

# The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Volume XI, Number 250

1st Waxing of Pyatho 1365 ME

Tuesday, 23 December, 2003

## Union Spirit

The existence of the Union today can be attributed to the strength of the nation; if the nation is torn asunder, the strength of the nation will no longer be as it is now. To keep the Union together, the people are to be organized and led in conceptual and moral terms. If the people become more and more patriotic and their love of the nation becomes more and more dynamic, the Union Spirit will flourish all the more.

Senior General Than Shwe,  
State Peace and Development Council  
Chairman,  
Defence Services Commander-in-Chief  
(From address delivered at the  
conclusion of the course of the Union  
Solidarity and Development Association  
on 4 August 2000.)

## State Peace and Development Council Chairman Senior General Than Shwe sends message of felicitations to Japan

YANGON, 23 Dec — On the occasion of the birthday of His Majesty Akihito, Emperor of Japan, which falls on 23 December 2003, Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Majesty Akihito, Emperor of Japan. — MNA

## Senior General Than Shwe sends message of sympathy to President of Republic of the Philippines

YANGON, 22 Dec — Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of sympathy to Her Excellency Madame Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, President of the Republic of the Philippines for loss of lives and damages caused by the recent landslides in the central Philippines.—MNA



Senior General Than Shwe and party inspect No 2 Hsinmin Cement Plant. — MNA

## Senior General Than Shwe inspects Yeywa hydro electric power project site, factories in Kyaukse

YANGON, 22 Dec — Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe together with member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, members of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Kyi Min, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Maj-Gen Myat Hein, Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint, Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye, senior military officers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and heads of departments went by helicopter to the site of Yeywa hydro electric power project near Yeyamann Village, 31 miles South-east of Mandalay on 20 December.

Senior General Than Shwe and party were welcomed by Deputy Minister for Electric Power U Myo Myint and officials.

Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut reported on construction of No 1 and No 2 diversion tunnels, concrete works, construction of the separation wall and ring bund and 20 per cent completed work of the project, production of natural pozolan to be used in construction of the main dam, test for mixture of natural pozolan and

cement, arrangements for construction of power lines and estimated cost of the project. Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung reported on supply of cement.

Senior General Than Shwe then gave guidance. He said projects are to be implemented day and night as scheduled in accord with the set standard. He spoke of the

need for other ministries concerned to fulfil the requirements for the project. Senior General Than Shwe also spoke on the use of pozolan in other construction works, production of pozolan on commercial scale and compilation of records on the project.

(See page 8)



Senior General Than Shwe inspects Pharmaceutical Factory (In-yaung) near In-yaung village, Kyaukse Township.—MNA

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

## PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 23 December, 2003

### Landmark Garden of Myanmar

In accord with the guidance of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe, National Kandawgyi Gardens in PyinOoLwin has been upgraded.

Various species of trees, bamboo, orchid and flowers from home and abroad have been grown in the garden. Moreover, rare species of takin, golden deer, star tortoise, green peacock and white peacock are raised there and greening tasks are being carried out too.

People visiting there will be able to enjoy the scenic views of the environs of PyinOoLwin from the Nanmyint Tower.

Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe, on 18 December, inspected the tower and gave guidance to officials saying 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.

The Head of State urged officials concerned to make efforts to gradually turn the garden into a famous Landmark Garden of Myanmar.

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 U Tun Myint Naing of Asia World Co Ltd opened the Nanmyint Tower in National Kandawgyi Gardens in PyinOoLwin on 18 December morning.

Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win formally unveiled the stone inscriptions of the tower.

The 12-storey tower with two lifts includes the viewing deck on the 10th floor that can accommodate 100 people. There is a reserve room on the 11th floor for meetings and functions.

Officials concerned are urged to make efforts for the garden to become the one attracting the people while trying to keep it green and pleasant.



Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay meets with staff of Chauk Oil Field and Oil Refinery. (ENERGY)

### Oil fields and refineries inspected

YANGON, 22 Dec — Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay on 17 December inspected Kyawswa fertilizer plant and Sale fertilizer plant in Magway Division.

On 18 December, he met with staff of the ministry at No.2 Chauk Oil Field and inspected the oil field and Chauk Oil Refinery in Magway Division.

During his tour, the deputy minister also inspected Mann Thanpayakan Oil Refinery, Htaukshapin Refinery on 19 December. Moreover, he also met with staff of the liquefied gas plant in Minbu. When he arrived at Mann Oil Field, he discussed matters on boosting production of oil and natural gas.

MNA

### The 57th Anniversary Union Day objectives

— for all national races to safeguard the national policy— non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty

— to keep the Union spirit ever alive and dynamic among the national people

— for all national people to defend and safeguard the Union for its perpetual existence

— to prevent, through national solidarity, the danger of internal and external destructive elements undermining peace and stability of the State and national development, and

— for all national races to make concerted efforts for successful implementation of the seven-point future policy programme.

### 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

### 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)

### Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt sends message of felicitations to Japan

YANGON, 23 Dec — On the occasion of the birthday of His Majesty Akihito, Emperor of Japan, which falls on 23 December 2003, General Khin Nyunt, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Junichiro Koizumi, Prime Minister of Japan. — MNA

### General Khin Nyunt sends message of sympathy to President of Republic of the Philippines

YANGON, 22 Dec — General Khin Nyunt, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of sympathy to Her Excellency Madame Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, President of the Republic of the Philippines for loss of lives and damages caused by the recent landslides in the central Philippines. — MNA



Labour Minister U Tin Winn makes an address at the opening ceremony of the User's Workshop on Human Resources Development Indicators. — MNA

### User's Workshop on Human Resources Development Indicators opened

YANGON, 22 Dec — The User's Workshop on Human Resources Development Indicators jointly sponsored by Labour Department under the Ministry of Labour and UNFPA was opened at the Traders' Hotel on Sule Pagoda Road here this morning. Present on the occasion were ministers, the Chief Justice, the Attorney-General, deputy ministers, ambassadors of the ASEAN nations and officials, heads of department under the Ministry of Labour, representatives of UNFPA and officials, representatives of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Myanmar National Working Committee for Women's Affairs and Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs Association and guests.

First, Minister for Labour U Tin Winn made a speech.

Next, representative of UNFPA Mr Najib Assifi spoke and the opening ceremony ended.

Afterwards, the workshop started at 9 am. Professor Dr Than Toe of Institute of Economics presided over it. Those present discussed measures undertaken for regular compilation and issue of human resources development indicators, followed by a general round of discussions.

After that, the afternoon session of the workshop took place. Professor (Retd) Dr Thet Lwin of Institute of Economics chaired it. Those present discussed matters related to extension and practical use of human resources development indicators.

The workshop ended with the concluding remarks by Director-General U Soe Nyunt of Labour Department—MNA



Minister for Cooperatives Maj-Gen Htay Oo, and Minister at the Prime Minister's Office Maj-Gen Thein Swe inspect a booth after the conclusion of the Myanmar industrial producers meeting at Sedona Hotel on 20 December. — MNA

### Premier League soccer

YANGON, 22 Dec — The Premier League soccer tourney, sponsored by Myanmar Football Federation, continued at Aung San Stadium here this afternoon.

Ministry of Mines Team beat Padamya Naga Team 2-0. The man of the match award went to Ko Ko Naing of Ministry of Mines Team.

MNA



## China to go off UN food aid

BEIJING, 22 Dec—China will stop receiving UN food aid in two years after lifting as many as 400 million people out of poverty over a quarter century of market reforms, the head of the UN food agency said on Saturday.

UN World Food Programme Executive Director James Morris said he wanted the Communist country, still a developing nation but now one with a dominant economy, to become a major player in agency's work to feed needy people elsewhere.

By the end of 2005, the WFP will phase out aid to China, where it has fed a total of some 35 million people since 1979 and still ships wheat to about two million peasants in mountainous central and western areas, he told a news conference.—MNA/Reuters

## Gulf states urged not to enact reforms on US orders

KUWAIT, 22 Dec—A leading Kuwaiti Islamist parliamentarian on Saturday urged six Gulf Arab states with close ties to Washington not to enact educational reforms on US orders as part of a drive to fight terror.

Lawmaker Waleed al-Tabtabae called on Gulf governments not to bow to pressure from the West on education reform, an issue high on the agenda of a Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) summit meeting in Kuwait on Sunday and Monday.

"The amendment and development of the curricula should stem from the Gulf's needs, not from external pressures," said Tabtabae in a statement.

Tabtabae leads the four-member Salafi Islamist bloc in Kuwait's Parliament, a powerful body controlled by conservative tribal leaders and Islamists. The latter hold 15 seats in the 50-member, recently elected house.

After the September 11,

2001 attacks on the United States, Washington pressured regional kingpin Saudi Arabia—home to 15 of the September 11 suicide hijackers—to change school curricula.

Saudi reformists say the country has removed from textbook intolerant or offensive chapters on Christians and Jews, which had depicted them as infidels and enemies of Islam.

Tabtabae said it was US Zionist and right-wing institutions who were pushing changes in school curricula in Islamic countries.

They "want to capitalize on the post-September 11 atmosphere to impose unacceptable changes... that contradict with clear verses in the Holy Koran and the

Sunna (sayings of the Prophet)," he said.

They were doing this "in order to impose normalization with the Zionist entity (Israel)," Tabtabae added.

The December 21-22 annual GCC summit will discuss a Gulf agreement on fighting terror attacks, and GCC officials said concrete proposals on changing curricula will be presented to the summit for approval.

The GCC, a political alliance, includes Saudi Arabia, which is fighting a surge in militant violence linked to Saudi-born Osama bin Laden's al-Qaeda group. Other members are Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates and Oman.

MNA/Reuters

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## Iraq pipelines, storage tanks set on fire

BAGHDAD, 22 Dec — Insurgents attacked pipelines and an oil storage depot in three parts of Iraq, setting fires that blazed for hours and lost millions of gallons of oil, officials and media reported Sunday, as the country faced a critical fuel shortage.

Rebels firing rocket-propelled grenades hit storage tanks in southern Baghdad on Saturday, creating fires that burned about 2.6 million gallons of gasoline, said Issam Jihad, a spokesman for the Oil Ministry.

Also Saturday, a pipeline exploded in the al-Mashahda area 15 miles north of Baghdad, in what Jihad called "an act of sabotage." "The explosion led to the destruction of (part of) the pipeline and to the leakage of vast quantities of oil products," Jihad said. He said he had no immediate information about another reported attack on oil pipelines in northern Iraq.

Al-Jazeera television reported Sunday that large fires were burning following attacks Saturday on four pipelines in the area between Tikrit and Beji. But an AP stringer reported seeing four fires blazing from pipelines further north, between Beji and Mosul, about 250 miles north of Baghdad.—Internet

## High-level Iraqi delegation begins arriving in Moscow for talks with Russian leaders

Moscow, 22 Dec—A high-level Iraqi delegation began arriving Sunday in Moscow for talks expected to address Russian contracts signed with Saddam's regime that have been left in limbo after the US-led war.

Jalal Talabani, a member of the US-appointed Iraqi Governing Council, said the Iraqis would meet President Vladimir Putin and representatives of Russian companies at the talks expected Monday.

"The main goal of our visit is to strengthen relations between Iraq and Russia," he said. "We want to have better understanding between Moscow and Baghdad."

The Iraqi delegation is to be headed by Abdel-Aziz al-Hakim, who holds the rotating presidency of the council and was to arrive separately.

On Thursday, Putin told visiting US envoy James A Baker III that Russia, Iraq's

largest creditor, was ready to start talks on forgiving some \$8 billion in debt. But he stressed Moscow would negotiate on the issue "taking into account the economic interests of Russia and Russian companies in Iraq."

As a strong opponent of the war, Russia has been excluded from bidding on \$18.6 billion in reconstruction contracts under Pentagon plans only to allow coalition members to be involved.

Deputy Foreign Minister Yuri Fedotov said Friday that the debt talks could be linked to Russian companies' participation in Iraqi reconstruction.

Internet



Paul Bremer, the top US civil administrator in Iraq, said he had narrowly escaped an assassination bid recently.

INTERNET

## Abdullah says research should serve agriculture

KUALA LUMPUR, 22 Dec—Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said here that the country's science and technology research findings should be utilized to boost the agricultural sector.

These research findings should be utilized not only to spur the development of industries in the urban areas but also agricultural activities in the rural areas, the Prime Minister said when opening the 30th general meeting of the National Farmers' Association (NAFAS) here.

"We do not wish to have a situation that when Malaysia attains developed nation status in 2020, the gap between the progress of the industrial sector in the urban areas as a result of the application of science and technology and the rural areas involved in agricultural activities is extremely wide," he said. Abdullah said that the growth of the rural areas should be linked with science and technology capability and capacity.

"The application of science and technology can help enhance the development of the agricultural sector and boost the income of farmers," he said.

Abdullah said that agriculture was a viable activity and the various fields of science and technology including biotechnology could contribute towards the development of the sector. The Prime Minister said that information and communications technology (ICT) also had a role to play in the field of agriculture as a means to obtain quick information and to establish a commercial network.

Meanwhile, Abdullah said that farmers themselves should be confident in the sector they had embarked on to ensure success.—MNA/Xinhua

## Thaksin threatens revenge for EU high tariff on Thai shrimps

BANGKOK, 22 Dec—Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra threatens to stop buying Airbus from the European Union if there is no solution to the two sides' trade dispute on shrimp, local Press reported on Saturday.

The Thai Government blamed the EU for discriminating its seafood by imposing tariffs as high as 12 per cent on shrimp products.

The tariff levied by the EU on neighbouring Malaysian products was only 4 per cent under the Generalized System of Preferences.

"State enterprise purchasing plans will be adjusted until we get fairness," Thaksin was quoted by Bangkok Post as saying.—MNA/Xinhua



A South Korean anti-war protester dressed as Santa Claus chants slogans at a rally near US Embassy in Seoul, on 20 Dec, 2003. Hundreds of protesters rallied on Saturday to demand the US leave Iraq and the South Korean Government stop a plan to dispatch troops to Iraq.—INTERNET

## Indonesia, Singapore to strengthen cooperation in anti-terrorism

JAKARTA, 22 Dec—Indonesian Police Chief General Da'i Bachtiar and Vice-Prime Minister of Singapore Tony Tan here Friday agreed to strengthen cooperation in fighting against terrorism, said the deputy spokesman of the Indonesian police.

Chief of detectives of the Indonesian police, Erwin Mapasseng, and other Indonesian police senior officials also attended the meeting, said Brigadier-General Soenarko. Soenarko said that the two countries would hand in hand prevent those crimes which could potentially create terrorist acts. He added that exchanging information was also included in the agreement.

MNA/Xinhua

## GCC leaders warned of return of colonialism to the Gulf

**BAGHDAD, 22 Dec—**Islamic groups have urged Gulf Arab leaders meeting in Kuwait to introduce drastic political reforms and oppose the presence of US military bases in the region.

Amid tight security, leaders of the oil-rich Gulf Cooperation Council opened their annual summit in Kuwait on Sunday for two days of talks.

"Our view on reforms calls for upgrading the pace of popular participation in the government and resources without delay to achieve a real Shura (consultation) system that guarantees peaceful rotation of power," the Kuwaiti-based Islamic Constitutional Movement (ICM) said.

"Serious reform can be achieved ... by combating political, moral and financial corruption in government agencies and society without discrimination," the ICM said in a statement.

The Salaf Movement, another Islamic group, warned the leaders of the six-nation GCC of the return of colonialism to the region, in reference to the presence of

US troops in Iraq.

"The worst matter faced by states and people of the region is the return of colonialism, and losing their independence and sovereignty under the pretext of providing protection," the movement's secretary general Hakim al-Mutairi said.

"The most serious aspect of this colonialism is the presence of permanent foreign military bases which now encircle the Arabian Peninsula and the Gulf from all sides," Mutairi added in a statement.

### Peaceful political reforms

He urged the oil-rich states to strengthen their military capabilities to be able to protect their nations to rid the region of the foreign military presence.

Islamic Constitutional Movement

The GCC groups the gas- and oil-rich states of Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

The ICM also called on GCC leaders to help Iraq become a factor for stability and progress in the Gulf region, and to help speed up the creation of an Iraqi government to ensure a swift withdrawal of foreign troops.

In addition, Mutairi called for "peaceful political reforms" to allow the Gulf people to govern themselves and elect their representatives freely under constitutional states.

Kuwaiti Islamic MP Walid al-Tabtabaei warned Gulf leaders against bowing to Western pressure to change school textbooks and enforce Western concepts of fighting terrorism. — *Internet*

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## Doctors study hereditary cancer in Chinese family

**Xi'an, 22 Dec —** Doctors say genetic factors have caused several generations of a family in the northwestern China province of Shaanxi to suffer from cancer.

The family of Li Kuanchang in Shenmu County aroused the attention of medical experts earlier this year with eight cancer patients among three generations, five of whom died.

"Some of them suffer from leukaemia and others from malignant tumours in the bone, stomach, liver, breast and colon," said Li Qiang, a physician from Xijing Hospital based in the provincial capital Xi'an.

Li is a member of an experts' panel sent to Shenmu County in late November to investigate the family and probe the causes for their diseases.

"We have found 10 more cases in their closest relations, including two of Li Kuanchang's sisters," said Li.

According to Li, incidence of cancer within the Li family had reached 41.8 per cent — with 18 patients among 43 people. "We can confirm it's a hereditary problem," he said.

The doctor and his colleagues are carrying out further research to identify the reason for the family's genetic predilection in order to protect future generations from the same problem.

The experts had requested Xijing Hospital to set up a special group to track the family, said Gao Tianwen, a dermatologist with the panel.

MNA/Xinhua

## China pledges to further eco, trade cooperation with Israel

**BEIJING, 22 Dec —** Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao said that as long as China and Israel grasp opportunity, trade and economic cooperation will be upgraded to new heights.

Wen made the remarks in a meeting with Israeli President Moshe Katsav here Friday.

He said trade volume between China and Israel currently was as 13 times greater than when the two countries forged diplomatic ties.

Some projects such as a demonstration farm and the cooperative research on water resources, biology, and nano-technology have become good examples of Sino-Israeli cooperation.

MNA/Xinhua

## Costa Rica takes precautions against SARS

**SAN JOSE, 22 Dec —** The health authorities of Costa Rica have urged every sanitary institution to adopt preventive measures against the severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS).

Health Minister Maria Saenz was quoted by the local Press on Saturday as saying the Health Ministry instructed every Costa Rican health centre to report any possible SARS cases following the World Health Organization's alert to every country after the recent detection of a SARS case in Chinese (Taipei).

MNA/Xinhua



An Iraqi police man (L) and a US soldier man a checkpoint in northern Baghdad. An oil pumping station and pipelines were attacked in Iraq as the US top military commander revealed that information gleaned with the capture of ex-president Saddam Hussein resulted in hundreds of arrests. — *INTERNET*

## Berlusconi says Italy to save Parmalat, probe begins

**ROME/MILAN, 22 Dec —** Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi said on Saturday his government would save food group Parmalat, which has revealed a four-billion-euro hole in its accounts in a scandal reminiscent of the bankruptcy of Enron.

As prosecutors launched a fraud investigation, a new emergency management team at the global dairy firm was working on a rescue plan which an industry source said would include a request for protection from creditors.

Berlusconi told reporters the Economy Ministry was working on plans to "preserve the industrial part of Parmalat which... is part of the country's wealth".

Parmalat is one of Italy's best known brand names and has nearly 35,000 employees in 30 countries with annual revenues of more than 7.5 billion euro.

But concerns about apparently risky financial investments turned into outright panic on Friday when it announced that a document showing 3.95 billion euros held by a Cayman Islands unit had been declared false by the Bank of America.

The news, described by Berlusconi as "almost incredible", raised the prospect that Parmalat might file for bankruptcy.

Parmalat said late on Fri-

day it was still looking for "the plan of action most suited to the current situation".

Under Italian bankruptcy law Parmalat could be placed under "controlled administration", which would give it up to two years

of protection from creditors while attempting a turnaround.

The industrial source said Parmalat could send its request for controlled administration to a court as early as Monday.

MNA/Reuters

## Bolivia seizes 21 tons of drugs in 2003

**LIMA, 22 Dec —** The Special Anti-narcotics Force of Bolivia (FELCN) has seized a total of 21 tons of drugs in 2003, 7.4 tons more than last year, said a report released by the government on Saturday. During the outgoing year, the Bolivian authorities have carried out 4,590 operations to fight drug-trafficking. Two police agents and five soldiers were killed in the actions, half of which were conducted in the Cochabamba Tropics, also known as the Chapare, the major coca leaf producing region in the country.

MNA/Xinhua



A US soldier stands next to a car hit by a rocket-propelled grenade in Mosul, 400 kilometres (250 miles) north of Baghdad, Iraq, on Sunday, 21 December, 2003.

INTERNET



## Iraq says Syria offers help to improve security

DAMASCUS, 22 Dec— The head of Iraq's US-appointed Governing Council said on Sunday Syria had offered help to improve security by providing intelligence, tightening borders and extraditing suspects involved in crime in Iraq.

"We asked for three things: cooperation in intelligence, securing the border and the extradition of criminals who carry out any criminal acts in Iraq," Abdul Aziz al-Hakim told *Reuters* after meeting Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

Hakim said his hosts promised to cooperate with Iraq on security. The United States has repeatedly accused Syria of not doing enough to prevent Islamist militants slipping into Iraq across the long desert border between them, to attack US-led forces occupying the country.

Hakim told a news conference the Governing Council wanted a security pact with Syria, whose government has said the frontier is difficult to control fully.

"The security issue that Iraq suffers, Syria could suffer," he said. "Therefore it is necessary that we cooperate to prevent terror acts and infiltrators."

Syria does not officially recognize the Governing Council, but has said it is willing to cooperate with Iraq until it elects a gov-

ernment.

Hakim said Syrian officials showed "openness" on the issue of returning Iraqi funds in Syrian state banks that Iraqi officials have said totalled about 3.0 billion US dollars.

"Of course the issue requires more study by specialists," he added.

Damascus officials say the funds amount to hundreds of millions of dollars and that a process is under way to deduct funds owed to Syrian firms before the balance is returned.

Asked about reports that Israeli private and official bodies were seeking trade and other relations with Iraq, Hakim said: "We hear these reports in the media but there is no decision by the Council (approving)... such issues."

Hakim, who heads to Moscow later on Sunday, said Russia should have a major role in Iraq's reconstruction.

Russia, owed eight billion US dollars by Iraq, said earlier this week it was willing to join other creditor nations in talks to cut Baghdad's debts.—*MNA/Reuters*

## Turkey to open border trade centres with Iran

ANKARA, 22 Dec— The border trade centres set up in the three gates bordering Iran will start working as of January 2004, Turkish Customs Undersecretary Nevzat Saygilioglu said recently.

The semi-official Anatolia news Agency quoted Saygilioglu as saying that the establishment of border trade centres aim to contribute to the eco-

nomie development in the region, to make people in the region benefit from cheap goods and to legalize the goods carried by passengers.

He added that three border trade centres have been set up in Sarisu, Kapikoy and Esendere and will be operational as of January.

*MNA/Xinhua*

## China's cinemas open wider to foreign investment

BEIJING, 22 Dec— Foreign investment may run up to 75 per cent of a Sino-foreign joint venture cinema in certain Chinese cities starting from January 1, 2004, according to new rules.

The treatment is granted to Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Chengdu, Xi'an, Wuhan and Nanjing. In other places, foreign investment is allowed a 49-per-cent stake at most, according to the interim rules on foreign investment in cinemas issued by the State Administration of Radio, Film and Television. The rules set the maximum term of a Sino-foreign joint venture cinema at 30 years.

Until now, foreign enterprises were allowed to invest in Chinese cinemas only as minority partners.

Saturday's *China Daily* quoted Mao Yu, a senior official at the State Administration of Radio, Film and Television, as saying that about 100 new joint-venture cinemas would be built next year and that foreign investment was "entering the market with aston-

ishing speed".

The English-language newspaper reported that Warner Bros would invest in many of the ventures, including a Tianjin cinema with 2,700 seats and another in Nanjing scheduled to open soon. Analysts here said introducing more foreign investment may help modernize existing cinemas and revitalize the movie industry, hit hard by the increasing popularity of home video players.

Earlier, the administration has issued rules on simplifying censorship on movies and scripts, encouraging Chinese-made movies to participate in more international film festivals, allowing foreign capital to fund film production as minority partners, and allowing non-state funds in film production.

*MNA/Xinhua*



Thousands of people visit the Christmas market of Frankfurt, central Germany, before Christmas, on 20 December, 2003.—INTERNET

## သားငါးပွဲခြား ပြည့်အကျိုး



A US soldier stands guard in front of an arrested Iraqi man in Tikrit, north of Baghdad.

INTERNET

## 500,000 Rwandans to get HIV drugs from WHO

KIGALI, 22 Dec— The World Health Organization (WHO) has launched a new initiative on HIV/AIDS which will benefit about 500,000 HIV-infected people in Rwanda.

Rwandan Minister of Health Abel Dushimimana said that the plan is a cornerstone in fight against HIV/AIDS.

"Rwanda is very grateful for being part of the new AIDS initiative. Rwanda owns a 13.7 per cent of infected population and we should take serious measures in stopping the rise of this number," he added.

The new AIDS initiative was unveiled on Friday in Kigali by WHO Africa Director Ibrahim Samba. Under the initiative, Rwanda will get the drugs worth 3.5 million US dollars. The director called on Rwandans to take the advice given in fighting the world number one disaster.

Rwanda was also selected among other sub-Saharan African countries to host the HIV vaccine trial early next year.—*MNA/Xinhua*

## Chinese Mainland to push direct cross-straits mail

BEIJING, 22 Dec— The Chinese Mainland will take more active and practical measures to realize the "direct link" in post and telecommunications across the Taiwan Straits, said an official with the Ministry of Information Industry (MII) Sunday.

These are part of the measures to realize the "Three Direct Links" in mail, transport and trade so as to boost cross-Straits cooperation and reunify the country at an early date, said the official of the ministry's Hong Kong-Macao-Taiwan Affairs Office.

Thanks to efforts made by departments on both sides, some cross-Straits postal and telecommunications businesses had been launched.

Last year, mail sent between the two sides totalled 9.83 million tons, 320 per cent higher than 1989.

Since 1989, phone calls made by Mainlanders to Taiwan have increased by 10 per cent every year, totaling 340 million minutes and ranking second for calls made by Mainlanders to overseas last year.

Meanwhile, Taiwan's phone calls to the Mainland also accounted for 30 per cent of its calls to overseas, ranking first in its overseas business. Telecommunications companies were allowed to offer cross-Straits

tele-conference services at the beginning of this year.

Despite achievements made so far, many problems still exist in realizing direct mail, because without direct transport, postal packages have to be delivered via Hong Kong or Macao. "High mail transportation cost, slow delivery speed and lack of business has caused the current mail business to fall short of public demands."

The Mainland, he said, has taken solid steps to realize direct mail exchange and telecommunications.

As early as in February 1979, the Mainland opened a telegraph business to Taiwan and long-distance call one month later.

Moreover, China's former President Jiang Zemin put forward the Eight-Point Proposals on China's reunification in January 1995. The Ministry of Post and Telecommunications (MPT), MII's predecessor, also advanced five policy proposals on opening direct mail and telecommunications services.

*MNA/Xinhua*

## More cases of bird flu reported in S Korea

SEOUL, 22 Dec— South Korea Saturday confirmed new cases of a highly infectious strain of bird flu in Cheonan, South Chungcheong Province, a place 20 kilometres south of the first case of bird flu reported.

The quarantine authorities said that suspected cases tested positive for avian influenza among 4,700 ducks at a farm in Cheonan, some 150 kilometres south to Seoul, according to the South Korean *Yonhap* news agency.

The result showed that the bird flu spread quickly in the country. South Korea reported its first case of the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) on December 15 in Umseong County of the North Chungcheong Province.

Quarantine officials set up checkpoints to prevent access to new site and designated it as a "danger zone" within a three-kilometre radius of the infected region in Cheonan.

There are about 20,000 farms where raise 360,000 chickens and ducks in South Chungcheong Province.

*MNA/Xinhua*

Hailing the 56th Anniversary Independence Day:

# Independence was thus safeguarded

Kuomintang, with estimated strength of some 200, entered Mongyang in January 1950 and stationed there. In March the same year, No 8 Infantry Division, No 26 Infantry Division and No 93 Infantry Division of KMT, with the strength of some 1,500, also entered Kengtung. In June 1950, the Myanmar Tatmadaw sent an ultimatum to them to surrender or leave the country. However, they did not pay any heed to the

an immediate withdrawal from Myanmar soil. The KMT with the strength of 7,000 withdrew from Myanmar following the UN resolution. However, there existed remnants of KMT operating in border areas of Myanmar.

Thus, the invasion of the KMT came to a temporary halt after the Myanmar Tatmadaw had driven them out of the country. It was in 1954-55 that the KMT opened their headquarters in

during the Yangyi Aung. With the help of the Air Force, the Tatmadaw columns attacked Hsin

Kuomintang troops intruded the Myanmar territory again. The Kuomintang reinforced

## Ketu Nila

Oogaung camp on 19 April 1955, Lwehsanhsu region on 23 April, Mongyon region on 25 April, and Tachilek mountain peak on 7 May. When the Tatmadaw attacked and seized Hsintaung camp at the foot of Mong-ma

troops and arms and ammunition, built a military air field and stationed its troops at Mongpahylo in eastern Shan State, with a strength of 500. The Kuomintang also stationed 950 troops at Kenglatt east of the air

on 11 January 1961; and Wanpapa region on 31 January 1961. The military aircraft of the Air Force gave aerial support for the ground forces.

Lt Peter of the Air Force sacrificed life for the nation during the aerial combat on 15 February 1961. Lt Peter, Lt Maung Thein and Lt Chit Khaing while on aerial patrol saw a four-engine plane intruding the Myanmar airspace. The Air Force ordered the plane to land at Kengtung Airport. But the alien plane refused to obey the order, and, started firing at the Myanmar aircraft. Thus, the three Myanmar aircraft of the Air Force fought back the enemy. Lt Peter sacrificed life for the nation during the air battle. The intruder plane went down across the border.

All those were the sacrifices the Tatmadaw made in crushing the alien intrusion and safeguarding the sovereignty and independence. But when the Tatmadaw was

tried to reinforce strength by forming pocket armies. The internal insurgencies taking advantage of the then government's weakness were launching armed opposition against the State. During the time the people had to live in fear as they were afraid of the pocket armies of the then government, and also the insurgents. In the various places of the countryside, there were mass murders, robberies, abductions and looting and torching of villages. Because of the uncontrollable situation, the nation then was on the brink of disintegration. Thus, the then prime minister entrusted the State power to the Caretaker Government on 28 October 1958 to restore the nation's situation and to take over the duties of the State.

During the time, the Tatmadaw with the support and assistance of the people had to make sacrifices in warding off the alien intrusions threatening to break up the Union. At present also, the Tatmadaw has taken over the State duties for perpetuation of the sovereignty.

In other words, the Tatmadaw has saved the nation from losing her independence for the second time.

\*\*\*

(Translation:  
KTY+TMT)



*Sea Fury  
Fighter UB  
466 of Pilot  
Lieutenant  
Peter who  
fought  
against the  
Kuomintang  
intruders.*

ultimatum. Instead, they intruded Kengtung and Tachilek and occupied them. In the first week of June 1950, the Myanmar Tatmadaw launched counter-attacks on the KMT intruders and recaptured Kengtung and Tachilek on 21 July. KMT General Limi made Mongmaw region his headquarters and stationed there with the strength of 4,000. When the Myanmar Tatmadaw launched attacks on them in October 1951, the KMT had to retreat from Mongmaw. It was on 11 February 1953 that the KMT, with the strength of over 1,000, invaded Mongyu, Muse, and Kyugok regions and occupied them.

As regards these situations, the Myanmar Government lodged a complaint with the United Nations on 25 March 1953, asking the world body to take actions against the KMT's invasion into Myanmar. Later on, the United Nations decided that the KMT should make

Ponpakayin area and stationed there. Therefore, the Tatmadaw launched brave attacks on the KMT under the name of "Operation Bayintnaung" on 2 March 1954, resulting in the recapture of Monghsat, Mongtung, Monhan, Ponpakayin and Mongpahlayo including the headquarters in a span of one month and half time. The KMT had to retreat from there suffering heavy losses. Moreover, the Myanmar Tatmadaw seized a large amount of ammunition from them. Later, the KMT with the strength of over 3,400 withdrew from Myanmar. At the same time, the Myanmar Tatmadaw launched "Operation Hsinphyushin" to drive the KMT with the strength of 1,700 out of Kawkareik and Myawady, and the latter in disarray retreated to the other country.

The Tatmadaw captured four Kuomintang military bases with a combined strength of over 6,000 in March 1955

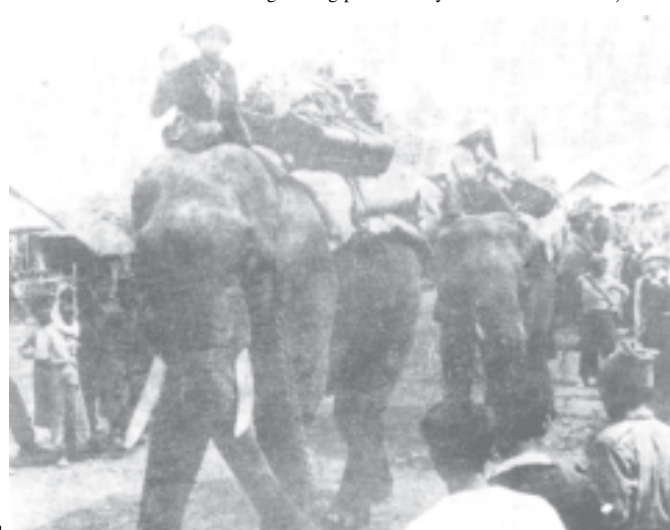
Mountain, Lwehongyi and Mongtom regions on 11, 14 and 15 May, 1,517 Kuomintang troops surrendered. Forty-four officers, rankers and privates of the Tatmadaw sacrificed lives for the nation and another 112 sacrificed limbs. The Operation Yangyi Aung concluded at the end of May in 1955. The military operation had reduced number of the Kuomintang strength to 3,000.

Moreover, the Tatmadaw launched major military offensives — Kengtung Operation and Pharaw, Maw and Panlong Operation in 1950; Moegyo Special Operation in 1952; Maha and Naganang Operations in 1953; and Yuzana Operation in 1954 against the Kuomintang troops, sacrificing many lives, much blood and sweat in safeguarding independence. The national defence endeavours of the Tatmadaw are the milestones in history.

In the late 1960s, the

field; and 600 at Monglin located at a place between Mongpahylo and Tarle. The total strength of the Kuomintang was about 2,100. The Tatmadaw launched Operation Mekong against the fortified Kuomintang forces on 30 December 1960. The Tatmadaw captured the Kuomintang fortified based at Monglin

launching major military operations, and sacrificing many lives and much blood and sweat to ward off the alien intrusion, there occurred power struggles within the political parties leading to breaking up of the unity. The factions of the political parties were vying against each other for political superiority and for grabbing power. They



*Tatmadaw column seen on a march to drive out the Kuomintang during the Operation Yangyi Aung in 1955.*



Hailing the 56th Anniversary Independence Day:

# Endeavours to safeguard independence



Myanma Tatmadaw fought the Kuomintang intruders during the Operation Yangyi Aung. During the operation, 1517 Kuomintang troops surrendered. The photo shows Tatmadawmen marching to fight against the intruders.



As Myanma Tatmadaw repelled the Kuomintang intruders who encroached upon Myanma's soil, remnant of Kuomintang troops of No 93 Infantry Brigade preparing to leave via Chengmai.

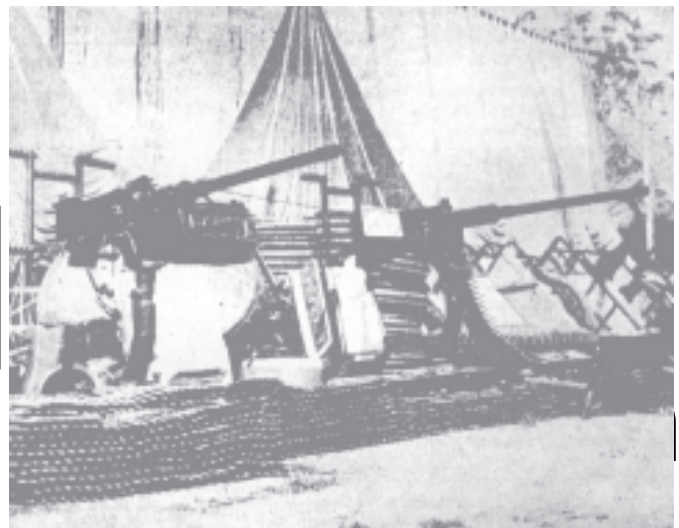


Fighter Pilot  
Lieutenant Peter  
of Myanmar  
Air Force.

The Tatmadaw captured four Kuomintang military bases with a combined strength of over 6,000 in 1955 during the Operation Yangyi Aung. With the help of the Air Force, the Tatmadaw columns attacked Hsin Oogaung camp on 19 April 1955, Lwehsanhsu region on 23 April, Mongyon region on 25 April, and Tachilek mountain peak on 7 May. When the Tatmadaw attacked and seized Hsintaung camp at the foot of Mongma Mountain, Lwehongyi and Mongkon regions on 11, 14 and 15 May, 1,571 Kuomintang troops surrendered.



Fighter UB 466 which engaged in a dogfight with a plane of the intruders.



The Tatmadaw seized heavy machineguns and a large cache of arms and ammunition of Kuomintang during the Operation Mekong.

## Senior General Than Shwe inspects Yeywa ...

(from page 1)

Senior General Than Shwe and party observed concrete blocks mixed with cement, sand and pozzolan to be used in construction of the main dam.

Senior General Than Shwe and party inspected construction of the separation wall and the site for the main dam and work.

On completion of the project, it will generate 790 megga watts. The dam of Yeywa hydro electric power project is the Roller Compacted Concrete one and it will be the largest RCC dam like those built in Thailand and China.

Senior General Than Shwe and party went by helicopter to Hsinmin Cement Plant of the Union of Myanmar Economic Holdings Ltd near the foot of Nwarlekaukaung, east of Kyaukse. They inspected No 1 and No 2 Hsinmin Cement Plants. Chairman of the Union of Myanmar Economic Holdings Ltd Lt-Gen Tin Aye reported on the cement plants. Senior General Than Shwe gave necessary instructions and greeted technicians from the People's Republic of China.

No 1 Hsinmin Cement Plant was opened one year ago and produces 400 ton a day with the use of wet process. No 2 Hsinmin Cement Plant produces 700 ton a day with the use of dry process. It will open in early 2004.

Senior General Than

Shwe and party arrived at the sewing machine factory of the Ministry of Industry-1 in Kyaukse industrial zone. They were welcomed by Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thein Tun and officials.

Minister U Aung Thaung reported on production of parts of the sewing machines and functions. Senior General Than Shwe and party inspected display of parts produced in the No 1 workshop and other parts to be manufactured and production process and assembling of sewing machines.

Senior General Than Shwe and party inspected sewing machines produced and the trial test of the machines. The sewing machine factory (Kyaukse) sells *Maung Myamma* brand sewing machines.

Senior General Than Shwe and party arrived at Pharmaceutical Factory (In-yaung) near In-yaung Village in Kyaukse Township.

They were welcomed by Deputy Minister for Industry-1 Brig-Gen Kyaw Win and officials.

Minister U Aung Thaung reported on the objective of the factory and production of disposable syringes and injections. Senior General Than Shwe then gave necessary instructions.

Senior General Than Shwe and party inspected production of disposable syringes. They also inspected renovation of three ancient pagodas near Pharmaceutical Factory (In-yaung) and visited Lawka Manaung Shwegugyi Pagoda near In-yaung Village. Senior General Than Shwe donated cash to the pagoda board of trustees. He inspected growing of Bo tree.

Senior General Than Shwe and party left for Mandalay and inspected construction of six-lane Yangon-Mandalay Highway. — MNA



Senior General Than Shwe makes cash donation at Lawka Manaung Shwegugyi Pagoda. — MNA



Senior General Than Shwe hears a report presented by Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin at the opening ceremony of the Myanmar Agricultural Machinery Factory of the Agricultural Mechanization Department in Kyaukse Township. — MNA

Senior General Than Shwe gives guidance at the briefing hall of the Yeywa hydro electric power project. — MNA



Senior General Than Shwe inspects machinery displayed at Myanmar Agricultural Machinery Factory of the Agricultural Mechanization Department. — MNA



## Regional development measures inspected in Myeik

YANGON, 22 Dec — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council and Commander of Coastal Region Command Brig-Gen Ohn Myint and departmental officials, went to the construction site of MahaTheikdzaya Pagoda on Sandawady Hill, Myeik, on 20 December morning. At the Dhammayon of the construction site, Lt-Gen Maung Bo asked Sayadaw of Shwethuwun Monastery Agga Maha Saddhammajotikadhaja Bhaddanta Candhiya about the requirements for construction of the pagoda.

Next, Lt-Gen Maung Bo gave instructions to the commander, responsible engineers and architects on construction of the pagoda with traditional handiwork and attended to the requirements.

Yesterday morning, Lt-Gen Maung Bo went to the People's Hospital in Myeik, where he met with officials of the hospital and gave instructions on effective implementation of health care services, educational campaigns and prevention work. Next, Lt-Gen Maung Bo made a donation of cash to the hospital through officials.

Later, Lt-Gen Maung Bo arrived at the Myanmar International Fish Auction Market at Myeik Industrial Zone, where he inspected fish and prawn purchasing centres and their sale conditions. He also gave instructions to officials on strict supervision for fish and prawn sales.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party later proceeded to Asaung Kaung Co Ltd, where he inspected the construction of factories and roads and left instructions to officials. Afterwards, he attended to the requirements. — MNA



Senior General Than Shwe inspects Sewing Machines Factory of the Ministry of Industry-1 in Kyaukse Industrial Zone. — MNA

## National Convention Convening Work Committee meets

YANGON, 22 Dec — The National Convention Convening Work Committee held its coordination meeting at the meeting hall of the

*Chief Justice U Aung Toe makes an address at the coordination meeting of the National Convention Convening Work Committee. — MNA*

Work Committee in Kyaukkasan Grounds this morning.

Present were Chairman of the National Convention

Convening Work Committee Chief Justice U Aung Toe, Vice-Chairman Attorney-General U Aye Maung, Secretary U Thaung Nyunt, Joint-Secretary-1 U Khin Maung Myint, Joint-Secretary-2 Dr Thaung Myint and members.

Chairman of the National Convention Work Committee Chief Justice U Aung

Toe delivered an opening speech and explained the history of the National Convention.

Vice-Chairman Attorney-General U Aye Maung and Secretary U Thaung Nyunt discussed matters relating to holding of the National Convention.

The meeting came to a close in the afternoon. — MNA



Commerce Minister Brig-Gen Pyi Sone makes an address at the 2nd meeting of Joint Committee on Trade between Myanmar and Vietnam. — MNA

## Border conference between Myanmar and Bangladesh held

YANGON, 22 Dec — The Border Conference (Director-General Level Border Coordination Conference IND Myanmar and BDR Bangladesh) was held at Grand Plaza Park Royal Hotel on Signal Pagoda Road here this morning.

Present on the occasion were Myanmar delegation leader Director-General U Maung Htay of Immigration and National Registration Department of the Ministry of Immigration and Population and delegates, Bangladeshi delegation leader Maj-Gen Md Jahangir Alam Choudhury ndc Psc and delegates and Bangladeshi

charges d' affaires Md Eusuf Ali.

At the conference, delegation leaders and members

discussed matters on tranquility and prevalence of law, prevention of occurrence of crimes in Naff river, maintenance

and inspection of border stone pillars. The conference came to a close in the afternoon. — MNA

At the meeting, the two sides discussed matters on

bilateral trade, holding of trade fairs, sending trade delegations and investment.

After the meeting, the two ministers signed the agreements reached at the meeting.

Deputy Commerce Minister Brig-Gen Aung Tun, Vietnamese Ambassador Mr Pham Quang Khon and responsible officials also attended the meeting. — MNA



Director-General level Border Coordination Conference IND Myanmar and BDR Bangladesh on progress at Grand Plaza Park Royal Hotel in Yangon. — MNA

## English courses available at MRA

YANGON, 22 Dec — Courses on English ranging from intermediate level to general English, GCE English, and medical English, and other courses for those intending to visit foreign nations or work there are now available at MRA (Myanmar Royal Academy) English Language Centre, and they are taught by MRA Principal Dr Myint Hlaing himself.

At the end of this

month, English in business studies, accounting, finance, marketing, management, and writing for business, and TOEFL special courses will also be conducted along with special courses on Chinese language. For further information, please contact MRA, No 57, ground floor, 9th Street, Lanmadaw, Yangon or dial the phone number 222121.

MNA

## 2nd Myanmar-Vietnam trade meeting held

YANGON, 22 Dec — The 2nd meeting of the Joint committee for Myanmar-Vietnam trade was held this morning at Grand Plaza Park Royal here and Myanmar Commerce Minister Brig-Gen Pyi Sone and Vietnamese Commerce Minister Mr Truong Dinh Tuyen made opening addresses.

At the meeting, the two sides discussed matters on

bilateral trade, holding of trade fairs, sending trade delegations and investment.

After the meeting, the two ministers signed the agreements reached at the meeting.

Deputy Commerce Minister Brig-Gen Aung Tun, Vietnamese Ambassador Mr Pham Quang Khon and responsible officials also attended the meeting. — MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives Vietnamese Commerce Minister Mr Truong Dinh Tuyen. — MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt delivers a speech at the ceremony to honour the XXII SEA Games gold medalists.

MNA

Dignitaries present at the ceremony to honour the XXII SEA Games gold medalists.

MNA

## Prime Minister receives SRV Minister of Trade

YANGON, 22 Dec—Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt received Minister of Trade of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Mr

Truong Dinh Tuyen and members at Zeyathiri Beikman hall on Konmyinthar this evening. Present together with the Prime Minister were Min-

ister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Khin Maung Win and Director-General of Protocol Department Thura

U Aung Htet.

The Vietnamese Minister was accompanied by Ambassador of the SRV Mr Pham Quang Khon.

MNA



## Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt honours SEA ...

(from page 16)

honour to the nation by winning the gold medals in SEA games.

He said every nation in the world is attempting in competition to promote dignity of the nation and its people and to keep abreast with other nations with strong nationalist spirit in economic, social, cultural and sports sectors.

Similarly, the Union of Myanmar is making endeavours for progress of the nation and the people in all sectors. The athletes have seen the government's efforts to raise Myanmar sports standard, he said.

Uplifting of national sports standard and winning victories in the international sports competitions indicate dignity of the nation and its people and cultural standard. With the encouragement of the government, Myanmar sports standard has gradually improved but it is not satisfactory.

He said he was very pleased with the encouragement of the government and the people and manpower, financial assistance, advice and management of national entrepreneurs who take charge of the sports federations.

Considering the encouragement of the government and sports enthusiasts, he said, it is true that success of

Myanmar sports has not reached the level that deserves the victory. At the XXII SEA Games the position of Myanmar sports contingent was not higher than that of the previous year.

Athletes from twenty nine sports categories out of 32 won medals. The total number of medals gained was higher than that of the XXI SEA Games. The number of silver medals increased more and the number of gold medals dropped comparing with the previous games, he said.

It is encouraging to note that victorious athletes who won gold medals at the games are those who won medals in SEA Games, Asian and world level competitions.

Min Zaw Oo who won bronze in 75-kilo event of physical culture contest at the XIV SEA Games now won gold in 80-kilo event at the XXII SEA Games.

Canoe-rowing sport is also a sport activity that has met with success in Southeast Asia. And Myanmar rowing team secured three gold in this competition. In the rowing competition, the men's team as well as the women's team fetched gold in the 1000-m rowing competition.

Likewise, although the chances of winning many gold medals were with the Myanmar shooting team, the athletes could won only one

gold in the shooting competition.

In particular, Myanmar athletes in the weightlifting and Wushu competitions keep winning medals not only at Southeast Asia level but also at the world level. These achievements deserve to be honoured and Myanmar women should take endless pride in them.

Kay Thi Win, Khin Moe Nwe, Mya Sanda Oo, and Cho Cho Win won gold medals in the weightlifting competition just as Khine Khine Maw and Swe Swe Thant won gold medals in Wushu competition. Myanmar athletes have set milestone of success not only for themselves but also for their respective sport federations and the State by winning medals in almost every international-level competition held in recent years.

Despite their young experience, the athletes of weightlifting, Wushu and canoe-rowing have made remarkable achievements in so short a time on account of the combined efforts exerted by sport federations concerned the athletes themselves. In this context, the assistance enthusiastically offered by private entrepreneurs taking charge of the federations concerned cannot be left out.

Still in need however are the harmonious and united

efforts of all responsible persons, all sport federations and all athletes to ensure success in every sport activity and competition.

Moreover, continued efforts are to be made to systematically develop the techniques of sports with bright prospects of success as well as produce outstanding athletes for all sport activities.

Athletes of sport activities which missed gold medals but fetched only silver and bronze medals although they should have won gold, should strive, without losing any hopes, for winning gold medals in the competitions to come by undergoing intensified training and making systematic arrangements.

When compared with other participant nations, the success achieved was not encouraging. However, the athletes who won gold medals as desired by the country and the entire people and brought credit to the country should deserve due honour.

As for the victorious athletes, they should continue to raise the dignity of the country in international-level sport competitions, after winning the due respect of the country and the people.

This year's women's football team, although they missed the championship award, should be praised for their industry and football skills. Efforts are to be made

## Foreign Minister U Win Aung sends message of felicitations to Japan

YANGON, 23 Dec — On the occasion of the birthday of His Majesty Akihito, Emperor of Japan, which falls on 23 December 2003, U Win Aung, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Ms Yoriko Kawaguchi, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan.

MNA

continuously under intense practice to win gold.

Furthermore, responsible officials of the Ministry of Sports are to make assessment of their management, techniques, spiritual eagerness, diligence and perseverance.

He concluded that efforts are to be made to further raise the national sport standard and to write success stories in competitions at Asian level as well as at world level.

Next, Leader of Myanmar Sports Contingent Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu reported on the participation of Myanmar Sports Contingent in XXII SEA Games.

Afterwards, prizes were presented to gold medalists. First, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win presented prizes to gold medalists—Khin Maung Myint, Yan Paing, Myo Zaw, Phone Myint Tayza, Kan Shwe, Aung Kyaw Moe, Khin Mar Oo, Khin Mar Thin, Naw Ahlelar Shi and Thein Htay Win—who took part in canoe event.

Next, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein presented prizes to men and women medalists who participated in traditional rowing event.

After that, Chairman of Myanmar National Olympic Council Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt presented prizes to gold medalists—Khin Khine Maw and Swe Swe Thant who won two gold each in wushu competitions.

Next, Chairman of Myanmar National Olympic Council Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt presented prizes to gold medalists—Min Zaw Oo who won gold in bodybuilding, Maung Kyu who won gold in shooting, Kay Thi Win, Khin Moe Nwe, Mya Sanda Oo and Cho Cho Win who won gold in weight-lifting, and Ha Hone who won gold in wushu competition.

Next, Medallist Khine Khine Maw, on behalf of selected Myanmar athletes, spoke words of thanks.

Next, dinner was hosted to the athletes who brought glory to the nation.

MNA

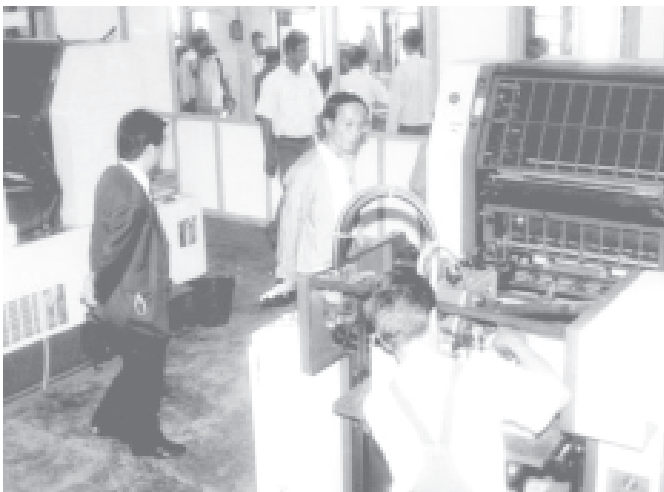


## Hailing the 56th Anniversary Independence Day:

# Progress the Ministry of Information has made in the time of the State Peace and Development Council



*The photo shows the TV Relay Station in Kale constructed by Myanmar Radio and Television under the Ministry of Information.*



*Myitkyina subprinting house publishes newspapers to enable the local people to read newspapers in time.*



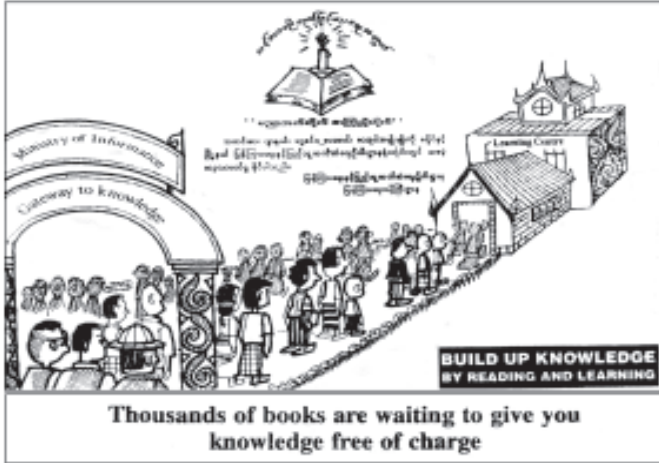
*An IPRD office was constructed in Kokogyun, Yangon Division, with the aim of widening the scope of knowledge of the public.*

### Mass media tasks carried out by the Ministry of Information from 1988 to 2003

Subject	1988	2003	
Myanma Radio and Television			
Hours of daily radio broadcast	16.5	18.5	
TV broadcast			
(a) Completed retransmission stations	15	166	
(b) Hours of daily TV broadcast	2	8-12	
(c) Population of viewers	25.1 million	44.6 million	
(d) Townships that can receive programmes	—	286	
(e) MRTV Channel	1	2	
(f) Countries that can receive MRTV-3 programmes	—	126	
(g) e-Newspaper	—	(All over the world through the Internet)	
Information and Public Relations Department			
(a) IPRD offices and libraries	100	360	
(b) Libraries (self-reliant)	—	1782	
(c) e-Libraries	—	81	
News and Periodicals Enterprise Newspapers		Circulation	
(a) The Myanma Alin	68,400	202,468	
(b) The Kyemon	51,800	197,174	
(c) The New Light of Myanmar	—	23,599	
Subprinting houses		Opening dates	
(a) Mandalay	(17-4-1998)	—	79,158
(b) Taunggyi	(1-10-2001)	—	8,531
(c) Magway	(1-10-2001)	—	8,394
(d) Kengtung	(27-3-2002)	—	1,801
(e) Kale	(15-6-2002)	—	3,154
(f) Myitkyina	(24-3-2003)	—	5,518
(g) Sittway	(26-8-2003)	—	5,516



*Primary school children in Nyaungpin village seen reading periodicals with interest thanks to the mobile library of Monywa District IPRD.*



## ADVERTISEMENT

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သင်တန်းသစ်ကို ၅-၁-၂၀၀၄ ရက်တွင်စမည်။  
သုံးလသင်တန်း တနင်္လာ၊ ဗုဒ္ဓဟူး၊ သောကြာ 9.00 am to 11.30

လူဦးရေအကန့်အသတ်ဖြင့်သာလက်ခံမည်။

Multi-media style lab, audio-visual aid နှင့် ခေတ်မီအထောက်အကူများသုံးမည်။

၁၀ တန်းအောင်ပြီးသူ၊ ဘွဲ့ရ ဘွဲ့လွန်များအတွက် အကျိုးဝင်၊ အသုံးဝင်မည်။

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR သတင်းစာတိုက်

ကမ်းနားလမ်းနှင့် ၄၃ လမ်းထောင့်၊ ဗိုလ်တထောင်မြို့နယ်၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့

စုံစမ်းရန် ဖုန်း-၂၉၆၈၁၁

### Philippines to implement Tobacco Regulation Act in 2004

MANILA, 22 Dec — The Philippine Government will begin implementing the Tobacco Regulation Act of 2003 on January 1, 2004 to protect public health by regulating sale and use of tobacco products nationwide, the *Philippines News Agency* reported.

The act, signed by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo on June 23, 2003, designates all public places as non-smoking areas.

These include elevators, stairwells, transport terminals, dining and food preparation areas as well as educational, recreational and medical facilities.

While the law bans smoking in public places, authorities may designate smoking

areas identified by conspicuously-posted signs in these zones. However, such places should be either open spaces or enclosed areas with adequate ventilation, and "Smoking Area" signs must also bear warnings about the ill-effects of direct and second-hand smoke.

The act prohibits sale of tobacco within 100 metres of schools, playgrounds and other facilities used by mi-

nors. It also requires retailers to demand documents like identification cards from cigarette buyers, particularly when they appear to be underaged.

Similarly, tobacco sellers must post prominent signs in their stores which state that both selling and distribution of tobacco products to persons under 18 years old is unlawful.

MNA/Xinhua

### Thai police clarifies killings in war on drugs

BANGKOK, 22 Dec — Thai police only killed 57 people among 1,329 deaths related to drug in the country's war on drugs, Police Chief Sant Sarutanont on Saturday was quoted by local Press as saying.

There were 2,598 murder cases in which 2,849 people died during the first stage of the government-launched war on drugs, which last from February 1 to April 30, according to the investigation report declared on Friday.

Around half of the total killings were related to drugs, while only 57 killings were carried out by police when cracking down drug related crimes.

"No policeman wanted to kill anyone unless it was absolutely necessary," Sant was quoted by *Bangkok Post* as saying.

He said most of the deaths related to drugs were caused by killings among drug gangs, especially when drug dealers pocketed the income of selling drugs.

"Most of them were killed because they took the drugs to sell and failed to pay the people they took them from," he said.

As to the other half of murders having nothing to do with drugs, Sant said an average of 450 to 500 murder cases occurred each month in the kingdom.

During the 10-month clampdown on drugs, police seized some 40 million amphetamine tablets and a total of about 88.24-million-US-dollar drug traffickers' assets, according to the statistics issued by the Interior Ministry. However, the large number of killings occurred during the first stage of the drug war raised public concerns over extra-judicial killings and human rights violation.—MNA/Xinhua

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used in connection with:-  
"Air conditioners"  
A Declaration of Ownership of the said Mark has been registered in the Office of the Registration of Deeds, Yangon being No. 2935/1997.

WARNING is hereby given that any fraudulent imitation or unauthorised use of the said Trade Mark in any manner whatsoever will be dealt with according to law.

Win Mu Tin,  
M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L  
for RHEEM MANUFACTURING COMPANY  
P.O. Box 60, Yangon:  
Dated: 23 December, 2003

### Pakistani, Indian border officials resume talks

ISLAMABAD, 22 Dec — Pakistani and Indian military officials resumed regular talks on border issues Saturday after a two-year suspension caused by tension.

A report of the *News Network International*, an Islamabad-based private news agency, said the talks were held at Wagah border post, near Lahore, Pakistan's second largest city.

An eight-member delegation from India's Border Security Force attended the meeting, which had been held monthly prior to the suspension.

Pakistani military sources were quoted as saying that the meeting was "in a good atmosphere" and the process will hopefully continue.

MNA/Xinhua

### China strives to bolster human resources development

BEIJING, 22 Dec — Chinese President Hu Jintao has said the nation's revitalization strategy based on human resources development should be taken as a major and pressing task of the state and the Communist Party of China (CPC).

Hu, also General Secretary of the CPC Central Committee, made the appeal at a national conference on human resources development, which was held in Beijing on Friday and Saturday.

He said the human resources development strategy is vital for upgrading China's competitiveness and improving comprehensive national strength, and for the ambitious plan of building a well-off society in China.

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV KOTAMUTIARA VOY NO (065)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTAMUTIARA Voy No (065) are here by notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23-12-03 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

(၇) (၈) (၉) (၁၀) စာသင်သားများအတွက်  
သင်ရိုးညွှန်းတမ်းနှင့်အညီ အင်္ဂလိပ်စာ သင်ခန်းစာများပါရှိပါသည်။

### JUNIOR LEADER



အတွဲ (၅) အမှတ် (၄၀) ဖြန့်ချိလိုက်ပါပြီ

သတင်းနှင့်စာပေအသင်းလုပ်ငန်းစာအုပ်ဆိုင်ရာအစီအစဉ်နှင့်အညီ စာ  
ကိုယ်စားလှယ်များထံတွင် လက်လီဝယ်ယူနိုင်ပါသည်။

The New Light of Myanmar

အင်္ဂလိပ်စာ တိုးတက်လိုသူတိုင်း ဂျူနီယာလီဒါကို ဖတ်ကြည့်ပါ။  
Read Junior Leader to improve your English.

### စားပွဲနှင့် ကုလားထိုင်များငှားရန်

အလှူ၊ ထိပ်မြားမာလ၊ အစည်းအဝေး အခမ်းအနားများတွင် ခေတ်မီ  
ပလတ်စတစ်စားပွဲနှင့် ကုလားထိုင်များ ရှေးနှစ်သက်သာစွာဖြင့် ငှားရမ်းနေပါသည်။

နံနက် ၉:၃၀ မှ ည ၁၀:၃၀ နာရီအတွင်း စက်သွယ်နိုင်ပါသည်။

အမှတ် ၂၂၈-သိမ်မြောက်လမ်း၊ ဗိုလ်တထောင်မြို့နယ်၊  
ဖုန်း-၂၉၆၈၁၁ ၂၉၆၈၄၂



# မညာရးဖြင့် ခေတ်မီပွဲပြီးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့

## Chinese Mainland, HK sign tourism agreement

HONG KONG, 22 Dec— The Chinese Mainland and Hong Kong closer tourism cooperation agreement was signed here Friday, signifying their closer tourism cooperation and exchange.

The documents were signed by the Director of the China National Tourism Administration, He Guangwei, and Hong Kong's Secretary for Economic Development and Labour, Stephen Ip.

After the signing ceremony, Ip said the agreement marked a milestone in the growth of the tourism industries for both the Mainland and Hong Kong.

According to the agreement, both parties agreed to encourage more travel between the two places; to support the tourism industry via mutual tourism trade and promotion; to step up tourism publicity overseas to draw more tourists to the Mainland and Hong Kong; and to take measures to protect tourists' rights.

ists' rights.

It is expected that the agreement will bring more business opportunities for the tourism industry in both the Mainland and Hong Kong. Both sides will strengthen cooperation to promote tourism development and products more actively, said Ip.

He Guangwei said that Hong Kong has become the largest overseas destination of Mainland tourists. Over the past six years, more than 32 million Mainland tourists have visited Hong Kong.

At the same time, Hong Kong is the major source of overseas tourists visiting Chinese Mainland. The newly signed agreement will benefit the both sides, said He Guangwei. — MNA/Xinhua

## British spacecraft starts final leg of Mars probe

LONDON, 22 Dec — A British spacecraft, the size of an open umbrella, began the final leg of its mission to find life on Mars as it successfully broke free on Friday from the mother ship that has carried it 100 million kilometres from Earth.

Beagle 2 parted from the Mars Express rocket and set off alone to cover the remaining distance to the Red Planet, where it should parachute down on Christmas morning and start broadcasting a tune by Britpop band Blur. In the intervening days, it will be out of touch with Earth because the radio it carries is too small to cover the distance.

"We can confirm that we have Beagle 2 separation," said Mike McKay, flight director of the mission, talking to a gathering of scientists in London by video link from the headquarters of the European Space Agency in Darmstadt, Germany.

The first sign scientists will have of the success or failure of their project will be when either Mars Express or the US Mars mission rocket Mars Odyssey—both carrying powerful radios—enters Mars orbit, antennae straining for the Blur tune.

Back on Earth, the scientists will be biting their finger nails and praying in the silent hours after the scheduled landing.

But once they get the signal, emotion will be packed away for the duration as they instruct the probe to get to work. The lander is packed with state of the art scientific instruments that will scrape, bore and bake samples from the surface of Mars seeking signs that there was once life on the planet. At its heart is a mass spectrometer used to measure the mass and abundance of atoms and molecules on planetary surfaces.

"This mission is very important indeed to mankind," Sir Patrick Moore, Britain's best known astronomer, said at a gathering of scientists at the Royal Geographical Society.

MNA/Reuters

## WHO issues alert against SARS after Chinese (Taipei) tests positive

NEW YORK, 22 Dec — The UN health agency has issued an alert against SARS virus and urged countries to follow correct biosafety norms to prevent its spread after a Chinese (Taipei) scientist was tested positive.

Though details of the case are still under investigation, local health experts reported to agency that the researcher was probably exposed to the virus in the laboratory on 5 December.

The scientist then travelled to Singapore to attend a conference from 7 to 10 December, returning on 10 December. He began to feel unwell later that day and placed himself in home quarantine. For the moment, the positive test of a 44-year-old laboratory worker for the SARS coronavirus appears to be an isolated incident, the World Health Organization (WHO) said. —MNA/PTI

ing on 10 December. He began to feel unwell later that day and placed himself in home quarantine. For the moment, the positive test of a 44-year-old laboratory worker for the SARS coronavirus appears to be an isolated incident, the World Health Organization (WHO) said. —MNA/PTI

## India tests short range surface-to-air missile

NEW DELHI, 22 Dec— India is carrying out a series of tests off its eastern coast to perfect the Trishul short-range surface-to air missile, a government official said on Saturday.

The Trishul named after a trident carried by a Hindu god of destruction is part of India's 15-year-old indigenous missile development programme.

"Tests on the Trishul are being carried out. They will continue for a few days. They are routine tests and the missile is being perfected," a spokesman for the Ministry of Defence told Reuters.

The Trishul can carry a 33-pound warhead up to a range of 31 miles and can be used by the Army and Navy.

India is developing a range of missiles as a deterrent against nuclear-armed neighbours Pakistan and China, India's Armed Forces were in a state of alert over most of 2002 following growing tensions with Pakistan.

MNA/Reuters

## 11 die as cold wave strikes in Mexico

MEXICO CITY, 22 Dec— At least 11 people have been died in Mexico this week as a result of a cold wave bringing low temperatures throughout the country, the authorities said on Friday.

The National Meteorological System reported that the cold wave had covered the north, east and centre of the country in recent days, reducing the temperature to zero.

In some northern states, the temperature had plummeted to minus ten degrees Celsius. Isolated urban and rural places had reported tem-

perature of 15 below zero.

The 11 deaths were in the northern state of Chihuahua. Ten were men, said Fernando Romero, head of the department of the national centre of communications of the Interior Ministry.

Authorities have taken emergency measures in the states of Sonora, Chihuahua

## Drug offence cases on rise in Nepal

KATHMANDU, 22 Dec — The number of drug-related offence cases increased significantly this year in Nepal compared with that of last year, *The Rising Nepal* newspaper reported Saturday.

A total of 90 foreigners, including seven women, were arrested for trying to smuggle in drugs by November, an increase of 32 from 2002 and 35 in 2001, the state-run English daily quoted a high-ranking police officer as saying.

There were 302 Nepali people, including 45 women arrested in the year, while the number was 284 in 2002, the officer said.

The police have seized 4,970 kilos of cannabis, 864 kilos of hashish and 22.5

kilos of heroin by last month, while the figures in last year were 3,320 kilos, 850 kilos and 3.7 kilos respectively.

The police also destroyed cannabis planted on 159 hectares and opium on 19.52 hectares in the country.

According to Nepal's law, offence related to abuse, cultivation, production, trans-action and trafficking of drugs are punishable by two years to life imprisonment and 27 to 33,800 US dollars in fine.

MNA/Xinhua

## 33rd wedding expo opens in Hong Kong

HONG KONG, 22 Dec — Hong Kong launched the 33rd Christmas wedding expo on Friday at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre.

More than 70 booths have been set up by companies to promote and exhibit various kinds of wedding services, products and accessories. A couple of wedding service companies organized fashion shows to provide visitors with the latest trend of and idea about wedding gown and evening dress.

Apart from those commonly known services, visitors will also have the chance to come upon a brand new service at this year's wedding expo. A booth named "speaking roses" has introduced a technology of carving words on flowers from America.

The three-day expo is expected to attract a total of 15,000 visitors, the organizer said. —MNA/Xinhua

## Combination of two drugs offer hope for prostate treatment

WASHINGTON, 22 Dec — Combination of two widely used drugs can sharply reduce the risk that enlarged prostate will get worse, a study funded by the US Government shows.

This offers millions of men a dramatically more effective way to fend off the most undesirable effects of one of the most common male afflictions.

The two drugs are alpha blockers, which are a kind of muscle relaxer for the prostate, and another type of pill that shrinks the prostate by blocking the hormone testosterone.

sterone.

Previous studies evaluating whether combining the two types of drugs worked better than using either alone failed to show any additional benefit.

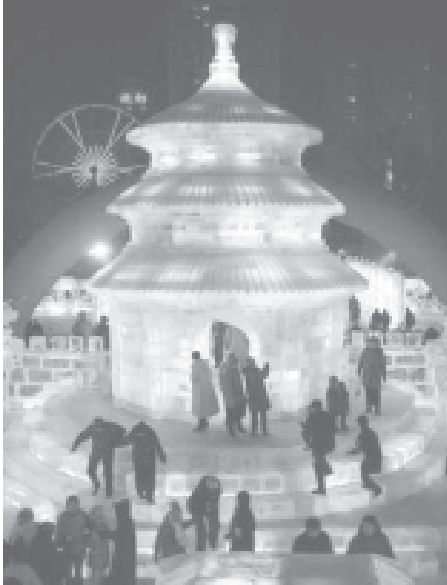
However, that research typically followed men for only about a year. In the new study, researchers for the first time tested a combination for over two years.

Claus G Roehrborn of the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Centre at Dallas, who led the study, told *The Washington Post*, this condition (enlarged prostate) afflicts a huge number of men. This study shows we can prevent what ultimately are the most feared outcomes of the disease."

MNA/PTI

Visitors view ice lamps during the 30th Harbin Ice Lamp Festival in Harbin, capital of the northeast Heilongjiang Province, China, on 20 Dec, 2003. More than 2,000 ice and snow artworks were displayed in the festival kicked off on 20 December.

INTERNET



## Arroyo names new trade secretary

MANILA, 22 Dec— Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo Friday appointed Cesar Purisima as Secretary of Trade and Industry to replace the recently resigned Manuel Roxas.

Philippine Presidential Spokesman Ignacio Bunye made this announcement at a Press briefing, the Philippine Star on-line news reported.

Purisima was chairman of one of the Philippines' most prominent accounting firms. Manuel Roxas resigned last week to campaign for a senatorial seat in next year's general elections.

MNA/Xinhua

## SPORTS

## Parma sink to second straight defeat

ROME, 22 Dec—A last-minute goal by midfielder Francesco Cozza condemned Parma to their second consecutive Serie A defeat on Saturday, when they lost 2-1 to lowly Reggina.

Unlike last weekend's 4-0 rout by Juventus, Parma dominated the match but failed to break down the southerners, who had not won a league match for more than two months.

Striker David di Kichele put the visitors ahead in the 27th minute, when he broke the offside trap, hoisted the ball over advancing keeper Sebastian Frey and finished into an empty net.

Parma, however, continued to create the better chances and drew level in the 85th minute, when di Michele handled in his own area and Italy Under-21 striker Alberto Gilardino fired home from the penalty spot.

With 90 minutes on the clock the game seemed to be heading for a draw, but Frey's short clearance allowed Reggina midfielder Giacomo Tedesco to cross the ball into the six-yard box, where it was hooked into the net by Cozza.

The result left Parma in sixth place, while Reggina climbed to 12th.—MNA/Reuters



Olympique Marseille's Didier Drogba, centre, makes an overhead kick past Toulouse FC's Issoumaïlka Dao, left, and Nabil Taider during their League One soccer match in Marseille, southern France, on 20 Dec, 2003.—INTERNET

## Eriksson feels sorry for Ferdinand

LONDON, 22 Dec—England coach Sven-Goran Eriksson said he felt "sorry" for Rio Ferdinand on Saturday but respected the decision to ban the Manchester United defender for eight months for missing a drugs test.

Eriksson will be without one of his first-choice centre backs for the Euro 2004 finals unless Ferdinand manages to reduce his ban and 50,000-pound (\$83,310-US-dollars) fine on appeal.

"With regard to Rio, I'm sorry for him. I'm sure he will be disappointed to miss football for eight months and I'm sure he will see it as a blow to miss Euro 2004," Eriksson said in a statement on the English Football Association's web site on Saturday.

"But I must respect the (disciplinary) commission's decision."

Eriksson had been critical of the drawn out process that led up to this week's two-day hearing in front of an independent disciplinary panel in Bolton.

On Saturday he was more conciliatory, saying: "I have

already made clear my thoughts that the process must be improved and I am pleased that the various reviews are moving forward rapidly to ensure this happens."

Eriksson concluded by saying: "I cannot make any further comment at this time

as Manchester United have said they will be appealing against the decision." Ferdinand was punished for failing to turn up for a drugs test at United's Carrington training ground on September 23. His ban is due to start on January 12.

MNA/Reuters

## Totti double sends Roma six points clear

ROME, 22 Dec—Two first-half goals by captain Francesco Totti gave Serie A leaders AS Roma a 2-0 win at Empoli on Saturday.

Roma stand six points clear of second-placed AC Milan, who play Udinese on Sunday.

Totti broke the deadlock with a 23rd-minute penalty after defender Francesco Pratali tripped striker John Carew.

The Italian international doubled Roma's advantage just before halftime, lobbing Empoli keeper Luca Bucci from the edge of the area.

Empoli, second from last in the division, struggled to create chances. Their best effort — a long-range drive by defender Manuel Belleri — sailed over.

Earlier, a last-minute goal by midfielder Francesco Cozza condemned Parma to their second consecutive league defeat as they lost 2-1 at home to lowly Reggina.

Unlike last weekend's 4-0 rout by Juventus, Parma dominated the match but failed to break down the southerners, who had not won a league match for more than two months.

Striker David di Michele put the visitors ahead in the 27th minute, when he beat the offside trap, lobbed advancing keeper Sebastian Frey and finished into an empty net.

MNA/Reuters

## Chelsea go joint top as Bolton hold Arsenal

LONDON, 22 Dec—Chelsea joined Arsenal at the top of the Premier League after Hernan Crespo earned them a 1-0 victory at west London rivals Fulham on Saturday.

The Argentine struck with a powerful second-half header to lift Chelsea to 39 points, level with Arsenal who could only draw at Bolton Wanderers for the second successive season.

Bolton, who scored twice in the final 16 minutes of the corresponding fixture last season for a draw that derailed Arsenal's title charge, left it late again as Henrik Pedersen lashed in a left-footed equalizer seven minutes from time. Arsenal squandered several chances to take the lead before Frenchman Robert Pires finally broke the deadlock in the 57th minute, scoring from close range after Freddie Ljungberg's shot had been blocked.

Pedersen was instrumental in Bolton's shock win at Chelsea last week, his cross being turned into his own net by John Terry, but Claudio Ranieri's side bounced back at Fulham.

Chelsea have not lost away to Fulham since the 1976-77 season, and they rarely looked like squandering that record against the league's surprise package.

Damien Duff, Adrian Mutu and John Terry all wasted glorious chances before the break and Frank Lampard and the lively Crespo continued the theme before Crespo thumped home a pinpoint cross from Wayne Bridge after 62 minutes.

Chelsea and Arsenal have identical goal differences and scoring records, but they can both be overtaken by champions Manchester United who will go top with victory at struggling Tottenham Hotspur on Sunday.

Fulham hang on to fourth place although they are joined on 25 points by Newcastle United who drew 0-0 at Charlton Athletic.

With none of the bottom three clubs in action, some of the other relegation-threatened clubs had the chance to give themselves some breathing space.

Everton moved four points above the drop zone after coming from behind to

beat Leicester City 3-2 at Goodison Park — Tomasz Radzinski scoring the winner after Wayne Rooney had equalized.

Aston Villa, who reached the semifinal of the League Cup by beating Chelsea on Wednesday, completed a good week with a 2-0 win at Blackburn Rovers — their first away win since January. Bottom club Wolverhampton Wanderers had their home game against Liverpool postponed because of a waterlogged pitch, while Birmingham City's match against Middlesbrough was also the victim of torrential rain that swept the country.

MNA/Reuters



Chelsea's Glen Johnson (top) goes over the top of Luis Boa Morte of Fulham during the Premiership match at Loftus Road in London, on 20 Dec, 2003.—INTERNET

## Real Sociedad slip further into relegation mire

MADRID, 22 Dec—Real Sociedad slipped further into relegation danger on Saturday when they were beaten 3-1 at home to Valladolid.

Sociedad, championship runners-up to Real Madrid last term, were whistled off by their own fans after an eighth defeat of the season left them 18th in the table and in danger of dropping another place if Murcia beat Malaga on Sunday.

Atletico Madrid also had a disappointing home result, as they were held to a 2-2 draw by Racing Santander at the Calderon. Atletico led 2-1 with 10 minutes to go after Veljko Paunovic and Kizito Musampa had both struck on the rebound in response to Sergio Matabuena's scrappy opener, but Racing clinched a point when Jonathan scored from the penalty spot.

The result left Atletico in fifth place, behind Osasuna in the fourth Champions League qualification slot on goal difference. Real Sociedad, through to the second round of the Champions League but in increasing trouble on the domestic front, started well against Valladolid, taking the lead through Turkish international forward Nihat Kahveci after five minutes.

Valladolid equalized on the half-hour through Ariza Makukula and took the lead in the 72nd minute when Oscar finished off a swift break from defence.

Valladolid wrapped up victory with a Roberto Losada goal four minutes from time and Sociedad's night went from bad to worse when they had defender Agustin Aranzabal sent off in injury-time.

Second-placed Valencia were in action at home to Sevilla late on Saturday, looking for victory to move back top of the table for at least one night, with leaders Real Madrid in action away to Real Mallorca on Sunday.

MNA/Reuters

## Ferguson says Ferdinand case could go to court

LONDON, 22 Dec—Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson says defender Rio Ferdinand could fight the eight-month suspension imposed on him by the Football Association (FA) in a civil court. The England international was handed the ban on Friday for missing a drugs test at United's training ground on September 23. He is set to miss the rest of the domestic season and next year's European Championship, though United plan an FA appeal.

"It won't be the end of it," Ferguson told British newspapers on Sunday. "He will go to court if he has to."

"He has the right to go to court to protect his reputation. He has every right and the club would back him on that."

Ferguson said Ferdinand, 25, was certain to be charged from the moment the FA ruled him out of England's final Euro 2004 qualifier in Turkey on October 11 following his missed test.—MNA/Reuters



**MRTV-3**
**23-12-2003 (Tuesday)  
(Programme Schedule)  
Morning Transmission  
(9:00 - 10:00)**

- 9:00 Signature Tune Greetings  
9:02 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Myanma Panorama & Myanma Sentiment"  
9:06 The Beauty of Zweigabin and Livelihood of Kayin National  
9:10 **Headline News**  
9:12 Easily Cooked Tasty Dishes (Snake gourd stuffing pounded prawn)  
9:15 **National News**  
9:20 Fabulous Shweku Dake Daw Gyi  
9:25 Kayin Dance (We Bu or Paddy Winning Dance)  
9:30 **National News**  
9:35 Ayeyawady's Second Defile  
9:40 Song "Hill Resort Town"  
9:45 **National News**  
9:50 Biological Expedition to Hponkan Razi Region (II)  
9:58 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"

**23-12-2003\* (Tuesday)  
Regular Programmes for Viewers from Abroad  
Evening Transmission  
(15:30 - 17:30)**

- 15:30 Signature Tune Greetings  
15:32 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Mingalabar"  
15:36 The Beauty of Zweigabin and Livelihood of Kayin National  
15:40 **Headline News**  
15:42 Easily Cooked Tasty Dishes (Snake gourd stuffing pounded prawn)  
15:45 **National News**  
15:50 Fabulous Shweku Dake Daw Gyi  
15:55 Kayin Dance (We Bu or Paddy Winning Dance)  
16:00 **National News**

- 16:05 Ayeyawady's Second Defile  
16:10 Song "Hill Resort Town"  
16:15 **National News**  
16:20 Biological Expedition to Hponkan Razi Region (II)  
16:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Mingalabar"  
16:30 **National News**  
16:35 Early Silver Jubilee Era of Myanmar Motion Picture  
16:40 Myanmar Cuisine "Noodle with Coconut Soup"  
16:45 **National News**  
16:50 Golden Plum Job of Central Myanmar  
16:55 The "Htaung Yaung Nay" Classical Male Dance  
17:00 **National News**  
17:05 Kayin Traditional Vegetable Curry (Tarlalaw)  
17:10 Myanmar Modern Song "Love Boat"  
17:15 **National News**  
17:20 Extravagant Evincences of Myanmar Culture (I)  
17:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"

**Evening Transmission  
(19:30 - 23:30)**

- 19:30 Signature Tune Greetings  
19:32 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Myanma Panorama & Myanma Sentiment"  
19:36 Shwe Nan Daw Kyau  
19:40 **Headline News**  
19:42 Easily Cooked Tasty Dishes (Fried Asparagus with Fish Flake)  
19:45 **National News**  
19:50 Ayeyawady's First Defile  
19:55 A Classical Male Dance  
20:00 **National News**  
20:05 Ancient Architectural Heritage of Taungthaman Kyauk Taw Gyi Pagoda  
20:10 Songs on Screen "Love that didn't bring us together"  
20:15 **National News**  
20:20 Biological Expedition to Hponkan Razi Region (I)  
20:25 Song "The Heart of

- Wetland"  
20:30 **National News**  
20:35 Discussion Points on Lacquerware College  
20:40 Myanmar Cuisine "Banana Pudding"  
20:45 **National News**  
20:50 Around Bagan by Pony Cart (Ananda Temple)  
20:55 Traditional Pa O Dance  
21:00 **National News**



Seized paraphernalia.

## Paraphernalia seized in Kuikai Township

YANGON, 22 Dec—Members of the local intelligence unit on 2 and 3 December 2003 combed the area between Mantpyein Village and Mankhoo Village in Kutkai Township and seized 972.63 litres of ether in 56 containers and 136.35 litres

- 21:05 A Hidden Treasure (Kekku)  
21:10 Song "Come, visit my home"  
21:12 Bamboo Toys  
21:15 **National News**  
21:20 A Short Introduction to Myanmar Saing Waing  
21:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Myanma Panorama & Myanma Sentiment"

of chloroform in 8 containers.

Action is being taken in connection with seizure of the paraphernalia under Section 16 (b) of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law by Kutkai Police Station. —MNA

## Drug trafficker sentenced

YANGON, 22 Dec—A combined team comprising members of local intelligence unit and Yangon Special Anti-Drug Squad, acting on a tip-off, on 17 June 2003 searched the house of Johnny Aye on Mandalay Street, Kannauk Ward, Mingalar Taungnyunt Township, and arrested him together with 277.61 grams of dry opium hidden in the house.

Action was taken against Johnny Aye (a) Than

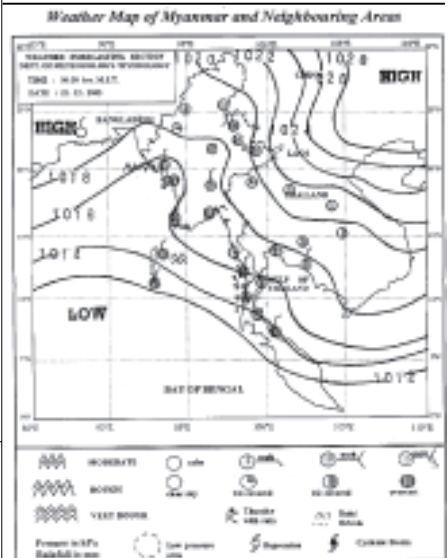
Tun Aye, son of U Maung Aye, of No 107, Mandalay Street, Kannauk Ward, Mingalar Taungnyunt Township under Section 19 (a) of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law by Mingalar Taungnyunt Police Station.

Johnny Aye (a) Than Tun Aye was sentenced to 19 years' imprisonment under Section 19 (A) by Yangon East District Court on 3 November 2003.

MNA

**ပညာရေးစုံညီပွဲတော်**  
(၂၇/၁၂/၂၀၀၃ မှ ၃/၁/၂၀၀၄)

**SCHOOL FAMILY DAY**  
(27/12/2003 to 3/1/2004)



## WEATHER

Monday, 22 December, 2003

**Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:** During the past 24 hours, rain has been scattered in Shan and Chin States, isolated in Mandalay and Yangon Divisions and weather has been partly cloudy to cloudy in the remaining areas.

Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Kayin State, upper Sagaing, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions, (5°C) below normal in Bago Division, (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Kachin, Shan, Chin and Kayah States, Magway and Ayeyawady Divisions and (6°C) above normal in Rakhine State, lower Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions and about normal in Mon State.

Maximum temperature on 22-12-2003 was 31.5°C (89°F). Minimum temperature on 21-12-2003 was 16.0°C (61°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 22-12-2003 was 82%. Total sunshine hours on 21-12-2003 was (7.9) 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 13 mph from Northeast at (10:14) hours MST on 21-12-2003.

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

**Forecast valid until evening of 23-12-2003:** Isolated rain are likely in Chin, Rakhine and Shan States, Mandalay, lower Sagaing, Ayeyawady, Bago, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

**State of the sea:** Strong easterly wind with (35) mph and moderate to rough seas are likely at times Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coast. Seas will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

**Outlook for subsequent two days:** Likelihood of isolated rain in lower Myanmar areas.

**Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 23-12-2003:** Possibility of isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (40%).

**Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 23-12-2003:** Possibility of isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (40%).



Tuesday, December 23

**View today:**

- 7:00 am  
1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayadaw U Ottamathara.  
7:25 am  
2. To be healthy exercise  
7:30 am  
3. Morning news  
7:40 am  
4. Nice and sweet song  
7:50 am  
5. ကမ္ဘာပန်ညွန့်  
8:05 am  
6. Song of yesteryears.  
8:15 am  
7. များမော့ဦးလေလှိုင်တစ်  
8:30 am  
8. International news

- 8:45 am  
9. Grammar Made Easy.  
4:00 pm  
1. Martial song  
4:15 pm  
2. Song to uphold National Spirit  
4:30 pm  
3. English For Everyday Use.  
4:45 pm  
4. Musical programme  
5:00 pm  
5. အဝေးဆက်သွယ်သောပညာရေးစုံညီပွဲတော် (သံသရာပြတိုက်) (ရုပ်ရှင်)  
5:15 pm  
6. Dance of national races  
5:30 pm  
7. ခံစားစရာဆင်တေးစာတော်  
5:45 pm  
8. Sing and Enjoy  
6:30 pm  
9. Evening news  
7:00 pm  
10. Weather report

- 7:05 pm  
11. Milo success in soccer  
7:10 pm  
12. တိုင်းရင်းဆေးနှင့်ဆေးပစ္စည်းဖြန့် (အပိုင်း-၁)  
7:25 pm  
13. The mirror images of the musical oldies  
7:40 pm  
14. အမျိုးသားအားကစားနှင့် ရှည်ကြာ ခိုင်မာစေမှု ခိုရာရဲ့ "ဆေးလက်ရေနှင့်ဆေးလက် ခိုရာရဲ့" (အပိုင်း-၂)  
8:00 pm  
15. "News"  
16. International news  
17. Weather report  
18. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတော်တော် "ဘုံမယ့်" (အပိုင်း-၅)  
19. Calcio Serie A highlight  
20. The next day's programme.



Tuesday, December 23

**Tune in today:**

- 8:30 am Brief news  
8:35 am Music  
8:40 am Perspectives  
8:45 am Music  
8:50 am National news/Slogan  
9:00 am Music  
9:05 am International news  
9:10 am Music  
1:30 pm News/Slogan  
1:40 pm Lunch time music - The X' mas blue (Dean Martin)  
-My two front teeth (Nat King Cole)  
9:00 pm English lesson: Look Ahead (3)  
9:15 pm Article/Music  
9:25 pm Weekly sports reel  
9:35 pm Music for your listening pleasure Mary's boy child (Boney M.)  
9:45 pm News/Slogan  
10:00 pm PEL

**Four political objectives**

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

**Four economic objectives**

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

**Four social objectives**

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



Senior General Than Shwe presses the button to unveil the stone inscriptions of Myanmar Farm Machinery Factory of Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation. — MNA

## Senior General Than Shwe attends opening of Myanmar Farm Machinery Factory in Kyaukse

YANGON, 22 Dec—The opening of Myanmar Farm Machinery Factory of Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation was held at the factory on Yangon-Mandalay Road near Ingon Village in Kyaukse Township, Mandalay Division, at 12.45 pm on 20 December.

Defence Services Commander-in-Chief State Peace and Development Council Chairman Senior General Than Shwe graced the ceremony by attending it and unveiled the stone inscriptions of the factory.

Also present on the occasion were State Peace and Development Council member General Thura Shwe Mann, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen

Soe Win, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, SPDC members Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice Admiral Kyi Min, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Maj-Gen Myat Hein, Mandalay Division PDC Chairman Central Command Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint, Sagaing Division PDC North-West Command Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye, the ministers, senior military officers, Chinese Ambassador Mr Li Jinjun, officials from SPDC Office, departmental heads, officials from the ministry, staff, division/district/township level officials of Man-

dalay Division, students, band troupe, pom pom troupe and Kyaukse elephant dance troupe members.

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win, SPDC member Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin and Ambassador Mr Li Jinjun formally opened the factory.

Senior General Than Shwe then pressed a button to open the stone inscriptions of the factory.

At the briefing hall of factory, Senior General Than Shwe and members were reported by Minister Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin on construction of the factory in

accordance with the guidance of Senior General Than Shwe, implementation of construction works, plans for production of power tillers and harvesters, inventing of harvesters and threshers, strength of the workforce, kinds and numbers of machinery in respective plants and arrangements for sale of power tillers to farmers.

Senior General Than Shwe, after hearing the reports, gave guidance on production of effective, comfortable and durable farm machinery for farmers and production of threshers in cooperation with the Ministry of Industry-2 for greater efficiency.

After presenting a souvenir to the ambassador, Senior General Than Shwe and party looked around the No 1 Workshop, No 2 Workshop and No 3 Workshop of the factory and inspected parts for power tillers and threshers and machinery installed in the workshops.

Afterwards, they inspected smelting workshop. The minister and officials reported to Senior General Than Shwe and party on the mini-dozer, the aquatic plant harvester and the sugarcane harvester produced by the factories and workshops under the ministry.

Senior General Than Shwe and party also in-

spected the combined harvester, the reaper and the mould board plough. After viewing parts for the reaper, the aquatic plant harvester and the mini-dozer, Senior General Than Shwe gave necessary instructions.

The Myanmar Farm Machinery Factory, the import-substitute factory, was built in June, 2001. The test-runs were made from April to November 2003. The target of the factory is to produce 10,000 power tillers including 16 hp engines and 5,000 reapers including six hp engines a year. In addition it will produce parts for threshers and other farm machinery.

MNA



Senior General Than Shwe and party inspect Yeywa Hydel Power Project. — MNA

## Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt honours SEA Games gold medallists

YANGON, 22 Dec — A ceremony to honour outstanding athletes who won gold medals in the XXII SEA Games held in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam from 5 to 13 December was held at Myayeknyo Royal Hotel here this evening. Chairman of the Myanmar Olympic Council Prime Minister Gen-

eral Khin Nyunt attended the ceremony and presented the prizes to the athletes.

It was also attended by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Yangon Division PDC Chairman Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen

Myint Swe, the ministers, the Yangon mayor, the deputy ministers, members of the Myanmar Olympic Committee, patrons of the Myanmar Women Sport Federation, officials of the SPDC Office and responsible officials.

When the prime minister arrived at the Myayeknyo

Royal Hotel, he was welcomed by the gold medallists. At the ceremony, General Khin Nyunt delivered a speech.

The prime minister said success in the international sports competitions can promote national prestige. With this concept, the government is implementing the tasks to

uplift Myanmar sports standard as a national duty. The people on their part applause Myanmar sports contingents with strong desire for gaining success in the international competitions, he said.

On behalf of the government and the people, he praised athletes who brought (See page 10)

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**Circulation**

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