishing of Union Spirit and perpetuation of the State

At the three training schools in Zeebingyi, PyinOoLwin Township, Mandalay Division—Central Training School of Myanmar Police Force under the Ministry of Home Affairs; Central Fire Services Training School of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement; and the Central Institute of Civil Service (Upper Myanmar) of the Civil Service Selection and Training Board—trainees from states and divisions are being taught how to enhance their work proficiency and to possess correct belief and concept for the State and the people.

The curricula and training schedules are drawn in line with nation-building endeavours.

Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe, on 17 December, gave guidance on training centres of Zeebingyi at the Central Fire Services Training School in Zeebingyi.

In his guidance, the Senior General said that with correct objectives for development of the nation, flourishing of Union Spirit and perpetuation of the State, trainees are to be nurtured at the training schools.

At the Central Training School of Myanmar Police Force, members of MPF are being trained to become the ones equipped with Union Spirit and firm belief and to become reserve force for defending the nation. Agriculture and livestock breeding tasks are being carried out at the training school.

At the Central Fire Services Training School, basic and advanced fire fighting courses for the staff of Fire Services Department and members of Auxiliary Fire Brigade are being conducted. They are being trained to become the ones capable of standing as a reserve force to carry out national defence duties. The outstanding ones have been sent abroad for further studies. Moreover, members of the departments are being trained to possess full sense of Union Spirit and patriotism. Agriculture and livestock breeding tasks are also being carried out at the training school.

Similarly, at CICS (Upper Myanmar) service personnel are being trained to become the ones capable of serving the interest of the people. Agriculture and livestock breeding tasks, and staff welfare services are being carried out at the institute.

With the aim of realizing the goal of the State—development of the nation, flourishing of Union Spirit and perpetuation of the State—officials concerned are urged to strive for the success of the courses of the three training schools.

### Lt-Gen Maung Bo supplicates on construction of Maha Siddhi Jaya Pagoda, meets departmental staff

YANGON, 21 Dec — A religious ceremony to seek Ovadha Katha from member of State Central Working Committee of the Sangha Presiding Sayadaw of Shwe Thuwun Monastery Agga Maha Saddhama Jotika Dhaja Bhaddanta Saddhiya concerning the construction of Maha Siddhi Jaya Pagoda on Sandawut Hill in Myeik, Taninthayi Division, was held at the Dhamayon of the pagoda on 19 December morning.

Present on the occasion were member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Taninthayi Division PDC Commander of Coastal Region Command Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, members of the pagoda construction committee and departmental officials.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo presented offertories to the Sayadaw, and Superintending Engineer U Ba Wan of Public Works reported on the pagoda construction tasks. Lt-Gen Maung Bo supplicated on construction of the pagoda, also a replica of the Shwedagon Pagoda, in conformity with the Ovadha Katha of Sayadaws. Next, the Sayadaw of Shwe Thuwun Monastery delivered the Ovadha Katha. And the Sayadaw, Lt-Gen Maung Bo and commander viewed round the construction site.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo supplicated to the Sayadaw on construction of retaining walls and circular roads for the durability of the pagoda and gave necessary instructions to officials.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Maung Bo met with service personnel of Taninthayi Division at Pale Yadana hall in Myeik. Commander Brig-Gen Ohn Myint reported on arrangements for divisional self-sufficiency of food, cultivation targets—500,000 acres of oil palm crops, 200,000 acres of rubber and 26,000 acres of pepper—and efforts for smooth transportation, mining, development of fish and meat sector, enough supply of irrigation water, boosting of crops yield and use of machinery in agricultural work.

Departmental officials concerned also reported on their respective tasks.

Next, Lt-Gen Maung Bo gave instructions, saying that after laying down the development projects, the State is implementing them for the equitable development of all sectors across the nation. That is why, for the sake of the division, departmental officials and staff are to make efforts for the development of the region in accord with the policies adopted by the State. Later, Lt-Gen Maung Bo attended to the requirements. — MNA

### Acting Course No 2/2003 concludes

YANGON, 21 Dec—The Acting Course No 2/2003 of Myanmar Motion Picture Asiayon concluded at the Asiayon on Wingaba Street in Bahan Township here this morning, attended by Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Thein, Managing Director U Bo Kyi of Myanmar Motion Picture Enterprise and officials, the Chairman of Myanmar Mo-

tion Picture Asiayon and officials, course supervisors, course instructors, actor trainees and guests.

First, Chairman of Myanmar Motion Picture Asiayon U Sein Tin made a speech and presented certificates of honour, completion certificates and prizes to course supervisors, course instructors and outstanding trainees and two staff.

Next, an actor trainee spoke words of thanks and the ceremony ended. — MNA

### People's Desire

- \* Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views
- \* Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of the State and progress of the nation
- \* Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State
- \* Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy

### Objectives of the 56th Anniversary of Independence Day

- All the national people to collectively safeguard the national independence and ensure perpetuation of sovereignty
- All the national people to be united to ensure non-disintegration of national solidarity
- All the national people to strive for the emergence of enduring State Constitution and for the building of a new, modern and developed nation
- All the national people to participate with full sense of Union Spirit and Patriotism in the successful implementation of the seven-point roadmap of the State.

### 56th Anniversary

#### Independence Day Exhibition

Date — 3rd to 11th January 2004

Time — 9 am to 5 pm

Place — Tatmadaw Hall on U Wisara Road, Yangon.  
(Free entrance)

### FM leaves for India to attend India-Myanmar-Thailand Highway Project

YANGON, 21 Dec — A Myanmar delegation led by U Win Aung, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, left here by air for New Delhi, India, this morning to attend the Ministerial Meeting on India-Myanmar-Thailand Highway Project.

The delegation was seen off at Yangon International Airport by Deputy Ministers for Foreign Affairs U Khin Maung Win and U Kyaw Thu, Directors General of the ministry and Charged Affairs a.i. of the Embassy of India Mr Rajinder Khanna.

Minister U Win Aung was accompanied by Director of the Political Department U Aung Than. An advance delegation led by Di-

rector General of International Organizations and Economic Department U Win Mya left here earlier for New Delhi to attend the Task Force Meetings on Finance and Technical Matters scheduled to be held before the Ministerial Meeting. U Ye Myint, Director, Political Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, U Soe Thein, Director, Budget Department, Ministry of Finance and Revenue, and U Ngwe Htun, Director, Public Works, Ministry of Construction were in the advance delegation.

MNA

### Vietnamese delegation arrives

YANGON, 21 Dec — Vietnamese delegation led by Minister for Commerce of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Mr Truong Dinh Tuyem arrived here this evening to attend the second meeting of the Joint Committee for Myanmar-Vietnam Trade.

The delegation was welcomed at Yangon International Airport by Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Tun, the director-general and managing directors of the department and enterprises under the ministry, Vietnamese Ambassador Mr Pham Quang Khon and officials. — MNA



Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan attends the closing ceremony of the Acting Course No 2/2003. — MNA



# US troops kill four pro-Saddam protestors

**BAGHDAD, 21 Dec**—Four Iraqis were killed in a Sunni district of Baghdad earlier this week during an exchange of fire with US troops who tried to quell a pro-Saddam demonstration, US and Iraqi sources said.

A number of American soldiers were also wounded in the December 15 incident, a senior US officer told *AFP* on Saturday without giving an exact figure.

"US troops opened fire indiscriminately on a spontaneous demonstration" staged in the Adhamiyeh neighbourhood of northern Baghdad in reaction to the announcement of the capture

of Saddam Hussein, said an official from the Association of Muslim Ulama, which groups Sunni religious scholars.

## Protesters killed

"Four protestors were killed and others were injured," Shaikh Abd al-Salam al-Kubaisi told *AFP*.

Black banners carrying the names of the four victims were strung outside a

mosque in Adhamiyeh on Saturday.

The four—Uthman al-Nuaiman, Umar Abd al-Wahhab, Bilal Hindawi and Usama al-Mashhadani—were "felled by US bullets on December 15," the banners said.

Witnesses had said on the day of the demonstration that the protest turned into a clash with police during which two

police stations were attacked and security men opened fire to disperse the protesters.

## Deaths confirmed

Brigadier General Mark Hertling, assistant division commander in the 1st Armoured Division deployed in Baghdad, confirmed that "four (people) were killed, seven wounded and 23 captured" during Monday's incident.

"A number of American soldiers were wounded" when "shots were exchanged," he said, adding that pro-Saddam demonstrations are "outlawed."

*Internet*

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## Arab League delegation visits Baghdad

**BAGHDAD, 21 Dec**—A delegation from the Arab League visited Baghdad today to hold talks with members of the US-appointed Iraqi Governing Council and other Iraqi officials.

Ahmed bin Helli, Arab League assistant secretary-general for political affairs, said the delegation came to assess developments in Iraq and how the Cairo-based league can help.

"We are visiting Iraq as a delegation from the Arab League to see what's going on in Iraq and to discuss and talk with Iraqi officials, with the governing council and with the political forces to see how we can help the Iraqi people, and to see what the Arab League and Arab countries can offer to Iraq," bin Helli said.

The delegation's visit comes a week after the capture of former Iraqi ruler Saddam Hussein.—*Internet*



*Iraqi women walks past US troops during an operation in Al Wash village some 100 km north-east from Baquba in central Iraq on 20 Dec, 2003. Soldiers of the US Army's 4th Infantry Division searched remote village looking for hidden weapons and training area for members of a suspected cell planning attacks on coalition forces.—INTERNET*

## JMA asks for permission to examine Saddam's health

**AMMAN, 21 Dec**—The Jordan Medical Association (JMA) has asked the World Health Organization (WHO) for permission to examine former Iraqi president Saddam Hussein's health condition, the *Jordan Times* reported Friday.

In written request to the WHO, the JMA said the decision is for humanitarian, not political reasons.

"Television footage of the subdued and ragged-looking leader aired all over the

world revealed that he was in ill health," said JMA vice-president Yousef Othman.

Othman stressed that the decision is "in line with the rights granted internationally to prisoners of war".

The WHO has not yet answered JMA's request. Saddam, who had been on the run for eight months since his regime collapsed on April 9, was captured Saturday evening in an underground hole near his hometown of Tikrit in northern Iraq. — *MNA/Xinhua*

## Libya says to give up weapons of mass destruction

**TRIPOLI, 21 Dec**—Libya said here it would eliminate all its weapons of mass destruction.

The North African country's Foreign Ministry said in a statement Libya "had decided on its free will to... completely eliminate the internationally banned weapons of mass destruction".

The statement said the agreement was reached after meetings with "experts" from Britain and the United States. No details were immediately available on the nature of these meetings, where they took place and when.

The text, of which an excerpt was obtained by *Reuters*, said the decision was in line with Libya's pledge to make the Middle East and Africa a nuclear-free area.

It said Libya had decided to keep only missiles "of the range and specification agreed under (requirements of) the MTCR" (Missile Technology Control Regime).

*MNA/Reuters*

## Anti-Bush Iraq documentary makes party circuit

**LOS ANGELES, 21 Dec**—In the midst of a film industry crackdown on digital movie piracy, filmmaker Robert Greenwald is urging rampant, unauthorized copying of his documentary criticizing the Bush Administration's reasons for invading Iraq.

The 56-minute film, "Uncovered: The Whole Truth about the Iraq War", concludes that President George W. Bush and his team distorted intelligence data and misled the American public ahead of the March invasion that toppled the regime of Saddam Hussein.

Greenwald has bypassed movie theatres and television, and instead has organized "parlour screenings" in thousands of homes across the United States with the help of Internet-based liberal advocacy group. People attending can buy DVD or VHS copies that they in turn are urged to reproduce and pass along for free to others.

"You have my permission to give it away. This film is meant to be a tool, so you will take it and do with it as you will," Greenwald implored a recent audience in Los Angeles. Some 50,000 copies have been sold, raising nearly 800,000 US dollars, since the campaign began in November, organizers said.

Greenwald said proceeds will go toward the cost of the film and future projects. Last Sunday alone, nearly 3,000 parlour screenings were held simultaneously where "Uncovered" was seen by about 100,000

people, said co-producer Kate McCordle.

Greenwald, whose previous credits include the feature film "Steal This Movie" about 1960s radical Abbie Hoffman, believes his film may be the first to be widely circulated in such a manner. It's a strategy that runs contrary to current Hollywood studio policy to carefully control film distribution and safeguard intellectual property at all costs.

"It's real democracy in action," he told *Reuters*. The film features former CIA officials, diplomats, weapons inspectors and military experts rebutting administration prewar assertions that Iraq posed a threat to the United States. They conclude the White House exaggerated, ignored or manipulated intelligence to fabricate reasons for deposing Hussein.

Their comments are juxtaposed with statements by President Bush, Vice-President Dick Cheney, Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and other officials making a case that Iraq was aligned with terrorists and held weapons of mass destruction.

As intended, the film has become a rallying cry for anti-war activists and Bush Administration critics.—*MNA/Reuters*



*A soldier of the US Army's 4th Infantry Division reports on radio about AK-47 rifle and clips (in his hands) found during an operation 'Lonestar Expedition' in Al Wash village in central Iraq on 20 Dec, 2003. US troops searched remote village looking for hidden weapons and training area for members of a suspected cell planning attacks on coalition forces.—INTERNET*

## Bulgarian President calls for stronger UN presence in Iraq

SOFIA, 21 Dec—The United Nations (UN) should boost their presence in Iraq, Bulgaria's President Georgi Parvanov said Saturday.

He also said that military operations in the war-torn country could not put an end to international terrorism, on the contrary - to a certain extent, they made violence aggravate.

Earlier in December, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan demanded a more clearly defined role of the organization in Iraq. Annan also insisted that forming a provisional government in the country was an urgent task, and that the process had to be fully transparent in order to secure stability in the region.

Earlier on Saturday, Parvanov was awarded Best Politician for 2003 after a voting initiated by Sofia-based Darik Radio. He scored about 48 % of the votes, thus leaving behind the other nominees, including Sofia Mayor Stefan Sofianski, Foreign Minister Solomon Passy and Finance Minister Milen Velchev.

The appraisal for the Bulgarian head of state comes second in a year after he swept this year's Man of the Year prize given out by Club M magazine at a ceremony in the end of November.—Internet

## Three Iraqi policemen mistakenly killed by US troops

KIRKUK, (Iraq)—21 Dec—Three Iraqi policemen, mistakenly taken for guerrillas, were killed overnight by US troops near Salman Pak south of the northern Iraqi city of Kirkuk, an Iraqi policeman told AFP.

"The police had a roadblock on the road linking Kirkuk and Baghdad. An America patrol arrived around 0200 (2300 GMT Friday) and opened fire, taking the police to be guerrillas," said Second Lieutenant Salam Zankana.

The three dead men were named as Ahmed Hussein, Abdelrahman Saleh and Saqr Naji Hussein.

The US army told AFP it was investigating the incident.—Internet



*Iraqi police block a road during clashes with guerrillas. Three Iraqi policemen, mistakenly taken for guerrillas, were killed overnight by US troops near a roadblock at Salman Pak.—INTERNET*

## Poll shows US hospitals burdened by obese patients

WASHINGTON, 21 Dec—US hospitals are buying expensive new equipment such as reinforced toilets and oversized beds to treat the growing number of severely obese patients, according to a survey released on Thursday.

Novation, a group-purchasing organization for hospitals and other health-care institutions, found that hospitals are seeing more severely obese patients, people who are overweight by at least 100 pounds.

The group quoted 80 per cent of hospitals as saying they had treated more severely obese patients in the last year than ever before, with 17 per cent saying they had remodelled to accommodate the largest patients. "We are finding that hospitals across the country are buying more large-size beds, larger blood pressure cuffs, wider, reinforced wheelchairs and larger versions of other basic supplies to adjust to patient needs," Jody Hatcher, senior vice-president of Novation, said in a statement.

More than 30 per cent of US adults are obese, according to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. This translates to 59 million people. Obesity is defined as having a body mass index of 30 or more. BMI

is a measure of weight versus height, and serious health implications such as heart disease which kicks in at BMIs of 30 and above. This can mean being as few as 30 pounds above desired weight. But as obesity becomes more common in the United States, so does extreme obesity.

Web sites such as <http://fatcities.com> offer furniture to accommodate people weighing 500 pounds and more, while <http://funeraldepot.com> has a line of oversized caskets.

Wausau Hospital in Wausau, Wisconsin, told Novation it spent 200,000 US dollars this year to remodel rooms, order special equipment and train staff to deal with extremely obese patients. "We've had to buy special, longer surgical gloves and even needles and syringes," said Kent Demien, director of materials management at Wausau. "Standard equipment becomes obsolete on many of our larger patients."

Demien said many patients or hospital visitors are too heavy

for a wall-mounted toilet, which can handle up to 300 pounds. The hospital plans to replace them with pedestal commodes that can support 2,000 pounds.

The Novation survey polled administrators from 69 US hospitals representing small, rural hospitals and large urban centres.—MNA/Reuters

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## EU attacks American trade policy

BRUSSEL, 21 Dec—The European Commission, the executive arm of the European Union, increased its pressure Friday on United States trade barriers by publishing a catalogue of American obstacles to business.

The 2003 report, named "US Barriers to Trade and Investment," lists problems in sectors as diverse as national security restrictions, government procurement, veterinary requirements and pharmaceutical testing.

The 85-page annual report repeats long-running gripes about complex Customs procedures, unilateralism and extraterritorial provisions of many US states, which punish European companies dealing in countries led by supposedly dubious regimes.

The EU needs to review regularly those obstacles

which exist and pursue action to remove them, EU Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy said.

"This will ensure that business on both sides of the Atlantic benefit from clearer, more transparent trading conditions," he added.

Nonetheless, Lamy also said that the vast majority of transatlantic trade passes unhindered. The EU and the US are each other's most important trade partners. In 2002, exports of EU goods to the US amounted to 240 billion euros, while imports from the US amounted to 176 billion euros.—MNA/Xinhua

## Bremer says he survived ambush in Baghdad

BASRA, 21 Dec—Iraq's U.S. administrator Paul Bremer had a narrow escape in early December when his convoy was hit by an explosive device and came under small arms fire in Baghdad.

"Yes, this is true, but thankfully I am still alive and here I am in front of you," Bremer told reporters on Friday.

The attack took place on the same day US Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld was visiting Baghdad.

A Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA) official told Reuters that an inquiry into the incident was under way and that US authorities were investigating whether the guerrillas planned to kill Bremer or were targeting a Western convoy.

The convoy was able to speed away after the ambush and no one was injured. Bremer, a counter-terrorism expert, travels in an armoured civilian vehicle convoy surrounded by a large group of heavily armed burly guards with automatic rifles who accompany him everywhere.

Underlining security fears after bombings and rocket attacks, US soldiers have cut down trees along the dividing island on the airport road to deprive guerrillas of hiding places for attacks.—MNA/Reuters

## Bowen protests war in Iraq

BONEN, 21 Dec — protestors in Bowen gathered recently to join millions of people around the world to voice their opposition to a war in Iraq.

The protest song was one of the highlights of the Bowen event. Locals gathered in the town square, and were given the opportunity to get up and have their say about war in Iraq.

It wasn't the only town in North Queensland joining the protest.

Hundreds of people in communities including Magnetic Island and Townsville also protested the likely war.—Internet

## HU Jintao foresees stronger links with Spain

BEIJING, 21 Dec—Chinese President Hu Jintao said here Friday China is ready to join efforts with Spain to push bilateral relations to a new level in the new century.

Hu made the remarks during a meeting with Ana Palacio, Spanish Foreign

Minister, Juan Antonio Samaranch, former chairman of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), and other Spanish officials attending the Sino-Spanish forum held in Beijing.

Hu said the forum has built a new bridge of friendly ex-

changes between the peoples of the two countries. He said the forum is of great significance for deepening mutual understanding and friendship and promoting bilateral exchanges and cooperation in all areas.

MNA/Xinhua



*More than 1,000 South Korean protesters march after their anti-war and anti-government rally near the US Embassy in Seoul, on 20 Dec, 2003. The Korean letters say 'Oppose troop dispatch.'—INTERNET*



## CONTINUING RESISTANCE AGAINST US TROOPS



Soldiers of the US Army's 4th Infantry Division patrol during operation 'Lonestar Expedition' in Al Wash village in central Iraq on 20 December, 2003. US troops searched remote village looking for hidden weapons and training area for members of a suspected cell planning attacks on coalition forces. —INTERNET



An Iraqi policeman and US soldiers (background) man a checkpoint in northern Baghdad. Three Iraqi policemen—mistaken for guerillas — were killed by US troops near the northern Iraqi city of Kirkuk.—INTERNET



A US soldier guards two arrested Iraqi men during a raid in Tikrit, on 13 December, 2003.—INTERNET



US soldiers walk past graffiti reading 'Long live Saddam' as they search a house in Tikrit on 20 December, 2003. — INTERNET



Iraqi policemen inspect the wreckage of a truck after an attack in Baghdad on 17 December, 2003. The bomb by a fuel truck set off a huge fireball in which at least 17 people were killed in Baghdad on Wednesday, as violence gripped Iraq in the wake of the capture of Saddam Hussein.—INTERNET



A US soldier takes cover while an Iraqi man use crutches standing on the entrance to his house in Samarra on 17 December, 2003. A major operation named Operation Ivy Blizzard began early Wednesday morning in Samarra which targeted a large number of wanted men and suspected weapons caches.—INTERNET

Hailing the 56th Anniversary Independence Day:

# Safeguarding the independence

After facing three aggressive wars of the colonialists, Myanmar fell under subjugation in 1247 ME. Myanmar was under the enslavement for 123 years including the years to live as a British colony and the years under the Fascist occupation.

The people of Myanmar had launched anti-colonialist struggle, the anti-Fascist struggle and the independence movement to regain independence and sovereignty. Myanmar restored her independence on 4 January 1948.

Sadly, the Burma

between the BCP and the ruling AFPFL Government in 1949 for leftist solidarity, split into two factions — the Yebaw Wa and the Yebaw Phyu. Members of the Yebaw Phyu later fueled the internal armed conflict.

The wide-spread internal armed conflict in the nation caused political and military difficulties for the ruling AFPFL government. The situation of the AFPFL government was so bad that it was even dubbed "the Yangon Government" in the news-

All the responsibilities to solve the political and military problems of the State fell on the Commander-in-Chief and the Tatmadaw. With all its available manpower and firepower, the Tatmadaw had to strive to end the internal conflict, resulting from the armed oppositions, through military means.

## Ketu Nila

The Tatmadaw also launched the political campaign to end it. Although the spreading of internal conflict in the

the defence minister and the home affairs minister back to the State, and discharged his normal military duties.

However, because of the expulsion of the Communist Party from the AFPFL, the armed insurgency of the KNDO and the armed opposition of the Phyuithu Yebaw (Yebaw Phyu), the ruling

1956 Pyithu Hluttaw general election, the Union of Myanmar National United Front (Pa-ma-nya-ta) including the Workers and Peasants Party (the Red Socialist Party) stood as the main opposition political group of the AFPFL. The opposition won 45 seats and the AFPFL won only about 10,000 votes more than the Pa-ma-nya-ta. Thus, the then prime minister, the leader of the AFPFL, came to realize the declining public support for his party. The ruling AFPFL party used various means by hook or

Thus, the parliamentary system was only in name then. The people were not able to vote as they wished. Authority, guns, money, murders, pressures and threats were the only tools or means used to serve the purpose.

The people did not have the democratic rights. Understanding the situation, the AFPFL chairman, who wished to take the political opportunity, tried to remove the opposition groups within the party and the departmental heads under the slogan to purge the AFPFL. His campaign resulted in the split of the AFPFL into two rival factions — the AFPFL (Clean) and the AFPFL (Stable). In the 1960 election, the AFPFL (Clean) and the AFPFL (Stable) vied for political victory. The AFPFL (Clean) won the election and there emerged the Pa-ha-sa government.

Sadly, the AFPFL, which was a national united front, with fine traditions in the anti-colonialist struggle, anti-Fascist struggle and the independence struggle, met its end in the politics of Myanmar. So also, the role of political leaders whose part was great and important in the national liberation movement vanished due to factional and ideological prejudices.

Although the AFPFL met its end in Myanmar political history the Tatmadaw carried on shouldering the national security and defence duty constantly. There had been the historical evidences that the Tatmadaw safeguarded newly independent Myanmar not to lose her independence and sovereignty while discharging the national duty. (Translation: TMT)



*After regaining the Independence people in the country were overjoyed for being independent looking the Independence Monument. But due to differences in ideology and disunity in the leadership, they were not able to fully enjoy the fruits of Independence.*

Communist Party (BCP), embracing the extreme leftist ideologies and existing under alien influence, went underground and launched the armed opposition against the nation on 28 March 1948, saying that the independence was a "fake". The internal armed conflict began in the nation from that time. The Pyithu Yebaw (PVO), which tried to bridge the gap of differences

papers of the world. The AFPFL government was unable to restore the situation. The ministers resigned and handed over their powers back to the then Prime Minister. The prime minister assigned the then Commander-in-Chief the duties of the deputy prime minister, the defence minister and the home affairs minister, to ensure the rule of law and community peace and to end the internal conflict.

whole nation did not completely end, the Tatmadaw was able to put the district towns and townships back under the administration of the then government. It was able to restore the rule of law and community peace. The armed opposition groups had fled to hamlets in the far corners of the nation. The Commander-in-Chief handed over the duties of the deputy prime minister,

deterioration of national unity during the period from 1947 to 1949.

In 1950-51, there surfaced disagreements in the Socialist Party, the core of the AFPFL, resulting from the international political problems of that time. The group led by the deputy leaders of the Socialist Party broke away and formed the Workers and Peasants Party (the Red Socialist Party). In the

by crook to win the election. During the parliamentary democracy era, the ruling AFPFL party committed many mysterious political murders that could not be brought to justice, blackmails and bullying, and vote rigging. Likewise, the armed BCP insurgents bullied rural people with killings and death threats to keep them away from balloting for the AFPFL.



Hailing the 56th Anniversary Independence Day:

# Endeavours to safeguard independence



*Although Yebawphyu and Yebawwah pledged to rebuild the nation in April 1951, the goal was not realized and faced with internal insurgency due to ideological differences.*



*In May 1952, Myanma Tatmadaw was on the march to seize the headquarters of Communist Party (White Flag) which had gone underground due to ideological differences.*



*In 1949, Myanma Tatmadaw had to quell the armed insurgency that fueled the flame of internal conflict at the battle in Insein.*



*The last conference of AFPFL held at the foot of Kaba Aye Pagoda in progress before their disintegration. At that time, the situation of the AFPFL government was so bad that it was even dubbed "the Yangon Government" in the newspapers of the world.*

**In the early period of Independence, Burma Communist Party (BCP), embracing the extreme leftist ideologies and existing under alien influence, went underground and launched the armed opposition against the nation on 28 March 1948 saying that the independence was a "fake". The Pyithu Yebaw (PYO), which tried to bridge the gap of differences between the BCP and the ruling AFPFL Government in 1949 for leftist solidarity, split into two factions — the Yebaw Wa and the Yebaw Phyu.**



*To end the internal armed insurgency, Myanma Tatmadaw retook Zeyawady in 1951 in an effort to keep districts and townships under the administration of the government.*

Senior General Than Shwe hears reports on matters related to Nanmyint Tower at National Kandawgyi Gardens by Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung.— MNA



## Senior General Than Shwe inspects National Kandawgyi Gardens in PyinOoLwin



Senior General Than Shwe inspects Nanmyint Tower at National Kandawgyi Gardens.— MNA



Secretary-1 Li-Gen Soe Win unveils stone plaque of Nanmyint Tower at National Kandawgyi Gardens in PyinOoLwin.— MNA

## Myanmar Floriculturists Association holds Floral Show and Contest

YANGON, 21 Dec— The Floral Show and Contest to mark the 10th Anniversary of Myanmar Floriculturists Association was opened in front of Yadana Restaurant at People's Square and People's Park, here, this morning, attended by Chairperson of the panel of patrons of the association Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe.

Also present were members of the panel of patrons Daw Khin Lay Thet, officials of the association, wives of diplomats of foreign missions and guests.

Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe accepted the message sent by Minister of Environment of Japan to mark the 10th founding Anniversary of the association. Next, Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe and Daw Khin Lay Thet opened the show and contest. The guests viewed the prize winning flowery plants, photos and sale centre.

Afterwards, the paper-reading session chaired by Dr

Khin Maung Nyunt and co-chaired by Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe followed. The resource persons were introduced to the audience. Next, six resource persons presented their papers.

Later, the prize presentation ceremony for the floral and photo contests followed. Officials presented prizes to the respective winners.

Next, Chairman of the association U Nyunt Pe accepted K 200,000 donated by patrons of the association through Secretary of the panel of patrons Daw Khin Hla Hla; K 500,000 by Shwe Nandaw Jewellery Shop; K 500,000 by Myanma Awba Co Ltd; K 70,000 by Myanmar Association in Japan and others.

Patron of the association Daw Kyin Khaing presented gifts to those who contributed to organizing the ceremony. The paper-reading session will be held up to 22 December and the show up to 25 December.— MNA

## Traditional Medicine & Medical Equipment Exhibition continues

YANGON, 21 Dec— The Fourth Traditional Medicine and Medical Equipment Exhibition, continued for the fifth day at Tatmadaw Convention Hall on U Wisara Road today.

Altogether 134 booths including the booth of Traditional Medicine Department, Medical Research Department (Lower Myanmar), that of Traditional Medicine Research, that of the Ministry of Forestry, the Ministry of Industry-1, the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and booths of private traditional medicine producers and dealers together with machines for manufacturing traditional medicines and raw materials were displayed at the exhibition.

Over 45,000 people and members of the Sangha visited the exhibition today. Everybody may visit the exhibition from 9 am to 6 pm daily up to 26 December.— MNA



# Geosciences contribute towards development of various sectors by exploiting valuable geo-resources for national interests

## Prime Minister attends ceremony to form Myanmar Geosciences Society

YANGON, 21 Dec— A ceremony to form Myanmar Geosciences Society was held at Myanmar Information Technology this morning, with an address by Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt.

Also present were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, the ministers, the Yangon mayor, the deputy ministers, senior military officers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of departments and geoscientists, Chairman and executives of the MGS and members and guests.

In his address, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt said the State Peace and Development Council has been enhancing the respective national forces in the various development sectors to enable the Union of Myanmar to keep abreast with international communities. With the collective might of the national forces, the government is building stable and strong political, economic and social foundations systematically.

He said he believed that establishment of a consolidated national force including intellectuals and intelligentsia from the academic

field contributes much towards the national development. He also believed that MGS will cooperate with other already-established national forces and become a major force which can promote the interest of the nation and its people.

Now, endeavours are being made for the national interest combined with the existing national resources of the State and technological might of the respective fields. By doing so, it is very important to turn out brilliant intellectuals and intelligentsia in the respective fields. It is also necessary to organize scholars for establishment of consolidated national forces in the respective fields, he added.

He said rapid development of science and technology in the world causes great gap between the rich and the poor and technological gap among the nations of the world. Moreover, some nations with superior wealth and technology are also expanding their powers, creating conditions to deepen such gaps, he said.

He said Myanmar is fighting against the pressure and oppression of some big nations in order not to fall under their influence. At the same time, the government is building the nation with the might of intellectuals and intelligentsia for developing science and technology,

turning out brilliant human resources, becoming strong national economic life and keeping abreast with the nations of the world, he said.

He said geosciences play an important role in national development as well as improvement of national economic life. Geosciences contribute towards the development of various sectors by exploiting valuable geo-resources such as minerals, gems, petroleum and natural gas for national interests, he said.

He said assistance of the geosciences plays a crucial role in construction of infrastructures such as major roads, bridges, dams and reservoirs, workshops and factories, urban development including construction of high-rise buildings.

Therefore, he said, the government has acknowledged the role of geosciences and it is making systematic arrangements for development of this field, turning out brilliant highly-developed scholars and making them to take part in nation-building tasks.

He said the government is giving encouragement to the harmonious development of applied geosciences that developed in the late 20th century such as geophysics, geochemistry, engineering geology, hydrogeology, petroleum geology, gemmology, min-

ing geology, environmental geology.

The post-graduate diploma, MSc M.Res and doctorate courses are being conducted at the Human Resource Development Centre of universities and colleges for development of geosciences and turning out highly-qualified human resources in those branches, he added.

He said the government is making arrangements for geoscientists to participate in national development tasks and economic development tasks.

With the encouragement of the government they are actively taking part in the government departments, private sectors and government and private joint ventures. It is encouraging to note that much natural resources were explored and they are being utilized for national interests, he said.

Cooperation and participation of the geoscientists in construction of major roads, bridges, dams and reservoirs and high-rise buildings are beneficial to the State.

He spoke on achievements of Myanmar geoscientists in drawing of Myanmar's geological map in 1977, exposing Pongtaung Primate fossils in 1977 and presentation of anthropoid primates excavated in Myanmar. They are significant achievements

the State with the application of their skill, he urged the scholars to make endeavours in unity for their improvement of technical efficiency and spiritual development such as patriotism to develop the nation and its people and nationalist spirit of building the nation free from influence of other nations.

He said it is not the time for the government alone to make concerted efforts for development of the nation and the people. All the national people are responsible for the task. With this concept, he urged them to make endeavours for the interests of the nation and the people through their field.

In conclusion, he also urged them to make efforts to enable the Union of Myanmar to stand tall among the nations of the world, to develop the nation and become strong national economy with the application of their skills after exploring valuable resources, to try to become outstanding geoscientists and make efforts for the society to be a national force that serves the interest of the nation.

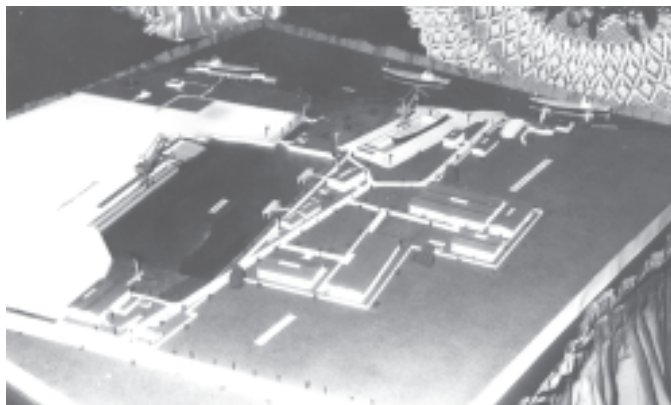
Chairman of Myanmar Geosciences Association Dr U Thein presented the medal to mark the formation of the association to Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt.

by Managing Director U Kyaw Kyaw Hlaing of Smart Co Ltd.

Deputy Minister for Mines U Myint Thein and Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay accepted K 300,000 each by U Ko Gyi of Myaing Hay Wun Housing Estate of Mayangon Township; Managing Director U Zaw Win of Lamin Tayar Co; and Geologist (Petroleum) U Lin Myint of Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise; K 100,000 each by Director U Maung Maung Khin of Santac Technologies; U Kaung Naing of Royal Gems & Jewellery; Director Daw Swe Aye of Pleasant International Business Ltd; U Yi Sein of Chip Electronics; U Maung Maung Naing of Myittamoe Press of Kyaukmyaung; Managing Director U Aye Lwin of Moe International Co Ltd; Managing Director U Khaing Soe of Myay Lat Tha Transport Service Ltd; U Tint Naung of No 57, Mawtin Street; and U Myint Lwin of King and Queen Fashion Shop; K 50,000 each by Shwe Geology Co-operative Society Chairman U Tin Kyaw Than; Technical Director U Aung Myo Thaik of Winner Distribution Network; U Thet Lwin of December Construction Co Ltd; U Soe Nyi Nyi of Doreen Burgers & Snack; U Kyaw Soe Aung of Yadanamyang Street of



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt addresses the formation of Myanmar Geosciences Association.— MNA



The scale model of 12,000-ton capacity dry dock of Myanmar Shipyards. (News on page 16)— MNA

not only for the geoscientists but also for the entire national people, he said.

At a time when the government is giving encouragement to facilitate the success of the geoscientists formation of MGS is very appropriate for the State. He said he believed that significant results will be achieved.

He called on officials and members of MGS to make efforts in unity for development of geosciences and participation in national development tasks in accord with the lofty aims of MGS under the banner of the society.

To serve the interests of

Next, the commander accepted K 100,000 each to the funds of the association donated by the Ministry of Mines; the Ministry of Energy; and Geological Survey and Mineral Exploration Department; K 4 million by Managing Director U Maung Weik of Maung Weik and Family Co Ltd and Director U Soe Myint of FMI Garden Development Ltd; K 1 million and 2,000 FECs by Myanmar Petroleum Resources Ltd (MPRL); K 600,000 by Managing Director Dr Sone Han of Myanmar V-Pile Group of Companies; and K 500,000

Ward 1, Kamayut Township; and Senior Researcher & Programme Officer Daw Shwe Shwe Sein Latt of WRTC.

Then, the Chairman of the association extended greetings. Next, the meeting approved the records and regulations of the association and the temporary executive committee.

Afterwards, tasks carried out by the temporary executive committee and fund-raising programme were submitted.

Later, Dr U Thein gave concluding remarks.

MNA

## Secretary-2 addresses opening of Letpan Dam in Myinmu Township Earthen Dam which is 4,000 feet long and 90 feet high can store 4,910 acre feet of water and irrigate 25,000 acres

YANGON, 21 Dec — The opening ceremony of Letpan Dam in Myinmu Township in Sagaing District, Sagaing Division, was held at the pandal of the dam this morning. Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein attended the ceremony and formally unveiled the stone inscription of the dam.

Also present on the occasion were Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin, Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung, Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe, Minister for Science and Technology U Thaung, departmental heads of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, departmental officials and members of social organizations.

The Secretary-2 delivered



Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein addresses opening ceremony of Letpan Dam in Myinmu Township.— MNA

without considering the economic profits of the project, has placed emphasis on construction of economic and transport infrastructures all over the country essential for the long-term development of the social economic life of the people.

Irrigation facility projects

by diesel have been implemented in the division, irrigating over 67,000 acres of land. In addition, Nyaungbingyi river water pumping project, Indaw river water pumping project, Yay-Budalin river water pumping project, Magyizaik river water pumping project are under

gate 530,00 acres of land in Kyunhla, Ayadaw and Budalin Townships and Kindat Diversion Weir.

— 48 river water pumping projects to irrigate over 67,000 acres of land,

— Underground water tapping projects to irrigate 22,000 acres in Monywa,

increased to 6.5 million acres in 2002-2003. Total acreage of monsoon paddy and summer paddy in Sagaing Division, which stood at 1.4 million acres in 1996-1997, increased to 1.9 million acres in 2002-2003.

I would like to urge all the responsible personnel and the local people to contribute towards the strengthening of national economy by turning the division into the paddy barn of the nation and boosting the yield of pulses and beans, edible oil crops, cotton and sugar cane, capitalizing the existing favourable conditions of the division and encouragement of the State.

The SPDC government, based on goodwill and patriotism, has been striving day and night for the development of the nation, strengthening of national economy and enhancement of the social economic life of the people. Therefore, it has constructed economic infrastructures, transport infrastructures and social infrastructures of the State, after winning the trust of the people.

I would like to urge local people and peasants, realizing the goodwill and noble

the region and its environs.

Afterwards, Minister Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin, pointing out the efforts of the government to raise the living standards of the people, made a speech and urged the local people to maintain the dam and irrigation facilities for their durability.

Next, Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye made an address. In his address, he said, in accordance with the guidance of the Head of State, dams and reservoirs are being constructed in the division aiming at building the Sagaing Division to become the granary of upper Myanmar. He urged local farmers to make efforts for more production.

Afterwards, on behalf of the local people, Secretary of the Myinmu Township Union Solidarity and Development Association U Zaw Win Aung extended greetings.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Thein Sein unveiled the stone inscription of the Letpan Dam. Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye and Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin formally



Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein attending the opening ceremony of Letpan Dam in Myinmu Township.— MNA

an address at the ceremony. He said the dam is the 15th irrigation project in the division and will be able to irrigate over 2500 acres of land. It is known to all that the State Peace and Development Council, relying on the united strength of the national people and technological know-how based on self-reliance basis, has been constructing development infrastructures all over the country systematically with the aim of keeping abreast of the world nations. National and regional projects to raise the living standards of the people are being implemented systematically for the development of all sectors of the State including the agriculture sector, forestry sector, fish and meat sector, and trade sector. Aims of the projects are to bridge the development gap among the regions and to bring about the harmonious development of the State. In realizing the aims, the government,

that help contribute to the effective utilization of land resources by supplying water for agricultural purposes are being implemented in all the favourable regions. Irrigation projects, river water pumping projects and underground water tapping projects are being implemented in all the regions where water is scarce, and construction projects of sluice gates in wetlands under the threat of floods. In so doing, a total of 155 irrigation projects to benefit over 2 million acres of land have been implemented all over the country spending K 67,000 million in the time of the present government. Moreover, Ngwetha dam in Salingyi Township and Yazagyo Dam in Kale Township are under construction.

As the Ayeyawady, the Chindwin and the Mu rivers flow through the division, a total of 48 river water pumping projects including nine run by electric power and 39 run

construction in the division. In some region, though there is no water on the ground, invaluable water bodies lie under ground. Therefore, the government has drilled tube-wells, hand-pump tube-wells and artesian wells systematically in these regions.

In summing up the irrigation facility projects implemented in Sagaing Division, there are — Thaphanseik Multipurpose dam projects or largest irrigation facility projects of the nation to irrigate

ChaungU and Budalin Townships.

— Irrigation facilities supplying water for 27,000 acres of land such as Myaukyama, Htanzalot, Nwekhwe and Kyebinet dams and reservoirs, and

— Ywathaya -99 lakes project to irrigate 10,000 acres in Yinnabin Township.

Thanks to these irrigation facilities cultivated acreage for all kinds of crop in Sagaing Division, which stood at 4.2 million acres in 1996-1997,



Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin.— MNA



Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye.— MNA

aims of the State, to make efforts for enabling the nation to keep abreast of the world nations, effectively employing the development infrastructures. In conclusion, the Secretary-2 urged the local people to make efforts for boosting the yield by making a best use of water irrigated by the dam, to maintain the dam and its water supply facilities for their durability, and to participate in greening tasks of

opened the dam. Later, Secretary-2 and party had a documentary photo taken and inspected the dam. Letpan dam is situated on Latpan Creek at the north of TawchaungOo Village in Myinmu Township. The earthen dam is 4,000 feet long and 90 feet high with a water storage capacity of 4,910 acre feet. The dam will benefit 2,500 acres of irrigated land to cultivate double and mix crops. — MNA



**Hailing the 56th Anniversary Independence Day:****Endeavours for building urban and rural roads  
in the time of the State Peace and Development Council**

The tasks for upgrading of roads and bridges in the rural areas are included in the five rural development tasks laid down by Head of State Senior General Than Shwe. The tables show measures being taken by Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs for upgrading of rural and urban areas.

**Upgrading tasks carried out from 1988 to 2003**  
**Rural roads under Township Development Affairs Departments**

Kind of road	Roads in length in 1988-89 (mile/furlong)	Upgrading tasks carried out from 1988 to 2003 (mile/furlong)	Roads in length 2003 (mile/furlong)
Tarred road	280/7	430/6	711/5
Gravelled road	682/7	2461/2	3144/1
Granite road	673/5	702/2	1375/7
Earthen road	2092/2	15543/2	17635/4
Total	3729/5	19137/4	22867/1

**Upgrading tasks carried out from 1988 to 2003**  
**Urban roads under Township Development Affairs Departments**

Kind of road	Roads in length in 1988 (mile/furlong)	Upgrading tasks carried out from 1988 to 2003 (mile/furlong)	Roads in length 2003 (mile/furlong)
Tarred road	940/7	821/6	1761/7
Gravelled road	724/5	151/5	876/2
Granite road	190/0	110/5	300/5
Earthen road	1060/0	1101/6	2161/6
Total	2915/4	2185/0	5100/4

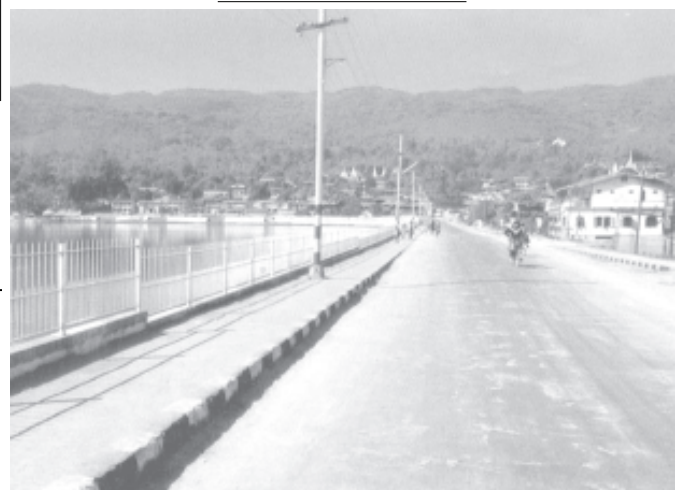
**Tarred road opened**

For better transportation in rural areas, Shwebo-Myitkyina tarred road was opened on a road section in Kachin State.

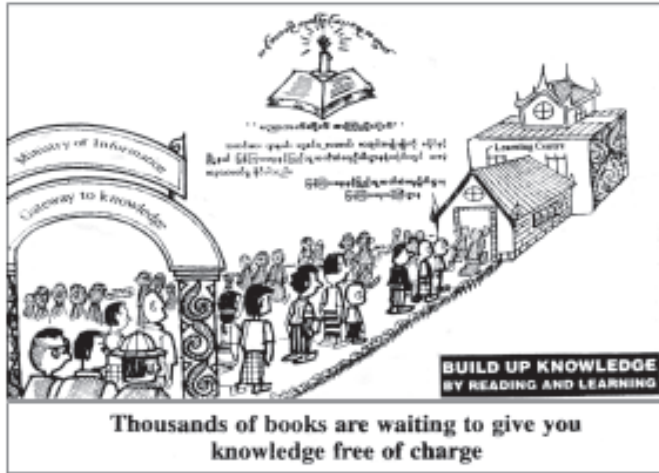


Priority has been given to building of village-to-village roads. The photo shows the building of earthen road linking Kywemington and Ywangan villages in Thayetchaung Township, Taninthayi Division.

Roads are being upgraded not only in rural areas but also in the urban ones. The photo shows the tarring of the Circular Road in Hpa-an.



Circular Road in Pindaya, Shan State, was also upgraded anew.



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Sr No.	Tender No.	Description	Quantity
1.	13(T) 2/MR (E) 2003-2004	(1) Hand Held Tamping Motor (2) Generating Set 3.5 KVA	24 Nos 6 Sets
Closing Date: 22-1-2004 (Thursday) (12:00) Hours Opening Date 22-1-2004 (Thursday) (14:00) Hours			

2. Tender documents are available at the office of the Deputy General Manager (Supply), Myanma Railways, corner of 51st Street and Merchant Street, Botataung, Yangon starting from 22-12-2003 during the office hours.
3. For further details please call: 291982, 201555 Ext: 602, 605, 612.

Deputy General Manager  
Supply Department, Myanma Railways, Botataung, Yangon.

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Dated: 22 December, 2003

သင်တောသစ်ပင်

ချစ်ခင်တဲ့လူမျိုး

သစ်ပင်ကိုနှစ်စဉ်စိုက်

ရွှေတိုက်ကိုစိုက်

### Study shows one in 100 may get travel blood clots

LONDON, 21 Dec—Up to one in 100 long-haul fliers could develop blood clots, and wearing compression stockings, taking aspirin and travelling business class may not help, a study showed on Friday.

New Zealand researchers tested almost 900 passengers who took long-haul flights over a six-week period. The subjects travelled for at least 10 hours and each flew an average of 39 hours.

They discovered nine cases — four of pulmonary embolism and five of deep vein thrombosis (DVT),

which involves the formation of blood clots which can cause death if they invade the lungs or brain.

Seventeen per cent of the passengers in the study by the Medical Research Institute of New Zealand wore compression stockings to aid circulation. Thirty-one per cent took aspirin to thin the blood and reduce the risk of thrombosis.

The team, whose report was carried in *The Lancet* medical journal, said all air travellers were at risk, not just those in economy class.

MNA/Reuters

### Kalam asks scientists to make 200-seater jet aircraft in India

HYDERABAD, 21 Dec — Indian President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam recently asked the aeronautical scientists to work towards a mission of making a 200-seater passenger jet aircraft to propel India into a leadership position in the world.

"Take it as a mission and make it a reality," Kalam said in his address through a video-conference at the two-day seminar on 'Aerospace technology challenges in the millennium'.

Speaking passionately about future plans in aerospace technologies, the President said the most important challenge lay in the area of hypersonic transport system. "When hypersonic pas-

senger aircraft becomes a reality, it will make global distances appear minuscule and will have a striking impact on the way we transact our trade," he said and called for synergizing various high-performance sectors including aerospace sector.

Kalam also spoke about the possibility of developing a long-range aerial unmanned vehicle with a large payload which can be used for myriad applications including civilian and disaster management purposes.

He also urged the aeronautical community to participate in the ambitious project of inter-linking of rivers by contributing in the area of aerial imaging. MNA/PTI

## ပြည်တွင်းပြန်ကိုအားပေးပါ

### Philippines, Romania commit to closer trade relations

MANILA, 21 Dec— The Philippines and Romania have agreed to explore areas for cooperation in trade complementation by boosting interaction among businessmen of the two countries.

"This is a welcome development for our country and our trade relations not just with Romania but with Eastern Europe," the *Philippines News Agency* on Friday quoted Philippine Trade Undersecretary Adrian Cristobal as saying.

The importance of forging bilateral agreements to enhance mutual economic benefits was underscored during the recent 10th meeting of the Philippines-Romania Joint Economic Commission held in Manila.

The proposed agreements included the memorandum of agreement on co-operation in the fields of agricultural science and technology, and promotion co-operation agreement between PhilExim and Eximbank Romania to increase trade in goods and

services through insurance and guarantee support to exporters of the two countries.

Undersecretary Adrian Mitu of the Ministry of Economic and Commerce of Romania encouraged the private sector of both countries to realize the true economic potentials of the trading partners.

The Philippines signified its intent to get from Romania irrigation equipment for small landholders, and is also interested in tapping Romania's know-how in dairy production, packing and marketing through joint research in the genetic improvement of the water buffalo for milk, meat and hide.

Romania is seeking business partners to promote its products in the Philippines, including petrochemicals,

machinery and electrical equipment for oil, gas, and energy exploration and railway system, metallurgical and chemical products, agricultural equipment, irrigation pumps, lorries and car diesel engines, glass and porcelain wares, cosmetics and pharmaceuticals, and furniture.

On the other hand, the Philippines is promoting the following products for export to Romania: food and beverages including fruit juices, instant noodles, preserved dried fruits, food mixes, condiments, alcohol and liquor; garments especially for children; IT products and services; tobacco; carrageenan; and coconut products.

Romania, one of the first countries in Central and Eastern Europe to have established diplomatic relations with the Philippines, is the country's 63rd trading partner with total trade amounting to 11.14 million US dollars in 2002, a big jump from 7.44 million US dollars in 1998.

MNA/Xinhua

### Turkish police confiscate 7.5 kilos of heroin

ANKARA, 21 Dec — Turkish police Friday confiscated 7.5 kilos of heroin in a suitcase of a foreign woman at the Ataturk Airport in Istanbul, the country's largest city, concerned sources said.

The sources said that police had searched the suitcase of Bulgarian SV Vasilava, who wanted to fly from Istanbul to Spain and found the drugs hidden in it.

The police detained Vasilava immediately. According to Istanbul Police Chief Celalettin Cerrah, a total of 2.3 tons of heroin have been seized in Istanbul this year, in addition to five kilos of cocaine, 499 kilos of morphine, 123 kilos of opium.

Meanwhile, some 1,454 drug traffickers have been detained in police operations in Istanbul this year.

Turkey plays a central role in the heroin trade destined for Europe as its central geographical position, on the cross-roads of Europe, Asia, the Middle East and the Mediterranean Sea, gives the country the potential to play an important role in any trade. — MNA/Xinhua

### Oil holds near 9-month highs on tight US stocks

NEW YORK, 21 Dec— Oil prices held near nine-month highs on Friday, guarding strong gains driven by an early winter slide in US crude and natural gas inventories.

New York crude futures fell 25 cents to 33.46 US dollars a barrel after hitting 33.93 US dollars, the highest front-month level since March 18, two days before the US-led invasion of Iraq. London Brent was 27 cents lower at 30.53 US dollars.

Oil has jumped around three US dollars in barely three weeks as colder-than-normal weather in the US Northeast — the world's biggest consumer of heating oil — eats into fuel inventories.

US crude inventories have fallen for the last four weeks to drop 11.6 million below levels a year ago and the lowest December level since the government began tracking the data in 1982.

Distillates stocks, including heating oil, have dropped too, sharpening fears over fuel supplies with more US cold weather forecast for the second half of this month.

US weather forecaster Meteorlogix predicted the week of December 25-31 will show "a pattern featuring more persistent cold weather over the central and eastern United States".

Cold weather is also forecast for key Asian consumers Japan and South Korea over the next few days.

Oil prices have risen nearly 25 per cent since OPEC's September decision

to cut supply by 3.5 per cent, buoyed by strong Chinese demand and repeated sabotage at Iraqi oil facilities.

Some OPEC ministers warn the cartel may cut supply again in February on fears of a surplus once demand declines after the northern winter.

OPEC President Abdullah Al-Attiyah said on Thursday the Bush Administration raised concerns with him that oil demand will be strong next year and "indirectly" asked the cartel not to cut output.

The Bush Administration is concerned that higher prices would "negatively" affect US economic growth, Attiyah said.

High oil prices could become an issue in the 2004 US presidential election campaign.

OPEC's reference crude oil price rose to 30.73 US dollars a barrel on Thursday, well above the cartel's 22-28 US dollars target band.

The basket has been above the range for most of the last quarter, last dropping below 28 US dollars for just one day on December 1.

US Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham said crude oil prices were "very high" but stopped short of publicly calling for any action by OPEC to ease them.

MNA/Reuters



# မညာရေးဖြင့် ခေတ်မီပွဲပြီးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်ဖို့

## Survey finds hunger, homelessness rowing in US

WASHINGTON, 21 Dec — Hunger and homelessness both increased this year in US cities to the point that social services agencies were often unable to meet emergency demands for food and shelter, the US Conference of Mayors said here.

The conference's annual survey of cities across the nation found that requests for emergency food assistance increased by an average of 17 per cent while the demand for emergency shelter rose by an average of 13 per cent.

Conference president James Garner, mayor of Hempstead, New York, said cities did not foresee any improvement next year, despite a recent uptick in the national economy.

More than half of the participating cities reported people in need were turned away due to lack of resources. More than 14 per cent of requests for emergency food aid were not met and more than half the cities had cut the number of bags of food provided or the number of times people could receive food.

"These are not simply statistics. These are real people in real cities all across

America," said Nashville Mayor Bill Purcell, who chaired the conference's task force that drew up the report.

Philip Mangano, director of the Bush Administration's interagency council on homelessness, said the administration sought a radically different approach to chronic homelessness. It aimed to bring federal, state and local authorities together to form long-term plans to tackle the problem.

"We are no longer satisfied managing homelessness. We aim to end this national disgrace," he said.

The report gave a number of causes for both hunger and homelessness. Many of the homeless and hungry were unemployed; others held low-paid jobs which did not pay enough for them to provide for their families. A lack of affordable housing exacerbated the problem.—MNA/Reuters

## New York loses \$500m yearly in tax to fake goods sold

NEW YORK, 21 Dec — Financially-strapped New York loses 500 million dollars a year in tax revenues from fake brand-name goods sold on city streets, officials said on Thursday, after police seized a warehouse full of counterfeit handbags, watches and other merchandise.

Police raided the warehouse in Manhattan's garment district early on Thursday, removing more than one million dollars worth of counterfeit Gucci, Louis Vuitton, Burberry, Coach, Chanel and Fendi handbags made overseas.

They also found fake Sean John and Adidas clothing and watches, belts, wallets and sports team shirts stuffed into 18 small rooms of the warehouse, one of possibly dozens operating in New York, police said. No arrests were made.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg said at a news briefing that the city "loses half a billion annually in lost

tax revenue in trafficking of counterfeit trademark goods".

The United States' most populous city with eight million people and a year-round tourist trade can ill afford to lose the money because it has a budget deficit of two billion dollars for fiscal year 2004, Bloomberg said.

Police said it was not illegal for consumers to buy the goods, but officials urged them to shop at stores that sold legitimately made merchandise and where they paid the sales tax.

"That would be fair to everybody," said Bloomberg, who vowed a renewed crackdown on the

illegal trade. He also appealed to the New York State legislature to pass new laws controlling all vendors, both legal and illegal.

"The message to traffickers in counterfeit goods is crystal clear: 'Your days of ripping off New York are over.' We will shut you down," said Bloomberg, a businessman-turned politician who was elected mayor two years ago.

Bloomberg said vendors in the crowded, tourist areas of Times Square, Chinatown and Soho "clog the streets and create dangerous conditions for pedestrians and motorists".

MNA/Reuters

## New air route opens between China, Cambodia

SIEM REAP (Cambodia), 21 Dec — A flight from Kunming, capital of China's Yunnan Province, safely landed at the international airport in Cambodia's Siem Reap on Friday, marking the opening of the third direct air services between China and Cambodia.

A ceremony was held at the Siem Reap International Airport on Friday to mark the China Eastern Air Group Yunnan Corp.'s official launch of regular flights between Kunming and Siem Reap, home of wellknown Angkor Wat temples.

Regular flights will be arranged for Tuesday and Friday every week between

the two cities.

Officials from both nations said the services will greatly enhance the exchange of visits between the two countries, and promote the development and cooperation between the two cities in tourism, trade and economy, and culture.

In 1999 and 2000,

China's Southern Airlines and Shanghai Airlines opened their direct services between Guangzhou and Phnom Penh, as well as Shanghai and Phnom Penh respectively.

The China Eastern Air Group Yunnan Corp. now operates 88 domestic and international air routes.

MNA/Xinhua



A group of men dressed as Santa Claus sing in a shopping center in Buenos Aires, on 19 Dec, 2003.—INTERNET

## Russia says business interests crucial in Iraq debt relief

Moscow, 21 Dec — The fate of Russian companies and economic interests in Iraq should be taken into account in talks on relieving Baghdad of its massive international debt burden, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Yuri Fedotov said Friday.

Referring to the debt talks and Russian companies' involvement in post-war Iraq, Fedotov said "progress in settling one of them will undoubtedly help reach success in talks about the other".

On Thursday, Russian President Vladimir Putin told James Baker, US President George W Bush's special envoy on Iraq that Russia was ready to start in the near future talks on settling Iraq's debt and easing its debt burden within the Paris Club. —MNA/Xinhua

## Asia-Pacific economy performs well despite SARS

BANGKOK, 21 Dec — Despite the limited effect of the outbreak of SARS early this year, the Asia-Pacific Region's economy developed well and could even exceed that of last year, a United Nations institution said here.

The epidemic had caused some direct economic loss between 80 million to 100 million US dollars to the region, said Kim Hak-Su, Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) of the United Nations.

However, the loss "is a very small factor of this region's growth in this year," noted Kim at a Press conference for the release of an ESCAP report on forecast of the region's development in 2004.

The report said that preliminary indications showed global GDP growth including that of the ESCAP region would either match, or modestly exceed, the performance in 2002.

GDP growth for developing countries in the region was estimated to be around

5.4 per cent for this year with China alone reaching an estimated 8.0 per cent growth, according to statistics provided by the report.

"SARS has adversely affected tourism and related activities, such as air travel, but was confined to the second quarter of 2003," said the report.

Singapore was believed to be the worst-hit country by the disease in the region, losing ground in consumer confidence during the crisis and having a GDP growth as low as 1 per cent.

Even in Southeast Asia, where tourism accounted a larger 4-6 per cent of GDP, the hit of SARS was only a temporary setback that "can be overcome either in the other components of GDP or later in the year by a revival in tourism itself".

MNA/Xinhua

## 131-year-old Saudi woman gets entry in "Guinness" book

RIYADH, 21 Dec — Saudi Arabia's Namsha Al Nazih, world's oldest woman at 131, got an entry in the Guinness Book of Records, local Press reported on Friday.

The woman was born in the country's green province of Aseer, lives in a mud brick house and enjoys a good health. She works in farming and shepherding.

However, Namsha's memory has almost eroded. She can move only with the help of her two relatives.

One of her grandsons, Ahmad El-Hajiri, noted that he saw his grandmother going to the hospital only once to undergo an eye surgery after living blind for over 20 years.

MNA/Xinhua



The Spitzer Space Telescope, formerly known as the Space Infrared Telescope Facility, is seen in this image released by NASA, and was officially named on 18 Dec, 2003, after the late Dr Lyman Spitzer, Jr, one of the 20th century's most influential scientists. NASA unveiled the first views Thursday from the new telescope, a super-cooled orbiting observatory, that can look through obscuring dust to capture images never before seen of distant stars and nearby comets.—INTERNET

## SPORTS

## Second Asian Conference on Women, Sports opens in Doha

DOHA (Qatar), 21 Dec—With the goal to strengthen women and sport networks in Asia, the second Asian Conference on Women and Sports started here on Friday.

Sheikh Saoud Bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani, secretary-general of the Qatar National Olympic Committee, said, "It is our third opportunity to host the Asian sport fraternity in the context of women and sport in Doha within 18 months."

Doha, host city of the 15th Asian Games, has organized such events after the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) staged a seminar on Women Leadership in Sports in June 2002 and Qatar Sport International in December last year.

Delegates from all over the Asia and speakers from the world will discuss women's participation in the 2006 Asian Games in Doha, raising media awareness of women's sports and society.

The first edition of the Asian Conference was held in Osaka, Japan in 2001 when the Asian Women and Sport network (AWS) was established and interim Asian Working Group (AWG) on Women and Sport set up.

During the two-day conference, the elections for the AWG and the first meeting of the OCA Women and Sports Committee will be held in conjunction. — MNA/Xinhua



Valencia's Carlos Marchena, right, jumps above Sevilla's Brazilian player Julio Baptista during a Spanish league soccer match at the Mestalla Stadium in Valencia, Spain, on 20 Dec, 2003. Valencia won the game, 1-0.—INTERNET

## Mancini slams Lazio over Stankovic contract

ROME, 21 Dec—Lazio coach Roberto Mancini has launched a bitter attack on the Rome club over its failure to renew the contract of midfielder Dejan Stankovic, which expires in June.

Mancini told Friday's Corriere dello Sport that he expected Lazio to lose the Serbia and Montenegro international at the end of the season.

"He'll leave (in June). The whole issue has been handled badly," Mancini said.

"Six or seven months ago Stankovic would have signed

happily for us."

Mancini said that the Stankovic affair was typical of the club's failure to come to grips with financial problems left by the collapse of its parent company Cirio last year. "I'm tired of all this

rubbish. We had a project, but it never got going. Too many people talk big but do nothing," he said.

"The players are doing their bit. I just hope things become clearer as soon as possible." — MNA/Reuters

## Atletico to face Deportivo in last 16 of King's Cup

MADRID, 21 Dec — Atletico Madrid will take on Deportivo Coruna in the outstanding King's Cup third round tie, following the draw made in Madrid on Friday.

Atletico, nine-times Cup

winners, will play the first leg at home in the week commencing January 5, with Deportivo, Cup winners in 1995 and 2002, hosting the return a week later. Four more all-First Division ties were thrown up in the draw for the last 16, including a clash between Valencia and Osasuna, second and fourth in the Primera Liga table, respectively. Real Madrid's reward for coming through a bruising second round clash with Leganes in extra-time will be a trip to the Basque country to face second division Eibar, with the return at the Bernabeu. Barcelona, who moved smoothly through with a 4-0 win over Ciudad de Murcia, will have a trickier tie against promotion favourites Levante, who knocked out holders Real Mallorca in the second round this week.

MNA/Reuters

## FIFA technical report praises China's progress after WC

ABUDHABI, 21 Dec—In FIFA's technical report after the 2002 FIFA World Cup, China's progress in the game in recent years along with the mental strength of the team were among the positive aspects reported.

FIFA's Technical Study Group, TSG, which including Brazil's Carlos Alberto Parreira, Ghana's Abedi Pele, Colombia's Francisco Maturana and Joseph Venglos of Slovakia among others, studied all the games and analysed the team's tactics and playing systems adopted by them.

Analysing China's performance in its first-ever appearance in the World Cup, the TSG report said, "China merely underlined the progress that Chinese football has made in recent years. There is now a fully-fledged professional league, which is beginning to gain admiring glances from top international coaches and players alike."

Commenting on the style of play by the Chinese team, the technical report said, "They adopted a 4-4-2 formation, quickly changing to a 4-3-3 when they were attacking with the ball. When on the backfoot, eight players acted in defensive roles, with one of the two main strikers dropping back into midfield."

However the team did not function as a compact unit and allowed opponents time to build up attacks, the FIFA analysis said. "When moving forward, China tended to use short passing movements beginning in defence. Li Tie was the main cog in the Chinese midfield, playing the ball into space down the wings for one of the two strikers, who would then attempt to find his partner in front of the goal. The wingers, Li Xiaopeng (right) and Ma Mingyu (left), also played an integral role in attacks by pressing forward at any given opportunity."

"China were not able to find a foothold in any of their three games, conceding 9 goals without reply. The team was always willing and never gave up, indicating the mental strength of the current squad" the report said. "However, as well as the necessary international experience, China also lack the type of player able to make a difference at the highest level," the report concluded.

MNA/Xinhua

## Ferdinand handed eight-month ban

BOLTON (England), 21 Dec—Manchester United defender Rio Ferdinand was banned for eight months by an independent disciplinary commission on Friday for missing a drugs test.

The England international had been charged by the Football Association (FA) with a "failure or refusal" to take the test at United's training ground at Carrington on September 23.

Ferdinand is set to miss the rest of the domestic season and next year's European Championship, though Manchester United immediately announced their intention to appeal.

Following a two-day hearing, a commission spokesman read out a statement saying: "The disciplinary commission unanimously found that the charge was proved against Rio Ferdinand.

"It was further decided he would be suspended for a period of eight months with effect from Monday January 12, 2004 and be fined the sum of 50,000 pounds (88,310 US dollars)."

United, the English champions, responded immediately to the verdict.

"We are extremely disappointed by the result in this case and, in particular, by the savage and unprecedented sentence which makes an appeal inevitable," United director Maurice Watkins said in a club statement.

"I can confirm that Rio has the full support of Manchester United and the PFA (Professional Footballers' Association)."

Ferdinand, who stood next to Watkins, made no comment, but the FA gave a short statement.

"Clearly the Commission regarded not taking a drugs test as a very serious matter and took their decision accordingly," it said.

Though United were clearly angry, Dick Pound, head of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), indicated that Ferdinand had been dealt with leniently.

Pound pointed to the ban being "only one third of the theoretical maximum, so I should have thought he's done pretty well if you at it from his perspective."

As for United's appeal, Pound told Sky Sports: "An appeal against a sentence is a two-edged sword, you may rush off to appeal thinking it's going to be lowered and you may end up having a higher sentence."

Ferdinand, 25, has denied using drugs and passed a dope test 36 hours after he should have taken the original one.

However, the FA ruled him out of England's final Euro 2004 qualifier in Turkey on October 11, sparking a furious protest by his international team-mates, but allowed him to keep playing for United, a decision criticized by FIFA president Sepp Blatter.

The world's most expensive defender, Ferdinand became a "cause celebre" in both domestic and international football, with the FA being widely criticized for its handling of the affair.

His exclusion from the decisive game in Istanbul prompted threats of an unprecedented strike by his England teammates

MNA/Reuters

## Answers for yesterday's Cross Puzzle

T	O	R	C	H	S	E	R	R	O	R	S
O	A	O	G	E	S	V	S	O			
M	I	N	I	M	A	L	S	H	E	L	L
A	S	G	E	O	T	S	R	E			
T	I	E	R	B	O	R	E	D	O	M	
O	S	T	O	E	S	A	S	U	N		
B	A	T	H	S	I	B	E	X			
L	S	U	O	F	E	N	S				
E	X	C	L	U	D	E	S	A	B	E	L
G	S	T	S	N	S	H	S	R	S	E	
E	R	I	C	A	C	R	E	V	I	C	E
N	S	O	N	E	S	L	S	A	S	C	
D	E	N	U	D	E	S	P	U	R	S	E



AS Roma's Francesco Totti, left, and Empoli's Sanchez Cribari from Brazil challenge for the ball during the Italian first division soccer league match between Empoli and Roma at Empoli's Carlo Castellani Stadium, Italy, on 20 Dec, 2003. AS Roma won 2-0.—INTERNET





## Myanmar Gold Entrepreneurs Association meets

YANGON, 21 Dec—The Myanmar Gold Entrepreneurs Association held the first annual meeting at Traders Hotel on Sule Pagoda Road this afternoon.

Present were Patrons of the association Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone, Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing, Direc-

tor-General Brig-Gen Khin Yi of Myanmar Police Force, departmental heads, President of Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Win Myint, Chairman of the association U Thu Daw and members.

First, Ministers Brig-Gen Pyi Sone and Col Tin

Hlaing and UMFCI President U Win Myint gave speeches.

Secretary of the association U Kyaw Win read the annual report and financial statement.

Later, the chairman of the association made concluding remarks.—MNA

Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing addresses the annual meeting of MGEA. —MNA

## Construction of bridge inspected

YANGON, 21 Dec — Director-General of the Development Affairs Department of the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Myo Myint this morning arrived at the wooden bridge construction on Thabawkant-Minywa Road in Thanatpin Township being carried out by the Bago Division Development Affairs Department.

Next, the director-general and party inspected construction of approach road and approach structure of the bridge, and arrangement for driving of bole piles and gave necessary instruction.

On completion, the wooden bridge will be 250 ft long and 14 ft wide and it can facilitate the smoothful transportation and trading in the region. —MNA

## Bangladeshi delegation arrives

YANGON, 21 Dec— Director-General of Bangladesh Rifles Maj-Gen Md Jahangir Alam Choudhury, ndc, Psc and party arrived here by air this afternoon to attend the Director-General Level Border Conference between Myanmar and Bangladesh.

They were welcomed at the airport by Director-General U Maung Htay of Immigration and National Registration Department and officials.—MNA



Director-General U Maung Htay of Immigration and National Registration Department welcomes Director-General Maj-Gen Md Jahangir Alam Choudhury, ndc, Psc of Bangladesh Rifles at the airport. —IMMIGRATION



Director-General Col Myo Myint of Development Affairs Department inspects construction of wooden bridge on Thabawkant-Minywa Road in Thanatpin Township on 21-12-2003. —PBANRDA

## WEATHER

Sunday, 21 December, 2003

**Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:** During the past 24 hours, light rain has been isolated in Lower Sagaing Division, Kachin and Rakhine States, scattered in upper Sagaing, Mandalay Divisions, Chin and Shan States and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Night temperatures were (3°C) below normal in Bago, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions, (4°C) above normal in upper Sagaing, Ayeyawady, Mandalay Divisions, Chin State, (7°) to (8°C) above normal in Kachin, Shan and Rakhine States, lower Sagaing Division and about normal in the remaining areas.

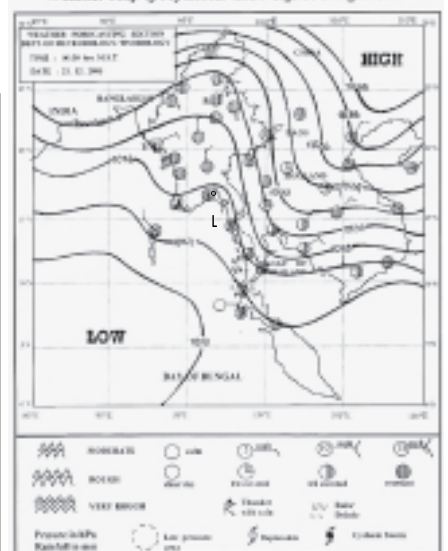
Maximum temperature on 20-12-2003 was 32.0°C (90°F). Minimum temperature on 21-12-2003 was 15.0°C (59°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 21-12-2003 was 60%. Total sunshine hours on 20-12-2003 was (7.4) hours approx. Rainfall on 21-12-2003 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. 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 18 mph from Northeast at (08:45) hours MST on 21-12-2003.

**Bay inference:** Weather is partly cloudy in the Bay of Bengal.

**Forecast valid until evening of 22-12-2003:** Isolated to scattered light rain are likely in the whole country. Degree of certainty is (60%).

**State of the sea:** Strong easterly winds with (35-40) mph and moderate to rough seas are likely at times Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthyi

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



Coast. Seas will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

**Outlook for subsequent two days:** Slight increase of night temperatures are likely in the whole country.

**Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 22-12-2003:** Likelihood of isolated light rain. Degree of certainty is (60%).

**Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 22-12-2003:** Likelihood of isolated light rain. Degree of certainty is (60%).

### Untimely Rainfall Warning

(Issued at 07:30 hour MST on 21st December, 2003)

According to the observations at (06:30) hour MST today, isolated to scattered light rain are likely in the whole country within next (48) hours commencing this morning.



Headmaster U Than Nyunt presents an outstanding award in Myanmar sar in the second standard for 2002-2003 school year to Maung Min Khant Naing at the annual meeting of No 19 Basic Education Primary School in Thakayta on 20-12-2003. —(H)

**Four political objectives**

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

**Four economic objectives**

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

**Four social objectives**

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



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects construction tasks of 12,000-ton capacity dry dock project.— MNA

## Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects progress in building of 12,000-ton capacity dry dock

YANGON, 21 Dec— Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt this afternoon inspected 12,000-ton capacity dry dock construction project of Myanma Shipyards of the Ministry of Transport on Bayintnaung Road in Kamayut Township.

At 1.50 pm, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt arrived at the construction site where he was welcomed by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, ministers, the Yangon mayor, the Chief of Staff (Navy), deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads and officials.

In the briefing hall, Deputy Minister for Trans-

port U Pe Than reported to the Prime Minister on tasks being carried out for Myanma Shipyards, progress in construction of the 12,000-ton capacity dry dock construction project and future tasks.

Managing Director U Percy Maung Maung of Myanma Shipyards reported on repair of vessels, financial matters at the end of November in 2003-2004, comparison of financial matters at the end of November in 2002-2003 and 2003-2004, purchasing and storage of raw materials, foreign market, facts about the dry dock construction project, implementation of the project, progress in building the dock, future tasks on completion of the dock and the estimated profit of Myanma

Shipyards and the dock from 2004-2005 to 2008-2009 financial years.

After hearing the reports, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt gave instructions. He said that as Myanma Shipyards is an economic organization of the State, foreign market is to be sought for earning foreign exchange. On completion of the project, the plan is to be implemented not only for repairing vessels from local and abroad but also build-

ing local use medium-size ones. Myanmar engineers who have technology and experience on construction of the dock and modern vessels are required to make efforts for more development of the work. Next, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt presented fruits basket to leader of the engineering team Dr Lu Han Liu of Shandong Agricultural Industry & Commerce Group Corporation of the People's Republic of China.

Then, the Prime Minister and party inspected construction of concrete floor and the wall of the dry dock. Managing Director U Percy Maung Maung and officials conducted the Prime Minister and party round the construction site. The General and party saw over building of the entrance valve to the dry dock, the sites for installation of the valve and the pump. Later, the Prime Minister cordially greeted engineers and left there in the

evening. The 12,000-ton capacity dry dock construction project will be 168 metres long, 28 metres wide and nine metres deep. The sluice gate is of floating type.

On completion, vessels of Myanma Five Star Line can be repaired at the said dock. So, the State can save about 3 million US dollars of vessel repairing expense annually and earn foreign exchange from repairing vessels from abroad at the dock. — MNA

## Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attends gold casting of Htidaw to be hoisted atop Gandakuti Pyatthad Kyaungdaw of Maha Muni Image in Kyauktaw

YANGON, 21 Dec— Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attended the ceremony to cast gold Htidaw to be hoisted atop Gandakuti Pyatthad Kyaungdaw for Maha Muni Image in Kyauktaw Township, Rakhine State. The cer-

emony was held at Aungmye Bawdi Dhamma Yeiktha of Alodawpyay Monastery, Tamwaylay Ward, Tamway Township, this morning.

Also present were Presiding Sayadaw Committee of Alodawpyay Monastery Alodawpyay Sayadaw Agga Maha Saddhammajotikadhaja Maha Ganthavaçaka Pandita Sayadaw Bhaddanta Ariyavamsa and members of the Sangha, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, ministers, the Yangon Mayor, deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads, guests and wellwishers.

Sayadaw Bhaddanta Ariyavamsa administered the Five Precepts.

Next, the Prime Minister donated provisions to the Sayadaw. Then, the commander and the ministers offered provisions to members of the Sangha.

The disciples presented nine viss of gold for casting the Htidaw donated by the Alodawpyay Sayadaw and disciples to the Prime Minister. Next, the Prime Minister presented nine viss of gold to the Alodawpyay Sayadaw.

Afterwards, the Prime Minister cast a Htidaw in nine viss of gold by a modern gold caster. Then, the Prime Minister inspected process of gold casting and the Htidaw made of steel.

After the ceremony, the General saw over the scale model and the plot for construction of three-storey Sasana Beikman in the compound of Alodawpyay Monastery and heard reports on construction tasks by officials.— MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt casts Htidaw in gold for Gandakuti Pyatthad Kyaungdaw of Maha Muni Image in Kyauktaw Township.— MNA