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Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt greets Thai Ambassador Mr Oum Maolanon at Zeyathiri Beikman.— MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives Thai ambassador

YANGON, 24 Dec — Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt received Ambassador of Thailand to Myanmar Mr Oum Maolanon, who had completed his tour of duties in Myanmar, at Zeyathiri Beikman Hall on Konmyinthar at 4 pm today.

Also present on the occasion were Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung, Deputy Minister U

Khin Maung Win and Director-General of the Protocol Department Thura U Aung Htet. — MNA

Education Minister attends golden jubilee ceremony of Pyinmana BEHS No 1

YANGON, 24 Dec — Minister for Education U Than Aung, together with Col Win Myint of Pyinmana Station and officials, attended the golden jubilee of Pyinmana Basic Education High School No 1 at the school on 22 December morning.

Old students member of

Civil Service Selection and Training Board U Hla Myint Oo and Chairman of School Board of Trustees Lt-Col Kyaw Sein (Retd) and Headmistress Daw Win Kyi formally opened the archway bearing the golden jubilee ceremony.

Minister U Than Aung

opened the library to mark the golden jubilee.

Next, Headmistress Daw Win Kyi, wellwisher U Nay Win-Thiri Thudhamma Theingi Daw Khin Saw Kyu (Yangon) unveiled signboard of the golden jubilee square. Chairman of Pyinmana Township Peace

and Development Council U Myint Lwin unveiled the plaque. Later, the minister and guests visited the multimedia classrooms at Thiri Hall and the golden jubilee exhibition.

Afterwards, CSSTB member U Hla Myint Oo (See page 8)

Forces of national construction and national defence are to be mobilized and strengthened

Only when a region's economy develops, can the per capita income be increased and the standard of living of the people be improved. As economic development is related with improvement in the education and health sectors, human resource development has to be brought about. Hence, the forces of national construction and national defence are to be mobilized and strengthened through harmonious combination of economic and human resource development.

At present, the Government is paying serious attention to development of rural areas, border areas and 24 special development zones with a view to ensuring harmonious development of all the regions in the Union.

Responsible personnel of respective regions are to see to it that all the children of school-age go to school and continue their high school, university and vocational education. Moreover, they are to nurture the youth to become intellectuals and intelligentsia on whom the country can rely. In addition, they will have to promote the health sector so that the youth can become healthy citizens.

Senior General Than Shwe,
Chairman of State Peace and Development Council
Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services
(From guidance given during his tour of Mandalay Division on 19-1-2003)

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Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives Thai Ambassador Mr Oum Maolanon at Zeyathiri Beikman.— MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 25 December, 2003

For flourishing of Myanmar traditional medical science

In building the Union of Myanmar to be a peaceful, modern and developed one, it is necessary for all the healthy citizens to take part in the nation-building endeavours. Therefore, the State has laid down the health objective—for the entire national people to be in good healthy and fitness and be able to live with high life expectancy—and is implementing it.

To realize the objective, effective measures are taken through the three tasks—education, disease control and treatment. As the State is paying attention to human resource development and health and fitness of the entire people, physicians and health staff, on their part, are to provide effective healthy care services to the public through their experience and skills.

Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe, on 21 December, inspected construction of the Traditional Medicine University and Mandalay General Hospital in Mandalay.

In his guidance given to officials on traditional medicine, the Head of State said that traditional medicine practitioners are to introduce new medicines and therapies in keeping with the advancing world without sticking to old thoughts. He spoke of the need to make efforts for uplift of the role of Myanmar traditional medicine in combination with modern sciences and traditional medical science of other nations.

The role of Myanmar traditional medicine is important in providing better health care services to the people and thus the State is giving encouragement to systematic progress in the sector of traditional medicine.

Researches on effective and potent traditional medicines are put on record and encouragement is being given to producing traditional medicines that can cure common diseases in the country. In addition, therapies are introduced to cure some diseases that cannot be cured by western medicines.

Diploma courses for traditional medical science and traditional medicine practitioners courses are being opened for flourishing of traditional medical science. Moreover, a traditional medicine university has already been established to confer degree on Myanmar traditional medical science.

Courses conducted at the university must be of high standard and they can also be recognized and accepted by other nations. Teachers in the university are to strive for development of traditional medical science.

Myanmar traditional medicine practitioners and officials concerned are urged to prepare and introduce new items of traditional medicines and therapies for flourishing of Myanmar traditional medical science.

Objectives of the 56th Anniversary of Independence Day

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

Christmas A Victorious Day

It may seem odd to call the birthday of Jesus 'a victorious day' when he was born away from his town, without a place for him in the inn, laid in a manger after birth, persecuted and exiled after a few days. In late life Jesus would not have a place to lay his head on. Jesus was a teacher not a conqueror. He was a servant, not the master (Mk 10.45). His only gesture of victory was a parody of imperial claims. He entered Jerusalem riding a donkey! This is precisely in the context of his last week that John puts into his lips the only claim to victory: 'Take courage; I have conquered the world' he says at conclusion of his last sermon (Jn 16:33); and this is precisely the reason why it is right to call his birthday a Victorious Day: it is his victory over the spirit of the world, the spirit of domination, of racial superiority, of power for its own sake.

Victory over all Forms of Social Barriers

Myanmar is a country of festivals which bring families and people together. As we celebrate Christmas, we local Christians need to reflect on what the celebration means for our life as Church, for our neighbours and for our togetherness with them in the country. Christmas is a feast for shepherds and magi, for Jews and Gentiles, for Simeons and Annas, for village and city, for Joseph and Mary. Christmas is a victory over all forms of social barriers between all nations and peoples.

Victory over Fear

Every time we celebrate the birth of Jesus, we receive mandate to make peace, the gift of the Messiah, which no power or domination can take away or destroy. Singing the harmony of people is the act of peace. Faith in Christ makes us peacemakers. Peacemaking is the joy of Christian discipleship (Mt. 5.9). Jesus the giver of peace is God's gesture of fear not, the Christmas greeting thrice announced as the opening words of message of salvation conveyed through Gabriel: 'Don't be afraid' (Lk 1:13:30, 2:10). This is the good news of salvation for all peoples, for all cultures, for all the excluded. Jesus is the peace sign of God. He is God's solidarity with all, particularly the oppressed. The mystery of God-with-us, Emmanuel, is glimpsed within the longing for relationship and solidarity in the heart of every person and in the depth of our common humanity.

Victory over Marginalization

The good news of the birth of the Savior is an invitation to the fullness of life. To be with God-with-us we must be with-one-another. We come to know God in solidarity with others - especially the little ones, for the Emmanuel born a poor child is the sacrament of God's solidarity with all. Jesus is paradigm of our relationship with one another and creation. The Word-became-flesh is the sign of the new humanity that will grow in every culture, country and age, according to God's will. There is no inculturation of the Gospel without solidarity. If dialogue and solidarity are the way of Emmanuel, they are also the way of the Church in her mission of witness and service, Christmas is God's victory over marginalization.

Best wishes of Good Health, Happiness and Good-will to the leaders of Myanmar and to every fellow-countryman:

Wishing you a very merry Christmas.

Sotero Phamo
Bishop of Loikaw
December 25, 2003

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



Vietnamese delegation being seen off at Yangon International Airport. — MNA

Vietnamese delegation leaves

YANGON, 24 Dec — Vietnamese delegation led by Minister of Commerce Mr Truong Dinh Tuyen, after attending the Second Meeting of Joint Committee on Trade between Myanmar and Vietnam left for home yesterday evening. They were seen off

at Yangon International Airport by Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Tun, departmental heads of the Ministry of Commerce, Vietnamese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Pham Quang Khon and officials. — MNA

All this needs to be known

- * Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
- * Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
- * Do not be softened whenever appeased



School Family Day

(27 December 2003 to
3 January 2004)

The best time to plant a tree was
20 years ago.
The second best time is now.

နိုင်ငံတော်အစိုးရဌာနပိုင် မော်တော်ယာဉ်များမသုံးစွဲရန်

လစဉ်လ၏ ဒုတိယပတ်တစ်နှစ်နေ့နှင့်နှိုင်းကာကိန်းဆုံးပတ်တစ်နှစ်နေ့တို့သည် ရုံးလုပ်ငန်းအတွက် မဖြစ်မနေသွားလာရန် လိုအပ်သည့် ကိစ္စရပ်များမှအပ မော်တော်ယာဉ်များ မသုံးစွဲရန်ဖြစ်သည်။

၂၀၀၃ခုနှစ်၊ ဒီဇင်ဘာလအတွက် (၂၈-၁၂-၂၀၀၃)
၂၀၀၄ခုနှစ်၊ ဇန်နဝါရီလအတွက် (၁၁-၁-၂၀၀၄) နှင့်
(၂၅-၁-၂၀၀၄)

Iraqi judge assassinated in Mosul

BAGHDAD, 24 Dec—Gunmen in a speeding car assassinated a leading Iraqi judge in the northern city of Mosul Tuesday before successfully eluding capture.

Eyewitnesses told United Press International the gunmen fired numerous rounds at Youssef Khorshid Ghaeb as he was parking his car near a Mosul mosque.

The car was travelling at high speed, preventing a police chase, the witnesses said.

The victim's son, Murad, said he did not know his father had personal enemies, noting the assassination occurred within hours after his father was promoted to chief of the criminal court in Mosul.

Murad ruled out involvement of remnants of the Baath regime in the slaying because his father had no links with the Baath party, adding, he was totally independent from all parties and political groups.

Iraqis working with the United States-led coalition, including judges and police officers, have been targets of similar assassination attempts.

Internet

No agreement yet between UN, US on Iraq talks

UNITED NATIONS, 24 Dec—The United States and United Nations were in a game of cat-and-mouse over UN Secretary General Kofi Annan's call for talks next month on the UN's future role in postwar Iraq.

Annan's spokesman said there was still no word on whether the United States would take part while Washington insisted it had never received any invitation for the talks. The UN chief said last week he wanted to meet with the US-led coalition in Iraq and the US-appointed Iraqi Governing Council to

see how the United Nations fits in to plans for Iraq's transition to self-rule, due to happen in July.

He suggested a January 15 date and demanded "clarity" about the UN role. Annan pulled his international staff out of Baghdad in October over security fears after a suicide bombing killed

22 people at the UN's Baghdad offices.

Annan spokesman Fred Eckhard said Tuesday that the Governing Council wanted to postpone the meeting for a few days, with other UN sources saying the new date would be January 19. But there was no word from Washington, he said.

"We have no acceptance yet on the part of the Coalition Provisional Authority" in Iraq, he said. Eckhard said Annan was "not insisting that it be a trilateral meeting. As long as he could speak with both parties, he'll be happy."

But a US official at the United Nations told AFP: "We still haven't seen any invitation."

Annan wants better security and a clear definition of the UN's responsibilities before sending staff back to Iraq. Washington says it favours a "vital" UN role but remains wary of the world body. In proposing the meeting on Thursday, Annan noted the agreement between Iraqi leaders and the US coalition on the handover of power in Baghdad at the end of June made no mention of the United Nations.

Internet



The United States and United Nations were in a game of cat-and-mouse over UN Secretary General Kofi Annan's call for talks next month on the UN's future role in postwar Iraq.—INTERNET

India emerging as favourite medical destination

NEW DELHI, 24 Dec—India may not rank high up on healthcare front in the world, but the country is fast emerging as one of the most sought after medical destinations in Asia with thousands of offshore patients arriving here every year.

Thanks to this trend, terms such as medical tourism, healthcare outsourcing and medical back office support are now gaining ground in the country.

"In last few years, India has emerged as favourite healthcare destination for people from across the globe. This can be easily proved if we look at the number of foreign patients we have received. In last five years, our hospital has received about 60,000 offshore patients from 55 countries", says Dr. Anupam Sibal, Director Medical Services, Apollo Hospital here.

The treatment in great demand includes neuro and cardiac ailments, cancer, pediatric

care and joint replacement surgery. Tourists also visit India for alternative treatments like Ayurveda and Yoga.

Experts say the main reason behind the sudden rush in getting treated in a "third-world country" is the availability of vast medical talent here.

"The main reason behind India emerging as a favourite destination for healthcare is that medical expertise available here is second to none. There are over 35,000 doctors of Indian origin in United States alone," says Dr. Naresh Trehan, Executive Director, Escorts Heart Institute here.

MNA/PTI



A US soldier looks at a sword during a night raid on a house in Baquba in central Iraq on 22 December, 2003.—INTERNET

ထိုက်တိုက်နက်နက် ဆိုင်း

Postwar US deaths in Iraq top 202

BAGHDAD, 24 Dec—The US Army has passed another grim milestone in Iraq, with the deaths of two soldiers in a roadside explosion taking the number of American combat fatalities to more than 200 since President George W Bush declared an end to major hostilities on 1 May.

The bomb, directed at a military convoy in Baghdad, marked the first US combat deaths in five days. An Iraqi interpreter was also killed and two other soldiers were wounded, the US military said.

It also emerged that US troops mounting Operation Santa Claws in a remote Iraqi town near the Syrian border had killed a 60-year-old Iraqi woman. The woman died during a raid by the US Army's 3rd Armoured Cavalry Regiment in the town of Rawah when soldiers blasted open the reinforced steel door of her home, according to commander Lieutenant-Colonel Henry Kievenaar.

Dozens of AK-47 machine guns and rocket-propelled grenade-launchers were found in the operation, which was aimed at people who financed, supplied and organized resistance to the coalition, he said. —Internet

Vietnam to build int'l airport at ex-US base

HANOI, 24 Dec — Communist Vietnam plans to turn a former American military base in central Vietnam into an international airport in hopes of boosting tourism to its white-sand beaches, officials said here.

They said work was under way to add passenger reception facilities to the airstrip at what was once the US naval and air base at Cam Ranh Bay in the province of Khanh Hoa.

"The new airport will be a hub to bring foreign tourists to all central regions as early as April 2004," a spokesman for the Khanh Hoa People's Committee told Reuters.

US-built facilities include two 4,000-metre runways that could receive large aircraft including Boeing 747-400s, the official said. Cam Ranh naval base has one of Asia's finest deep-water anchorages offering strategic access to the South China Sea. — MNA/Reuters

Crocodile kills Australian man, stalks his friends

SYDNEY, 24 Dec—A large saltwater crocodile dragged a young Australian man to his death in an outback river and then stalked his two companions as they clung to a tree in the middle of the river for 22 hours, police said here.

Brett Mann, 22, and his two friends had ridden their quad bikes 50 miles southwest of Darwin in the Northern Territory on Sunday when they stopped on the banks of the flooded Finnis River to wash mud off their bodies and bikes. Mann was swept into the river by a strong current and as his two 19-year-old friends swam after him, a 13 foot crocodile grabbed him by the shoulder and dragged him underwater.

"They had gone to the river to cool off," police sergeant Garry Casey told reporters in Darwin.

"The river was in flood and a large tide was coming in and they probably did not take account of the tidal influence in that part of the river," Casey said. — MNA/Reuters

Greenpeace urges Philippine govt to prioritize environment issue

MANILA, 24 Dec— Environmental advocacy group Greenpeace International Philippines urged politicians and government officials to put environmental issues at the top of their agenda following the landslides in central and southern Philippines.

"They always say that environmental issues are not vital, but we can all see what environment disasters could do. It is time that they make these the main issues," the Philippine Daily Inquirer on-line news Tuesday quoted Greenpeace Asia's lead campaigner Von Hernandez as saying on Monday. Hernandez said environmental issues reach the forefront only when tragedies occur and Congress has passed no important

environmental protection measures. As a result, denuded areas have increased over the last five years. He noted that only 19 per cent of the country's estimated forest cover remained, as against the 56 per cent required to maintain ecological stability. "We easily forgot what happened in Ormoc City, Leyte (in the central Philippines), in 1991 and measures to prevent such tragedies have not been put in place," Hernandez said. — MNA/Xinhua

Annan saddened by deadly landslides in Philippines

UNITED NATIONS, 24 Dec— United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan voiced Monday distress at deadly landslides and floods in the central Philippines and sent his condolences to the Philippine Government.

Annan "was distressed to learn of the casualties and damage caused by landslides and floods in the central part of the Philippines," a UN spokesman said in a statement.

The UN chief conveyed his condolences and deepest sympathy to the Philippine Government and to the victims of the disaster, the spokesman said, adding that the United Nations stands ready to assist those affected by the tragedy.

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs is providing an emergency grant of 50,000 US dollars to help relief efforts and will work to mobilize international donor response, he said.

MNA/Xinhua

Occupation forces bomb Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 24 Dec—Some 15 explosions have shaken the Iraqi capital as witnesses said that US Apache helicopters pounded the al-Dura area after an American convoy came under attack.

Occupation troops carrying out patrols first came under attack late on Tuesday night in al-Dura, southwest Baghdad, witnesses told our correspondent. Helicopters then attacked the area. There were no immediate reports of casualties.

A US military spokeswoman said: "We cannot comment on ongoing military operations. However, this is linked to Operation Iron Justice that involves explosion and aerial activity."

Operation Iron Justice, launched 1 December, is aimed at curbing corruption, stemming the alleged flow of money to anti-occupation fighters, and reducing criminal activity. Kidnappings, carjackings and other violence have swept the country following the US-British March invasion

and occupation.

Ambulances could be heard rushing to the scene in the early hours of Wednesday, reported our correspondent. US warplanes hovered over the capital.

It was the most intense military activity in the capital for weeks.

Earlier, in the al-Aamal neighbourhood, western Baghdad, a US tank speeding on the wrong side of the road crashed into a civilian car, leaving two Iraqi passengers dead and another two injured, said our correspondent.

Meanwhile, occupation forces continue to carry out sweeps across the country, detaining alleged resistance fighters.

In Kirkuk, troops arrested 16 residents of two Arab neighbourhoods.

Internet



An Iraqi worker carries an empty Sam 7 missile head, in Fallujah, northeastern Iraq, on 22 December, 2003.—INTERNET

ဝက်မွန်အား ခေတ်ကျော်လွှား

Iraqi guerillas take pride in pounding US troops

BAQUBA (Iraq), 24 Dec— The burly young Iraqi swells with pride when he talks about the men he leads in mortar attacks against a US airbase under the cover of darkness.

"After dusk we begin our attacks with 82 or 120mm mortars," said the former special officer in Saddam Hussein's security apparatus who goes by the nom de guerre of Abu Jassem.

In the heart of the "Sunni Triangle", Saddam's capture last week by the Americans has done little to dampen the will to fight among fellow Sunni Muslims, angered by foreign occupation and at losing their once dominant minority position in society.

Abu Jassem said he lives in one of a string of lush palm-lined villages close to the former Iraqi Airforce base, now occupied by US troops and near the town of Baquba.

"We hit (that) with nine mortars," he said, pointing to a communications tower on the outskirts of Baquba, some 40 miles north of Baghdad.

The sprinkle of small villages east of Baquba became moderately well off under Saddam's regime, which continued an Iraqi tradition of repressing the Shiite Muslim majority. Many of the 3,000 residents were members of Iraq's military, security and industrial complexes and bitterly resent the US troops.

Abu Jassem said Saddam's capture last week by US forces near the former President home town of Tikrit, further to the north of Baquba, jolted many of his followers but has not broken their spirit or determination to hurt the American occupiers.

"The resistance will strengthen, not for love of Saddam, but for love of the people," Abu Jassem said.

As if to underline his determination, a cache of shiny new mortar bombs lay in hiding spots just visible behind the palms on the road facing the base.

MNA/Reuters

Indochina to strengthen anti-narcotics cooperation

HANOI, 24 Dec— Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam plan to conduct a joint project on fighting against drug trafficking via their borders.

According to a two-day trilateral ministerial meeting which concluded here Tuesday, the countries will establish taskforces and joint liaison offices in Vietnam's Tay Ninh Province and Cambodia's Svay Rieng, and Vietnam's Ha Tinh and Laos' Bolikhamxai.

They also agreed to step up exchanges of delegations and information about drug-related crimes, criminals and ways of dealing with them.

Indochina's relevant agencies, especially law-enforcement ones, and border authorities should meet on a regular basis, the meeting's delegates stressed.

"Via cooperation agreements and action-coordinating plans, functional agencies

of the three countries have frequently exchanged information relating to drug prevention and fight as well as measures to reduce drug crimes along their borders," said Truong Huu Quoc, chief of Vietnam's General Directorate of Police under the Ministry of Public Security.

According to the ministry, they have so far this year detected 2,718 drug cases involving 3,863 people along Vietnam-Laos and Vietnam-Cambodia borders.

Vietnam now has more than 169,000 drug addicts, 22,000 people more than last year. Drug addicts in 13 northern mountainous provinces account for 30.5 per cent of the country's total.

MNA/Xinhua

IAEA to start nuclear inspections in Libya soon

VIENNA, 24 Dec— Mohamed ElBaradei, head of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), said here that he will visit Libya next week and inspections of suspected nuclear sites in the country may start soon.

"I'll be going to Libya some time next week with a team of senior experts," ElBaradei told a news conference. He said he would report Libya's undeclared nuclear activities, including a uranium enrichment programme, to the IAEA's governing board on Monday.

"Libyan officials confirmed that Libya will sign an additional protocol to the NPT (Non-Proliferation Treaty)," he said.

With Tripoli's pledge to sign the additional protocol, IAEA inspectors may take surprise inspections at suspected sites as early as next week, said the head of the UN nuclear watchdog.

Libyan Prime Minister Shukri Mohamed Ghanim told the BBC radio Monday

that his country is ready to sign a protocol on snap inspections of its nuclear facilities.

Ghanim replied with "yes" when asked in a telephone interview from Tripoli on whether his country was ready to sign the additional protocol to the NPT, which allows snap inspections of nuclear facilities by the UN nuclear watchdog. "We are members of the world community. We are agreed to the commitment we are taking in front of the International Atomic Energy Agency," said the Prime Minister. Libya announced Friday in a statement that it will scrape all its weapons of mass destruction, adding that it would also quit programmes for developing chemical and nuclear weapons and long-range missiles.—MNA/Xinhua

HK takes moves to protect elderly from infectious diseases

HONG KONG, 24 Dec— The Hong Kong Department of Health announced Monday the precautions against infectious diseases in residential care homes for elderly, including appointing infectious control officers (ICOs) and reinforcing guidelines.

Health Department Medical and Health Officer Wong Wai Ying said at a Press briefing that the department had already visited and assessed the hygienic conditions of all elderly residential care homes before the end of October, and the results showed most of the care homes were under satisfying hygienic conditions.

The Health Department has renewed the guidelines of preventing the outbreak of infectious diseases in accordance with the assessment result and distributed them to the care homes.

Departments concerned have also ap-

pointed each elderly residential care home an ICO responsible for handling all affairs related to infectious precautions and control.

Wong Wai Ying said that a number of seminars and workshops for ICOs had been held by the Health Department from September to November to reinforce the knowledge of handling and preventing infectious diseases.

The department also sent out a team on Monday to visit and give on-the-spot guidance to the staff of elderly residential care homes.—MNA/Xinhua



South Korean protesters shout slogans during a rally in Seoul on 23 December, 2003.

INTERNET

IRAQ UNDER US OCCUPATION



A US soldier walks amid Iraqi civilians as he patrols the area of a gas station in Baghdad recently. — INTERNET



US soldiers inspect a minibus damaged in a blast after a roadside explosive device went off killing two and wounding two people in central Baghdad, on Wednesday, 24 Dec, 2003. — INTERNET



US Army soldiers during a night patrol in Iraq recently. A barrage of explosions interspersed with loud automatic fire echoed across Baghdad as an airplane circled overhead in what the military said could be part of an ongoing operation. — INTERNET



Photo shows US soldiers during an operation east of Baquba on 20 December. — INTERNET



A US armoured vehicle secures the area of a gas station in Baghdad on 23 Dec, 2003. — INTERNET



US soldiers of 1st Battalion, 22nd Regiment, (1-22) of the 4th Infantry Division patrol as the sun sets in Tikrit, Iraq, on 22 December, 2003. — INTERNET

Hailing the 56th Anniversary Independence Day:

Independence was thus safeguarded

The takeover of State Power by the Tatmadaw on 2 March 1962 was not only a change in the course of the history of the country but also a bold and decisive move to shoulder the national duty of preventing the Union from disintegration and safeguarding the independence and sovereignty.

After forming the Revolutionary Council, the Tatmadaw set forth the Myanmar Socialist Pro-

gramme on 30 April 1962, announcing that the country would follow the programme. It was on 4 July 1962 that the Myanmar Socialist Programme Party came into existence as a political party. Owing to ongoing situations, the Party had to endeavour to restore the national solidarity as there were different political parties, ideologies and classes.

The Revolutionary Council met with leaders of major political parties like the Pa-ha-sa, the AFPFL and the Pa-ma-nya-ta three times — the first on 4 March 1962, the second on 7 May and the third on 17 May, and explained to them the attitude of the Tatmadaw.

On 11 June 1963, the Revolutionary Council invited armed insurgent groups to peace talks for restoration of internal peace. The White Flag Communist Party (BCP) and the Red Flag Communist Party and other six insurgent groups, totalling eight armed groups, came and discussed with the

Revolutionary Council. Of them, a peace pact was made only with the KRC led by Saw Hanter Tha Hmwe.

To be able to build consolidated national unity, the Revolutionary Council abolished all political parties after enacting the '1964 Law Safeguarding National Unity'.

Consequently, the Revolutionary Council had to take military action against insurgent groups to tackle the internal con-

flict. From 2 March 1962 to the close of 1962, many a military operation was launched by the Tatmadaw to quell the BCP, the Ma-da-nya-ta, the KMT and other insurgent groups.

For the same reason, the military operations continued, claiming more than 1,760 lives of insurgent groups in 1964 and more than 900 in 1965 and arresting 350. A total of 2,466 insurgents surrendered.

Apart from those military operations, the Tatmadaw also launched major military operations in respective military commands during the period from 1964 to 1968.

Shwe Linyon, Moe Hein and Shwe Lawin military operations launched under the command of the South-West Command, and with the cooperation of the local people, were able to crush the insurgents including the BCP and the Ma-da-nya-ta in the delta region. Later the Htaung Paing Military Operation was

launched to crush the expatriate group, which was trying to break up the Union with the alien assistance. The Tatmadaw columns launched the operation on 27 September 1972 with the participation of over 20,000 members of the people's militia. During the operation, eight insurgents of the expatriate group were killed, 56 captured alive and 82 assorted arms seized. Eight soldiers sacrificed their lives for the nation

Operation on 2 August 1967. The Tatmadaw also launched the Pyithaya Military Operation and attacked and overran the BCP headquarters and camps in northern sector of Thayawady and Taungnyo and Shwele regions in the south of Pyay during the 10-month period from 1967 November end to September 1968. It captured the BCP headquarters on 16 April 1968. It continued to launch the seven-month

Tatmadaw launched the Hlyat-sit Military Operation and seized the BCP high command in Lekahti region on 17 July.

The BCP had to move its headquarters from place to place due to

external armed insurgents trying to transgress the nation's independence and sovereignty.

At the same time, the Revolutionary Council Government drafted the State Constitution and

Ketu Nila

the Tatmadaw's operations in 1974.

While the BCP members of the headquarters were temporarily stationed at Ta-ta-lu Myaung near the nine mountain villages upstream the Bago Creek, the Tatmadaw columns attacked them on 18 October 1974. The BCP chairman and the secretary had to flee in disarray. Since then the BCP was gradually falling apart. The Tatmadaw columns attacked and seized the Alinyaung camp of the BCP and the Ma-da-nya-ta near Phasaw Aye Creek in DaikU Township on 1 November 1974. The BCP chairman and the secretary were killed in the military operation launched at a place near Yenwe Phutkya Creek in Bago Yoma region on 15 March 1975, and since then the existence of the BCP in the Yoma region ended.

All in all, the Tatmadaw has striven to consolidate the national unity. It has been holding peace talks with the armed groups in the jungles. It crushed all the internal and

held the referendum on 15 December 1973. The Constitution was enacted in accord with the wish and unanimous consent of the people on 3 January 1974.

After the nation had regained independence, the AFPFL government ruled the nation under parliamentary democracy system from 1948 to 1958; the Caretaker Government took over the State duties from 1958 to 1960; the Pa-ha-sa governed the nation under parliamentary democracy system from 1960 to 1 March 1962; the Revolutionary Council governed the nation from 2 March 1962 to 2 March 1974.

Throughout the eras, the Tatmadaw has been dutiful in safeguarding independence and sovereignty of the State with all-out efforts, discharging duties in various sectors in accord with the national requirement. And all in all, the endeavours of the Tatmadaw are the unforgettable historical records of the nation.

(Translation:
KTY+TMT)

After terminating negotiation with the Revolutionary Council, representatives of Communist Party (Red Flag) and Burma Communist Party turned their back on the people and headed towards the jungle.



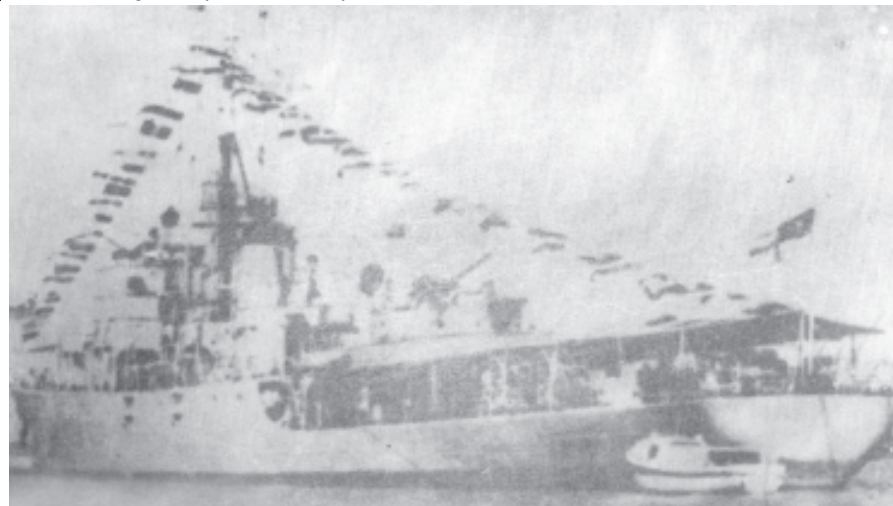
and another 12 were wounded. The Htaung Paing Military Operation concluded on 10 October 1972 as the victory of unity between the Tatmadaw and the people. Peace and stability had been restored in the whole delta region.

The Tatmadaw was able to seize the BCP headquarters in the Bago Yoma mountain range with Maw Naing Military

Teza Military Operation from September 1969 to March 1970 and seized the BCP central headquarters.

In 1969, the Tatmadaw defeated the Ma-da-nya-ta under the command of the BCP. During the Tagon Military Operation in Ngabyema Sakyet region, the Tatmadaw columns captured over 30 BCP insurgents dead.

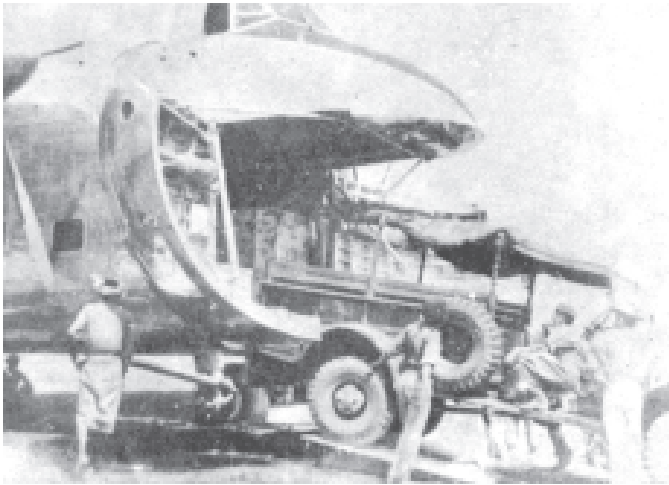
In July 1973, the



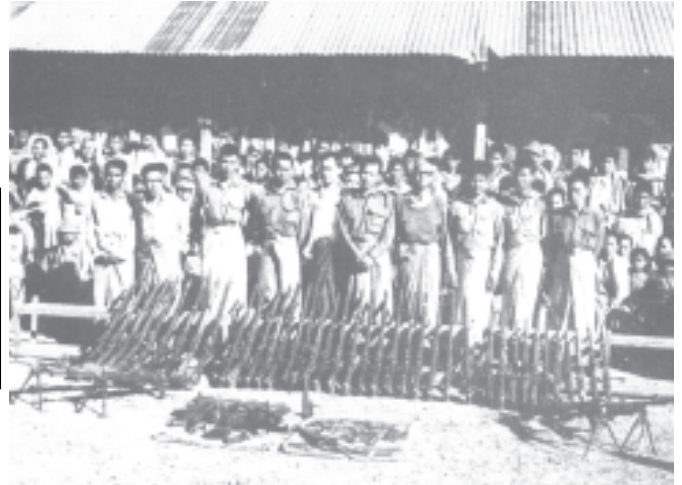
Battle ship May Yu used in Myanmar Tatmadaw's fight against the internal insurgency which accompanied the Independence of the nation.

Hailing the 56th Anniversary Independence Day:

Endeavours to safeguard independence



Myanma Air Force used Bristol planes in operations.



Mass of insurgents across the delta region surrendered following the active participation of people in the operations.

A large cache of arms and ammunition were seized during the Operation Htaw Paing which was launched by the combined force of the Tatmadaw and the people.



After the nation had regained independence, the AFPFL government ruled the nation under parliamentary democracy system from 1948 to 1958; the Caretaker Government took over the State duties from 1958 to 1960; the Pa-hta-sa governed the nation under parliamentary democracy system from 1960 to 1 March 1962; the Revolutionary Council governed the nation from 2 March 1962 to 2 March 1974. Throughout the eras, the Tatmadaw had been dutiful in safeguarding independence and sovereignty of the State through all-out efforts, discharging duties in various sectors in accord with the national requirement. And all in all, the endeavours of the Tatmadaw are the unforgettable historical records of the nation.

After ending the multi-colour insurgency in the delta region through Operations Shwe Linyon and Moe Hein, members of people's militia took part in safeguarding the Independence of the State.



NCC Work Committee meets

YANGON, 24 Dec — The National Convention Convening Work Committee continued its coordination meeting at Kyaikkasan Ground here this morning.

Present were Chairman of the NCCWC Chief Justice U Aung Toe, Vice-Chairman Attorney-General U Aye Maung, Secretary U Thaung Nyunt, Joint-Secretary

U Khin Maung Myint, Joint-Secretary 2 Dr Thaung Myint and members.

The chairman of the Work Committee delivered an address. Next, the vice-chairman and the secretary elaborated on the national convention.

The chairman made concluding remarks in the afternoon. — MNA

Rural road...

(from page 16)

to the Basic Education High School in Kanpalet by the Prime Minister to the headmaster of the school. The headmaster spoke words of

thanks on the occasion. Later, the deputy commander attended a ceremony to donate books to the self-reliance library in Myoma Ward.

MNA

Education Minister attends...

(from page 1)

explained matters related to the golden jubilee ceremony. The minister gave a speech.

Then, the headmistress accepted K 3.7 million donated by U Nay Win-Thiri Thudamma Theingi Daw Khin Saw Kyu (Yangon); K 300,000 by Mandalay City Development Committee Secretary Lt-Col Maung Pu; K 100,000 by MCDC member Lt-Col Myint Thein; K 230,000 by U Tha Ya-Daw San Yi; K 120,000 by U Thein Htwe-Daw Mya San Hla (Nansein Family); K 120,000 by U Myint Aung-Daw Than Yi (Zawtika Oil Mill); K 100,000 by U Kyaw Shein; and K 120,000 by Township Engineer U Htay Aung-Daw Win Ma Ma Mon.

Next, the minister and party attended the opening ceremony of multimedia

classrooms of BEHS No 2. Chairman of SBT U Hla Myint and Headmistress Daw Kyi Htay Zin opened the rooms. The minister unveiled the signboard of the classrooms.

Officials reported on building the classrooms and thanked those who contributed to carrying out of the tasks of the classrooms.

In the evening, the minister arrived at Pyu BEHS No 1 and inspected the main building constructed in the diamond jubilee period and gave instructions on maintenance of the building without losing of its original style.

In Nyaunglebin, the minister presented books and gifts for students to officials at Myoma BEPS.

At No 1 BEHS in Bago, the minister presented books and gifts to the students.

MNA

Heroin seized...

(from page 16)

drug traffickers—Twan Yin Kyone, son of U Twan Khaith Phan, Tamoenyne, and Sai Hsam Mon, son U Ngin Kyin,

of Kaunghmulwe Ward, Muse — under the Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law by the police station concerned. — MNA



Twam Yin Kyu and Sai Hsam Mon seized with 2.265 kilos of heroin, one pistol and ammunition in Muse on 8-12-2003. — MNA

Croatian Parliament approves new government

BELGRADE, 24 Dec — Croatian Parliament on Tuesday approved the new government, with Ivo Sanader as new prime minister, the Tanjug news agency reported.

Lawmakers voted 88-29, with 14 abstentions, to support Sanader and his Cabinet. Ivo Sanader, the leader of the Croatian Democratic Union (HDZ) won 66 seats in the new 152-seat Parliament in the November 23 parliamentary election. The new government has 14 ministries, five less than the previous government. Sanader said that he believes a smaller government will ensure not only lower costs, but also greater efficiency. — MNA/Xinhua



Chief Justice U Aung Toe addresses coordination meeting of National Convention Convening Work Committee. — MNA

Minister inspects cultural heritage maintenance tasks in Rakhine State

YANGON, 24 Dec — Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung, together with Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung, arrived at Kyauktaw on 21 December evening.

The next morning, the minister and the deputy minister, accompanied by responsible officials, inspected the ancient northern stairway of Maha Muni Buddha image in Kyauktaw and gave instructions to maintain the stairway which was used to convey Maha Muni image. After viewing the ancient northern prayer hall, they paid obeisance to the image and made cash donations.

Afterwards, the minister, the deputy minister

and party visited the archaeological museum in the precinct of the image and the minister left instructions there.

At the excavation site of Dhanyawaddy old town, Director U Kyaw Lwin Oo of Rakhine State Ancient Cultural Heritage Unit briefed them on findings.

The excavation tasks started in October and now the gate of the palace wall is found. It is estimated that the palace wall would be 15 feet thick and 12 feet high in the past. The gate of the wall has been 14 feet wide. Excavation tasks will continue for firm evidences.

The minister, the deputy minister and party arrived at the construction site of the

Department of Archaeology in Vesali old town where Director U Kyaw Lwin Oo reported on the findings. The excavation tasks started in October and the 15-feet wide town wall and the gate have been founded.

The wall is about 350 feet in length. The old town was excavated five times from 1980 to 1984. Two teak posts, each of which has a girth of about six feet, were dug up. They were used as door posts in the past. The gate is 27 feet wide. Evidences reveals that the wall was rebuilt two or three times.

After paying homage to Vesali Kyauktalon image, the minister, the deputy minister and party visited the

construction site of Shwekyethpa Pagoda on Laungkyettaung in Mrauk U Township.

The minister gave instructions and they inspected construction tasks for ancient Koethaung Pagoda and completion of satellite pagodas.

Yesterday morning, the minister, the deputy minister and party paid homage to Lawka Nanda Pagoda and Cekkyamuni image in Sittway and visited the Rakhine State Archaeological Museum. Deputy Director U Tin Aung Soe of the Department of Cultural Institute conducted them around there. The minister gave instructions.

MNA

Putin rules out about-turn on privatization policy

MOSCOW, 24 Dec — Russian President Vladimir Putin promised Tuesday that there would be no about-turn in the post-Soviet privatization campaign, but warned that those who broke the law in the process would face punishment.

"There will be no campaign to revise privatization results," Putin told a session of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, adding that "this does not apply to people who do not abide by the law."

"People are constantly saying that the laws are complex and it is impossible to follow them. Yes, the laws are complex and intricate, but it is definitely possible to

abide by them," he was quoted by the *Interfax* news agency as saying.

"If five or seven people broke the law, it does not mean that everyone does not abide by them," Putin said.

The leader recognized the fact that those who deliberately engaged in fraud enjoyed more advantages than those who behaved in the right way. "Maybe the latter do not earn that much,

but their conscience is clear," he said.

Putin's statement came amid widespread uneasiness in the business circle, which has been scared by the allegedly Kremlin-backed judicial onslaught against giant oil firm Yukos, whose former chief, Mikhail Khodorkovsky, has been held in detention on charges of fraud and tax evasion.

Many Russian

investors, who considered the legal campaign against YUKOS a political move to curb the oil tycoon's clout that threatened Putin's power, are worried about their own fate if the government makes any significant change to the privatization policy. They are seeking guarantees from the Kremlin over safeguarding their rights and interests.

Putin's remarks seem

to be an assurance to innocent businessmen but is likely to further appall those who do not always behave according to law. At the meeting, Putin also urged the business community to play a more active role in solving social problems and implementing social programmes.

He also suggested that the government should impose higher taxes on Russia's oil and gas companies which grab windfall profits, describing such a move as "purely anti-corruption" measures.

MNA/Xinhua

Mexico police bust drugs ring

MEXICO CITY, 24 Dec — Mexican police busted a drug ring last weekend that reached from Colombia to the United States, in a blow that will cut the supply of cocaine and marijuana crossing the continent, the Attorney-General's Office said on Tuesday.

Police broke up a network moving drugs from Colombia, Venezuela and Jamaica to the United States and Mexico, said Jose Luis Santiago Vasconcelos, head

of the organized crime unit in Mexico's Attorney-General's office.

"An international crime organization dedicated to transporting and selling drug shipments was dismantled," Santiago told a news conference.

Last weekend police captured gang leader Jose Antonio Arias Salas, from Colombia, in Mexico City, along with eight other gang members, four of them Colombian, three from Mexico and one from

Venezuela, he said.

Mexican authorities on December 11 intercepted 1.5 tons of marijuana the gang was transporting in the Gulf of Mexico, he said.

The drugs, arriving in the Gulf of Mexico on a Spanish ship, had stopped in Kingston, Jamaica.

The gang was supplying marijuana and cocaine to Mexican cartels through a clothing and appliance import company, Santiago said.

MNA/Reuters

Malaysia to implement more anti-drug programmes in 2004

KUALA LUMPUR, 24 Dec— The National Anti-Drug Agency (Pemadam) would hold 296 programmes in 148 districts nationwide in 2004 to raise awareness about the dangers of drugs, its president Zainal Abidin Zin said on Tuesday.

The programmes would involve Parent-Teacher Associations and Village Development and Security Committees so as to help more people create awareness about drugs, Zainal

said after opening the state-level women's symposium in Ipoh, Perak State.

Pemadam, which currently had 80,000 members, hoped to be able to sign up some 148,000 more members through such programmes, he said.

On the symposium, attended by some 1,000 women, he said it aimed at creating awareness among women as they were the most important members of a family.

"When they go home,

they can teach and guide their children not to get involved in drug abuse. They will know about the sources of drugs, types of drugs and their dangers," he said.

Zainal, who is also Deputy Home Minister, said Pemadam hoped to train 20,000 women through such symposiums in every state as this would enhance the organization's capacity to fight drug abuse, especially among youths.

MNA/Xinhua

All China Women's Federation Vice-President Mme Chen Xiurong and party enjoy Myanmar cultural dances at the dinner hosted by Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe. (News on page 16)—MNA



Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe greets All China Women's Federation Vice-President Mme Chen Xiurong at the dinner. (News on page 16)—MNA



Chinese "IT" company breaks Microsoft office software monopoly

NANJING, 24 Dec — A Chinese IT company has made a minor landmark success in breaking Microsoft's monopoly of the office software market by signing a contract with a Japanese IT product dealer, Internet Telephone, to sell its Yongzhong Office software in Japan.

Before signing the contract, Internet Telephone tracked and assessed the performance of the China-made office software for three months. It finally reached the deal to sell it on the Japanese market to partly replace Microsoft's Office series. Internet Telephone has started publicity work on the Chinese software. It is expected that sales could reach over five

billion yen-worth in 2004. Besides a Japanese-language version, the Yongzhong Technology Co Ltd, based in Wuxi City, in east China's Jiangsu Province, has also provided versions in English and traditional Chinese characters.

With the rapid expansion of the global information industry, some countries and regions are seeking to break Microsoft's monopoly of office software to protect information security and lower costs. They have launched research and development of software that could be substituted for Microsoft's products.

Founded in 2000 as a joint venture between a local government-controlled company and returned Chi-

nese who had received education overseas, the Yongzhong Technology Co. Ltd put all its 200 software engineers into the development of the company's only product, Yongzhong Office, and thus became China's largest developer of office software.

Its product, accomplished in late 2001, was approved as "large integrated office software with self-owned intellectual property, and its overall technological indices have reached the international advanced level in the field," according to a joint assessment panel of the Information Industry Ministry, the Chinese Academy of Engineering and the Jiangsu provincial government.

The company completed a renewed version of Yongzhong Office 2003 last August, which is almost fully compatible with Microsoft documents, giving great convenience to users to exchange documents with Microsoft Office users.

The company said 78 patents involving its products have been authorized in the Chinese Mainland, Taiwan, the United States and member countries of the World Intellectual Property Organization.

MNA/Xinhua

International arrivals to Vietnam to decrease this year

HANOI, 24 Dec— Vietnam is estimated to receive 2.2 million foreign visitors this year, a year-on-year decline of 15.38 per cent, mainly due to the outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS).

The country is also estimated to welcome 13

million domestic visitors during the year, bringing its total tourism revenues to 20 trillion Vietnamese dong (VND) (1.28 billion US dollars), Pham Tu, deputy head of the Vietnam National Administration of Tourism, told Xinhua on Tuesday.

Vietnam targets to host 2.7-2.8 million international arrivals and 14-14.5 million domestic ones next year, generating revenues of 25 trillion VND (1.6 billion dollars) next year.

"To this end, we will focus on tapping large markets such as China, Japan, France and the United States, promoting the local industry worldwide, and diversifying tour products and services," Tu said.

The administration plans to establish tourism promotion offices in France and Japan, and hold a dozen of international and local tourism fairs, he added.

Vietnam now is home to 250 international tour operators and 1,680 domestic ones. It also has 150 hotels rated from three to five stars with 16,335 rooms.

It hosted 2.6 million foreign visitors, and recorded tourism revenues of 23 trillion VND (1.47 billion dollars) last year.

MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam attracts more foreign investment in 2003

HANOI, 24 Dec— Vietnam has so far this year licensed 620 foreign direct investment (FDI) projects worth 1.55 billion US dollars, down 12.7 per cent in project number, but up 13.8 per cent in capital against the same period last year.

As many as 70 per cent of the projects and 68.7 per cent of the total capital covered the sectors of industry and construction, the Ministry of Planning and Investment announced on Monday.

Vietnam has so far this year seen 345 operational FDI projects raise their capital by more than 1.1 billion dollars, the highest-ever level.

The realized capital of all FDI projects in the country stood at 2.6 billion dollars in the period, equalling to the figure of

last year.

To lure more FDI, the country plans to seek more markets, especially in the United States, and more partners, particularly multinationals and those operating in high-tech fields.

It will also create better investment environment by revising mechanisms and policies after reviewing the national investment competitiveness rankings made by international organizations and foreign investors.

In the short-term, Vietnam will ensure the transparency and stability of its laws, speed up administrative procedure reforms, and encourage local authorities to make more efforts to lure FDI without offering excessive tax cuts.

MNA/Xinhua

20 ferry passengers rescued in southern Philippines

MANILA, 24 Dec— A Malaysian cargo ship has rescued 20 passengers and crew from a sunken Philippine ferry, with 55 people still missing, the Philippine Navy said Tuesday. The cargo ship *Pacific Valor*, en route to Sandakan in Malaysia from China, plucked 20 survivors from the Sulu Sea off Balabac Island near the Malaysian border, the ABS-CBN news channel quoted Navy spokesman

Commander Gerry Malabanan as saying.

The 63-ton *Piary* sank in bad weather in the Sulu sea off the southern coast of Palawan Island in the western Philippines early Sunday, carrying 68 passengers and seven crew members. A Philippine Navy ship was scheduled to receive the survivors from the *Pacific Valor* early Tuesday, Malabanan added.

MNA/Xinhua

**Donate
blood**



All China Women's Federation (ACWF) Vice-President Mme Chen Xiurong and party visit Shwedagon Pagoda.— MNA

Chinese guests tour Yangon

YANGON, 24 Dec — Vice-President of the All China Women's Federation of the People's Republic of China Mme. Chen Xiurong and party, accompanied by Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation Vice-President Professor Dr Daw May May Yee, General Secretary Professor Dr Daw Khin Aye Win and officials, paid a visit to the Shwedagon Pagoda this morning.

The Chinese guests were on a visit here at the invitation of MWAFF President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe.

The guests circled the

pagoda clockwise. Mme. Chen Xiurong signed in the visitors' book. The guests donated cash to the fund of the pagoda.

They proceeded to the National Museum on Pyay Road where they were welcomed by Department of Cultural Institute Deputy Director-General U Myint Kyaing and Director Daw Nanda Hmon. Curator Daw Mee Mee Thet Nwe and Assistant Curator Daw Htay Htay Swe conducted them round the museum. The vice-president of the ACWF signed in the visitors' book.

In the evening, the president of the MWAFF hosted a dinner to the Chinese guests. Present on the occasion were MWAFF Vice-Presidents Professor Dr Daw May May Yee, Daw Khin Lay Thet, Daw Than Than Nwe and Daw Khin Khin Win, General Secretary Professor Dr Daw Khin Aye Win and secretariat members, the Chinese ambassador to Myanmar and distinguished guests.

Prior to the dinner, those present were entertained with variety of Myanmar traditional dances.

MNA



All China Women's Federation (ACWF) Vice-President Mme Chen Xiurong and party view National Museum.— MNA

4th TMME exhibition continues

YANGON, 24 Dec — The Fourth Traditional Medicine and Medical Equipment Exhibition continued for the eighth day at the Tatmadaw Convention Centre on U Wisara Road today. Com-

mander of No 4 Military Region Col Yan Naing Oo and officials visited the exhibition.

Various kinds of traditional medicines were on display and available at the

exhibition, which was crowded with monks, students and office staff. The exhibition will be kept open from 9am to 6 pm till 26 December.

MNA



Booths being crowded with people at Fourth Myanmar Traditional Medicines and Medical Equipment at Tatmadaw Convention Hall.— MNA



Director-General U Tun Tun of President Office presents K 180,000 for offering to the 'soon' Sayadaws to an official of DPPS.— MNA

'Soon' donated to Sayadaws of State Pariyatti Sasana University (Yangon)

YANGON, 24 Dec — Staff of the State Peace and Development Council Office and Central Offices offered 'soon' to 450 lecturer Sayadaws and members of the Sangha of State Pariyatti Sasana University (Yangon) on Kaba Aye Hill this morning.

Present were Director-General U Tun Tun of the President Office, Deputy Director-General U Sein Hla of

the Government's Office, directors and staff of the State Peace and Development Council Office and Central Offices. Pro-Rector of the University Sayadaw Agga Maha Ganthavaçaka Pandita Bhaddanta Uttama administered the Five Precepts.

Next, Director-General U Tun Tun offered provisions to the Pro-Rector Sayadaw.

Afterwards, Director-

General U Tun Tun presented K 180,000 for 'soon' for a day to Director U Khaing Aung of the Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana.

Later, the Sayadaw delivered a sermon, followed by sharing of merits.

After the ceremony, the Director-General and staff offered 'soon' to members of the Sangha. — MNA

Independence Day Commemorative Essay and Poem competitions prize winners announced

YANGON, 24 Dec — The year 2004 56th Anniversary Independence Day Essay, Poem, TV Quiz and Computer Painting Competitions Subcommittee held the university, college, institute, basic education high school and basic education middle school level essay and poem competitions on 22 and 23 November in accord with the objectives of Independence Day. The subcommittee announced the winners of the competitions today.

In university, college and institute level essay competition, cadet Wai Zin Thein of Defence Services Technological University (Pyin Oo-Lwin) won the first prize; Ma The Oo Lwin of Institute of Pharmacy (Mandalay) the second prize; and Maung Nay Thura Sein Hla of Nationalities Youth Resource Development Degree College (Yangon) the third prize. Consolation prizes went to Ma Thiza Win Shein of Yankin Education College, cadet Bo Bo Aung of Defence Services Technological University (Pyin Oo-Lwin), cadet Tun Naing Win of Defence Services Academy (Pyin Oo-Lwin), cadet Myat Tun of Defence Services Medical Academy and Ma Saw Einda That Maung of Bago Degree College.

In university, college and institute level poem competition, Ma Saw Einda Thet Maung of Bago Degree College won the first prize; Maung Thiha Tun of Institute of Medicine-2 (Yangon) the second; and cadet Bo Bo

Aung of Defence Services Technological University (Pyin Oo-Lwin). Consolation prizes went to Maung Win Min Thein of Mandalay Education College, cadet Maung Nyan Min Htet of Institute of Agriculture (Myaungmya), Maung Sa Nay Maung Maung of Patheingyi Education College and cadet Nyan Paing Soe of Defence Services Academy (Pyin Oo-Lwin). In basic education high school level essay competition, Ma Wai Thi Myint of Thonese BEHS won the first prize; Ma April Tun of BEHS-2, Patheingyi, the second; and Ma Yin Min Aye of BEHS-2, Sagaing. Consolation prizes went to Ma Sanda Khaing Win of BEMS-3, Shwepyithar, Ma May Myat Thwe of BEHS-1, Dawei, Ma Aye Chan Mya of BEHS-1, Nayunglaybin, Maung Ye Naing Htay of BEMS-1, Thandwe, and Maung Aung Ko Latt of BEHS-2, Myitkyina.

In basic education high school level poem competition, Maung Thura Soe of Nattalin BEHS won the first prize; Ma May Zin Oo of BEHS-6, Patheingyi, the second; and Ma Nam Nguwa Phu Pwint Oo of BEHS-1, Bago, the third. Consolation prizes went to Maung Phyo Paing Thaw of BEMS-1, South Okkalapa, Ma Thin Sabai Yu of BEHS-1, Dawei, Maung Nay Htoo Kyaw of BEHS-5, Sittway, Mi Chan Lun of BEHS-2, Than-phyuzayat, and Ma Nam Wint Phusan of BEHS-1, Myitkyina. In basic education middle school level

essay competition, Ma Shwe Zin of BEMS-1, South Okkalapa, won the first prize; Ma Nu Htet Htet Lwin of BEHS-4, Sittway, the second; and Maung Naing Oak Kyaw of BEMS-4, Mawlamyine, the third. Consolation prizes went to Maung Myo Myint Myat of Thonese BEHS, Ma Nay Gyi Naing of BEMS, Kalay, Ma Ei Zarchi Thet of BEHS-1, Dawei, Mi Eint Myat Thwe of BEHS-2, Pa-an, and Ma Noo Noo Maing of BEHS-3, Myitkyina.

In basic education middle school level poem competition, Maung Htet Aung Lin of BEHS-3, Myitkyina, won the first prize; Maung Tha Noe of BEHS-2, Sagaing; and Maung Aung Thurein Tun of BEMS-1, Dawei, the third. Consolation prizes went to Maung Kaung Sithu of BEHS-2, Yankin, Ma Khaing Khaing Min of BEHS-1, Bago, Ma Winwa Phyo of Thonese BEHS, Ma May Thazin Hein of BEHS-2, Mudon, and Ma Mya Thanda Tun of BEHS-1, Sittway.

First, second and third prize winners will be awarded at the dinner reception to commemorate the 56th Anniversary Independence Day. University, college and institute level prize winners are to contact the Personnel Affairs Division of the Higher Education Department (Lower Myanmar), Thakhtone Street, Kamayut Township, and basic education high and middle school level prize winners the BEHS-1, Sangyoung, on 1 January 2004. — MNA

Hailing the 56th Anniversary Independence Day:

Emergence of new satellite towns in Yangon Division in the time of the State Peace and Development Council

The Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development systematically established new satellite towns for the growing population of Yangon City, for employees who have no house of their own yet, and for resettlement of squatters.



An aerial view of Hlinethaya Township with a total of 25,117 plots of land.



An aerial view of Dalla Myothit with a total of 11,585 plots of land.

New satellite towns established and plots of land allotted from 1988 to 2003

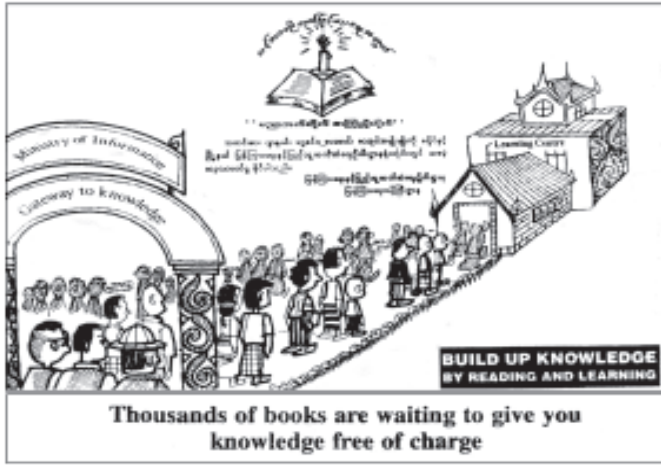
New satellite towns	Total plots of land
1. Shwepyitha Myothit	33,018
2. Hlinethaya Myothit	25,117
3. Shwepaukkan Myothit	9,444
4. Mingaladon Myothit	4,820
5. North Dagon Myothit	29,839
6. East Dagon Myothit	42,160
7. South Dagon Myothit	47,790
8. Dagon (Hseikkan) Myothit	41,234
9. Dalla Myothit	11,585
10. Dawbon Myothit	2,642
Allotted plots of land in total	247,649



An aerial view of Shwepyitha Myothit with a total of 33,018 plots of land where numerous buildings, roads, offices and factories exist.



An aerial view of the Bailey Bridge and Dagon Myothit (North) with a total of 29,839 plots of land.



ADVERTISEMENT

မြန်ကြားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန
သတင်းနှင့်စာနယ်ဇင်းလုပ်ငန်း၏ အစီအစဉ်

MIN KYAW MIN'S SPOKEN ENGLISH CLASS

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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-၂၉၆၁၆၁

သစ်တောသစ်ပင် ချစ်ခင်တဲ့လူမျိုး
သစ်ပင်ကိုနှစ်စဉ်စိုက် ရွှေတိုက်ကိုစိုး

TRADE MARK CAUTION
HAI HA Confectionery Company An Enterprise established in Vietnam at 25 Truong Dinh, Hanoi, Vietnam is the Owner and Sole Proprietor of the following Trade Mark:-



Reg. No. 4 / 5841 / 2003
In respect of "International Class 30: Confectionery." Fraudulent imitation or unauthorized use of the said Trademark shall be dealt with according to law.
Win Mu Tin, M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L for LG Life Sciences, Ltd., P.O. Box 60, Yangon, Dated: 25 December, 2003

**AIDS is
a national
concern.**

ပြည်တွင်းပြန်ကြားရေး

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

JUNIOR LEADER



အတွဲ (၅) အမှတ် (၄၀) ဖြန့်ချိလိုက်ပါပြီ

သတင်းနှင့်စာနယ်ဇင်းလုပ်ငန်းစာအုပ်ဆိုင်၊ စာပေဗိမာန်စာအုပ်ဆိုင်နှင့်သတင်းစာ
ကိုယ်စားလှယ်များထံတွင် လက်လီဝယ်ယူနိုင်ပါသည်။

The New Light of Myanmar

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

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FACTIVE

Reg. No. 1745/2000

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Win Mu Tin, M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L for LG Life Sciences, Ltd., P.O. Box 60, Yangon, Dated: 25 December, 2003

Botswana President urges "AIDS" testing in Christmas message

JOHANNESBURG, 24 Dec — Botswana President Festus Mogae urged the nation in his Christmas message on Monday to have a routine HIV/AIDS test.

He said people have to realize that being HIV-positive was not a death sentence, adding: "Help is available. A person can live a healthy and productive life for the next 15 to 20 years."

With a population of 1.67 million, Botswana has one of the highest incidences of HIV infection in the world. Prevalence is at 33 per cent in the southern African country, according to a survey.

The President said parents could still bring up their children, which was an important part of their memory and heritage.

MNA/Xinhua

TRADE MARK CAUTION

Notice is given that Raypak Inc, (a California, U.S.A. Corporation) of 31111 Agoura Road, Westlake Village, California 91361, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, is the Owner and Sole Proprietor of the following Trade Mark:-

RAYPAK

used in connection with: "Gas and electric water heating products, hot water supply boilers, swimming pool and spa heaters, and air to water heat pumps"

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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 Raypak Inc.

P.O. Box 60, Yangon,

Dated: 25 December, 2003

Int'l AIDS conference to be held in South Africa

JOHANNESBURG, 24 Dec — South Africa's Cape Town has won the bid to host the International AIDS Impact Conference in April 2005, which is to take an in-depth look at the changing interaction between the biological, psychological and social effects of HIV/AIDS.

Lorraine Sherr, one of the organizers of the conference, said on Monday that the meeting was designed to impart information on the latest research and findings on the virus while taking a closer look at the effects it has on the psyche of people living with HIV/AIDS.

"It is the focus on the interaction between the medical and psychological aspects of HIV/AIDS which makes the AIDS Impact Conference so relevant," Sherr said.

He said: "We bring together people from diverse backgrounds and disciplines including volunteers and people living with the disease, providing an open forum for debate and dialogue."

ple living with the disease, providing an open forum for debate and dialogue."

The conference will also afford scientists, governments and non-governmental organizations in Africa the opportunity to share their research-based knowledge and practical experience on HIV/AIDS with their counterparts from around the world.

The Human Science Research Council's social aspects of HIV/AIDS and health programme are key partners hosting this conference.

"We have invited key South African researchers to serve on the local organizing committee to encourage local researchers to present evidence-based research that informs policy and programme design," said the council's Olive Shisana.

The topics at the 2005 conference in Cape Town will concentrate on:

- the impact HIV/AIDS has on different sectors of the economy;
- the impact of AIDS on orphans, life expectancy, child and adult mortality and population growth;
- access to treatment for people living with HIV/AIDS;
- the side effects of HIV/AIDS treatments;
- HIV/AIDS prevention and care strategies;
- gender and HIV/AIDS; and
- mental health and HIV/AIDS.

MNA/Xinhua

မညာရေဖြင့် ခေတ်မီပွဲပြီးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့



A strong earthquake measuring 6.5 struck central California on 22 December, 2003, swaying high rise buildings from San Francisco to Los Angeles. There were no immediate reports of damage from the temblor, whose epicenter was located 7 miles from San Simeon, California, the home of Hearst Castle, one of the major tourist attractions in the state, the US Geological Survey said. —INTERNET

Two suspected Ukrainian human smugglers arrested

ATHENS, 24 Dec — Two suspected Ukrainian human smugglers were arrested and 46 illegal immigrants were detained early Monday off Evia Island, Merchant Marine Ministry sources said.

The sources said that a sailboat carrying the illegal immigrants, whose nationalities were not known, was spotted at dawn by a Coast Guard patrol boat in the sea about four nautical miles off the Bay of Sarakiniko, Evia.

The sailboat was immobilized and the Coast Guard officials arrested two Ukrainians on board believed to be the smugglers. The 46 illegal immigrants were transferred to shore. —MNA/Xinhua

New species of insect found in Greece

ATHENS, 24 Dec — A new species of scorpion-like insect has been discovered in Greece, local media reported recently. The discovery was made by members of the "Pelinnio" Chios Studies Centre during excavations in Sikia Cave at the village of Lithio in Chios, an island off northeastern Aegean.

Based on existing evidence, the insect cannot be found anywhere else in the world, the centre was quoted as saying.

The centre's President, Yiannis Makridakis, told reporters that the insect had been photographed and sent to the Museum of Natural History in Liverpool, Britain. According to the museum's judgment, the unique scorpion-like insect belongs to the category of the arachnids. The view was shared by Greek and foreign entomologists, including those at the Museum of Natural History in Sofia, Bulgaria.

MNA/Xinhua

Man jailed 10 years for smuggling women into Britain

LONDON, 24 Dec — An Albanian-born man was sentenced to 10 years in jail by a court in London on Monday after he was convicted of smuggling women from Eastern Europe into Britain and forcing them into prostitution. The court, following a 14-week trial, concluded that Luan Plakici, 26, was guilty of 15 charges, includ-

ing kidnapping, smuggling illegal immigrants into Britain, incitement to rape, and living off prostitution. The case was described by the local media as the biggest ever of its kind in Britain.

"He was merciless in his exploitation of women for financial gain, terrifying his victims by beating and threatening to kill them if

they did not comply with his demands," said Metropolitan Police detective chief inspector Mark Holmes.

Plakici was unemployed but lived in luxury in north-western London. He bought himself a Ferrari sports car just one day before he was arrested in October 2002.

MNA/Xinhua

Dutch diamond dispatch dropped in dustbin

AMSTERDAM, 24 Dec — Thousands of Dutch residents were rummaging through their rubbish in a diamond rush after a jeweller's anniversary dispatch was largely ignored as junk mail, a newspaper reported on Monday.

Johan de Boer of the eastern Dutch town of Apeldoorn sent 4,000 clients a mailing to mark the 10th anniversary of his store.

Two hundred of the envelopes contained a small diamond, while the others held

zirconia stones — a cheap diamond-lookalike used in costume jewellery. "Are you the lucky one?" the letters asked.

De Boer had expected a flood of responses, but only a few people turned up. After calling a number of clients, he discovered most had discarded the mailing without opening it.

"I was very naive. People nowadays do not trust mailings like these anymore," he told *De Telegraaf* newspaper.

MNA/Reuters

Albanian police seize 17 kilos of heroin

TIRANA, 24 Dec — Albanian police seized 17 kilos of heroin in the capital city of Tirana Monday morning, the local media reported.

In an operation conducted at 05:00 local time, Tirana police intercepted a bag with 17 kilos of heroin in a bus on the Tirana-Vore speedway.

Four suspects, who attempted to smuggle the heroin to Athens, Greece, were arrested on the spot.

MNA/Xinhua

"Energy police" help Chinese companies reduce power consumption

SHANGHAI, 24 Dec — The "energy police" in this China's economic centre has helped reduce its energy consumption by more than 73 per cent.

The city government ordered the setting up of an energy-saving inspection mission five years ago, to help companies to run at lower costs in power and energy.

According to statistics from the Shanghai Economic and Trade Commission, in the 12 years from 1990 to 2002, Shanghai's overall energy consumption was, if converted to standard coal, up from 31.91 million tons to 61.18 tons, while its GDP soared from 75.6 billion yuan

(about 9.1 billion US dollars) to 540.8 billion yuan. This means that the city's energy consumption for every 10,000 yuan-worth of GDP went down from 4.22 tons of standard coal to 1.13 tons, or a 73-per-cent drop, during the period.

"We thank the Shanghai energy police for their help. In our future development plan, we will give priority to energy saving," said Wen Qingwu, chief technology official of the Shanghai

Shenya Co, a local automobile components producer.

Four months ago, the energy police found Wen's company was wasting power, and suggested changes.

The company followed instructions. It gave up high power consumption equipment and made regulations on the use of air-conditioning devices. It is planning to re-adjust its production line and lighting system next year, taking advantage of Shanghai's renovation plan for public

facilities and reception of gas transmitted from gas-rich western China.

"Through energy saving, we have not only reduced our costs and raised efficiency, but raised our international competitiveness too," Wen said.

Shanghai issued its Energy-Saving Regulations five years ago, and set up a 20-strong inspection team. They have since examined over 1,000 local enterprises.

MNA/Xinhua

Parmalat scandal widens as founder named in probe

ROME, 24 Dec — A four billion euro accounting scandal at Parmalat deepened on Monday when the Italian food group's founder and three former finance directors were targeted in a criminal probe.

As prosecutors sought to unravel a complex web of financial transactions that have led Parmalat to be called Europe's Enron, a rescue management team was weighing up the best option for bankruptcy protection.

Parmalat exploded into one of Europe's worst corporate crises last week when the firm said a document showing 3.95 billion euros held by a Cayman Islands unit, Bonlat Financing Corp, had been declared false by Bank of America.

Prosecutors launched a fraud probe, and on Monday named in their investigation Parmalat's founder Calisto Tanzi, who resigned last week as chairman and CEO of Italy's biggest food group, a judicial source said.

Also targeted in the probe into possible false accounting, fraud and market rigging were former chief financial officers Fausto Tonna, Alberto Ferraris and Luciano Del Soldato, all of whom held the post during 2003, other judicial sources said.

Ferraris and Del Soldato were questioned on Monday. They admitted providing false information but said the plan had been thought up by Tanzi and Tonna, one of the sources told *Reuters*.

Parmalat has 35,000 staff in 30 countries and is one of Italy's best-known brands and its eighth-largest industrial group.

The missing four billion euros dwarfs a one-billion-euro accounting scandal at Dutch retailer Ahold and drew compari-

sons with the collapse of energy giant Enron. Media reports said the hole could be as big as 10 billion euros, making it one of Europe's biggest accounting scandals.

Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi vowed on Saturday his government would save operations and jobs at Parmalat.

On Monday, Parmalat's newly appointed Chairman and CEO Enrico Bondi met Industry Minister Antonio Marzano. The minister may be required to name administrators for Parmalat.

A statement from Berlusconi's office after the meeting suggested that his Cabinet could approve on Tuesday a decree dealing with the Parmalat crisis.

MNA/Reuters



Olly, a three-month-old orphaned African elephant, is bottled by Wildcare volunteer Valie Vorster as he is loaded onto an aircraft at Lanseria International Airport north of Johannesburg, South Africa, on 23 December, 2003 in this photo released by the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW). Olly was found abandoned in a dry river bed near Selebi Phikwe, in northern Botswana. —INTERNET

SPORTS

Ronaldo pays tribute to Zamorano after farewell match

SANTIAGO, 24 Dec — Brazil's Ronaldo paid tribute to Ivan Zamorano after playing in the former Chilean striker's farewell match in front of a 50,000 crowd.

"He fully deserved this celebration," said the Real Madrid striker, who left Spain on Sunday night and flew for 15 hours to play in the game on Monday night at Santiago's National Stadium.

"He's dedicated his life to football and it was very emotional to see everyone applauding him. I hope my farewell will be as good as this."

Argentine striker Andres D'Alessandro, retired Colombian midfielder Carlos Valderrama and former Paraguay goalkeeper Jose Luis Chilavert also took part in the match between an international team and a local 11. "It's over," said 36-year-old Zamorano, wrapped in a Chilean flag.

"There's always a moment to say goodbye. Thank you to everyone. I'm a very lucky man. Football has given me everything and I'm very satisfied."

Zamorano played for Real Madrid, Inter Milan and Mexico's America before returning to his homeland at the start of this year to end his career with Colo Colo, the team he supported as a boy.

MNA/Reuters



Brazilian Ronaldo, of Real Madrid of Spain, right, dribbles the ball past Cristian Alvarez, centre, as Colombian player Carlos Valderrama looks on during a farewell soccer match for Chilean star Ivan Zamorano at National Stadium in Santiago, Chile, on 22 December, 2003. — INTERNET



Lazio striker Bernardo Corradi (C) is double-teamed by Inter Milan's Fabio Cannavaro (L) and Belozoglu Emre during a Serie A match. Inter saw a strong return to form in the Champions League during 2003 putting an end to criticism. — INTERNET

Sociedad's dramatic slide continues

MADRID, 24 Dec — Real Sociedad began 2003 as Spanish league leaders and went on to cap a season of remarkable improvement by claiming the runners-up spot behind Real Madrid and a lucrative place in the Champions League.

They will go into 2004 third from bottom of the table, mired in relegation trouble and with Europe looking increasingly like a drain on resources they can ill afford.

They closed out the year with a hapless 3-1 defeat at home to Valladolid that had their own fans jeering them from the pitch at the end of the game.

There is now no doubt in the mind of anyone at the club that after the dream of last year's race for the title they are back facing a fight

to avoid relegation.

"We're now in a very difficult situation," French coach Raynald Denoueix said after Saturday's defeat.

"When we were 1-0 down I saw a fragility about the team and that's tough to remedy. We need time."

At least in domestic terms, the Basque club are back where they were before the arrival of Denoueix as coach in 2002, struggling to preserve their top flight status.

Oddly enough, they have

managed to take last season's vibrant attacking form and defensive resilience into the Champions League and after coming through the group phase they will take on Olympique Lyon in the second round.

Denoueix recognizes that the strain of playing two games a week played a large part in his side's slide down the table but he at least knows that this year's team is capable of playing at the same level as last season's league runners-up.

MNA/Reuters

Porto move five clear in Portugal with 2-1 away win

LISBON, 24 Dec — Reigning champions Porto moved five points clear at the top of the Portuguese Premiership with a 2-1 away win on Monday, but are likely to be without injured striker Derlei Silva at the start of next year.

Victory over Alverca in their game in hand lifted Porto's tally to 39 points after 15 matches played, followed by Sporting on 34 and Benfica on 33.

The two Lisbon rivals, who both won at the weekend, will fight for second place on the first weekend of next year at the new Luz Stadium, the venue for the Euro 2004 final.

A shot from inside the box by Brazilian striker Derlei opened the scoring in the 18th minute for Porto, the only unbeaten team in the league.

But Derlei, the league's top scorer with 12 goals, was carried off the pitch on a

stretcher after a tackle with Alverca defender Ze Rui.

Club doctor Nelson Puga told journalists Derlei had probably torn a ligament in his right knee, and would undergo a thorough examination on Tuesday. Derlei's injury could keep him out for some time, Puga added.

A blunder by goalkeeper Vitor Baia, who let the ball through his legs, allowed striker Manu Evaristo to equalize in the 27th minute for Alverca, reduced to 10 men for the last half-hour after winger Jose Rui was sent off for two bookable offences.—MNA/Reuters

Late Sibierski goal earns City deserved 1-1 draw

MANCHESTER (England), 24 Dec — A late header by substitute Antoine Sibierski earned Manchester City a deserved 1-1 draw with Leeds United in an English Premier League match at the City of Manchester Stadium on Monday.

City, who climb into a share of 11th in the table despite nine consecutive matches without a win, dominated throughout but only levelled the scores in the 82nd minute after Leeds had gone ahead with a first-half goal from Mark Viduka.

"It wasn't like they opened us up and I don't think the referee gave us many decisions," said City manager Kevin Keegan.

"In the end, though, I suppose you're happy to get a point."

Keegan added that he had no choice but to bring on Sibierski in a bid for a late equalizer.

"He is very good in the air and he is a good goalscorer if you look at his record," he said.

Australian international Viduka put Leeds in front in the 24th minute against the run of play, taking advantage of a defensive blunder by David Sommeil who failed to control a James Milner through ball on the edge of the box.

Viduka had wasted a golden chance to score in the sixth minute when an Ian Harte free kick left him unmarked inside the six-yard box. This time, though, he made no mistake, rounding keeper David Seaman for his fourth league goal of the season.

City, however, dominated the rest of the half and had their best opportunity to equalize in the 41st minute when the dangerous Nicolas Anelka found Claudio Reyna unmarked just eight yards out.

Reyna, recalled for the out-of-form Trevor Sinclair, powered goalwards but

defender Michael Duberry cleared off the line.

City were also the better side after the break and Joey Barton beat goalkeeper Paul Robinson in the 57th minute with a crunching right-foot shot that bounced back off the inside of the post.

City finally levelled the scores eight minutes from time, Sibierski driving home a header after a cross from the right by Sun Jihai.—MNA/Reuters



First-half goals from John O'Shea and ace marksman Ruud van Nistelrooy, pictured here, gave Manchester United a 2-1 win over Tottenham and a return to the top of the English Premiership. — INTERNET

Teenager Martins in running for African player honours

JOHANNESBURG, 24 Dec — Inter Milan teenager Obafemi Martins has been named as one of the five finalists for the 2003 African Footballer of the Year award, the Confederation of African Football (CAF) announced in Cairo on Monday.

Nigerian Martins, who has yet to play any internationals for his country, featured for Inter in the UEFA Champions League semifinals last year.

His Nigerian compatriot Austin Okocha of English Premier League club Bolton Wanderers is also among the five finalists.

The other three in the running are Samuel Eto'o of Cameroon, Didier Drogba of the Ivory Coast and Tunisian fullback Hatem Trabelsi.

Eto'o is among the finalists for the third successive year and is the favourite for the award after helping Cameroon to the final of

the Confederations Cup in France. He also scored two goals in the Spanish Cup finals for Real Mallorca in June.

Eto'o and the Ajax Amsterdam defender Trabelsi were the only two Africans named among the 50 candidates for the 2003 European Footballer of the Year award.

Okocha's inclusion is a surprise as is that of Drogba, who has only been burst into the limelight since signing for Marseille in France in August.

He has been a frequent scorer for the club since his move from Guingamp.

MNA/Reuters

MRTV-3



25-12-2003 (Thursday) (Programme Schedule) Morning Transmission (9:00 - 10:00)

- 9:00 Signature Tune
- Greeting
- 9:02 Song of Myanmar
- Beauty & Scenic
- Sights "Mingalabar"
- 9:06 Mandalay, A Close Distance
- 9:10** **Headline News**
- 9:12 Easily Cooked Tasty Dishes (Fry bitter gourd with pounded dried prawn powder)
- 9:15** **National News**
- 9:20 Myanmar Royal Regalia (II)
- 9:25 The Unforgettable Bonfire Dance
- 9:28 Let's mail the Lovely Cards
- 9:30** **National News**
- 9:35 Unique Biodiversity of Indawgyi Lake (II)
- 9:40 Song "Come visit Myanmar"
- 9:45** **National News**
- 9:50 Biological Expedition to Hponkan Razi Region (IV)
- 9:58 Song of Myanmar
- Beauty & Scenic
- Sights "Come and See Myanmar"

25-12-2003 (Thursday) Regular Programmes for Viewers from Abroad Evening Transmission (15:30 - 17:30)

- 15:30 Signature Tune
- Greeting
- 15:32 Song of Myanmar
- Beauty & Scenic
- Sights "Myanmar Panorama &

- Myanma Sentiment"
- 15:36 Mandalay, A Close Distance
- 15:40** **Headline News**
- 15:42 Easily Cooked Tasty Dishes (Fry bitter gourd with pounded dried prawn powder)
- 15:45** **National News**
- 15:50 Myanmar Royal Regalia (II)
- 15:55 The Unforgettable Bonfire Dance
- 15:57 Let's mail the Lovely Cards
- 16:00** **National News**
- 16:05 Unique Biodiversity of Indawgyi Lake (II)
- 16:10 Song "Come visit Myanmar"
- 16:15** **National News**
- 16:20 Biological Expedition to Hponkan Razi Region (IV)
- 16:25 Song of Myanmar
- Beauty & Scenic
- Sights "Mingalabar"
- 16:30** **National News**
- 16:35 Daungumaw Mud-crab Breeding
- 16:40 Myanmar Cuisine "Steamed Eggplant with Tomato Sauce"
- 16:45** **National News**
- 16:50 Let us preserve the Watershed Areas
- 16:55 Auspicious Glory
- 17:00** **National News**
- 17:05 Myanmar Crocodiles
- 17:10 Song "Glory of Myanmar"
- 17:15** **National News**
- 17:20 Leisurely Cruise Along the Coast (Yangon to Mawla-myaing)
- 17:25 Song of Myanmar
- Beauty & Scenic
- Sights "Come and See Myanmar"
- Evening Transmission
(19:30 - 23:30)**
- 19:30 Signature Tune

- Greeting
- 19:32 Song of Myanmar
- Beauty & Scenic
- Sights "Mingalabar"
- 19:36 Lacquerware made from Porcelain and glaze
- 19:40** **Headline News**
- 19:42 Easily Cooked Tasty Dishes (Short-headed Fish with Roasted Rice Soup)
- 19:45** **National News**
- 19:50 Myanmar Royal Regalia (I)
- 19:55 Brave Youth Showing His Strength & Ability
- 20:00** **National News**
- 20:05 Unique Biodiversity of Indawgyi Lake (I)
- 20:10 Song "Ngwe Hsaung Beach Resort"
- 20:15** **National News**
- 20:20 Biological Expedition to Hponkan Razi Region (III)
- 20:25 Song "You from next door"
- 20:30** **National News**
- 20:35 Eel, Marketable Product
- 20:40 Myanmar Cuisine "Steamed Prawn Curry"
- 20:45** **National News**
- 20:55 Hill Resort Town (Thandaung)
- 20:58 Inlay Wild Bird Sanctuary
- 21:00** **National News**
- 21:05 Extravagant Evidences of Myanmar Culture (II)
- 21:10 Song "Creating of a love-like song"
- 21:15** **National News**
- 21:20 All Lives under the Sky "Catch of Fish by cooperation of Fisherman & Dolphin"
- 21:32 Song of Myanmar
- Beauty & Scenic

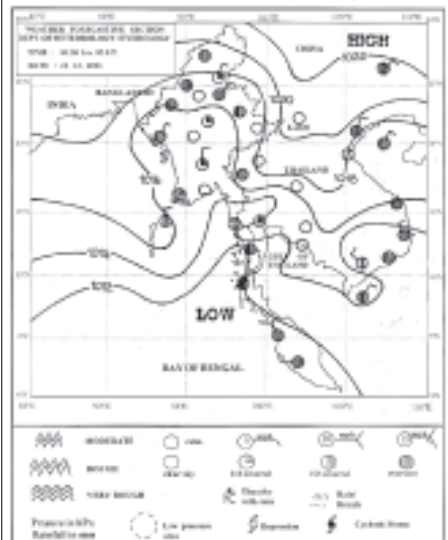
- Sights "Myanmar Panorama & Myanmar Sentiment"
- 21:36 Mandalay, A Close Distance
- 21:40** **Headline News**
- 21:42 Easily Cooked Tasty Dishes (Fry bitter gourd with pounded dried prawn powder)
- 21:45** **National News**
- 21:50 Myanmar Royal Regalia (II)
- 21:55 The Unforgettable Bonfire Dance
- 21:57 Let's mail the Lovely Cards
- 22:00** **National News**
- 22:05 Unique Biodiversity of Indawgyi Lake (II)
- 22:10 Song "Come visit Myanmar"
- 22:15** **National News**
- 22:20 Biological Expedition to Hponkan Razi Region (IV)
- 22:25 Song on Screen "The Art Winning Post"
- 22:30** **National News**
- 22:35 Daungumaw Mud-crab Breeding
- 22:40 Myanmar Cuisine "Steamed Eggplant with Tomato Sauce"
- 22:45** **National News**
- 22:50 Let us preserve the Watershed Areas
- 22:55 Auspicious Glory
- 23:00** **National News**
- 23:05 Myanmar Crocodiles
- 23:10 Song "Glory of Myanmar"
- 23:15** **National News**
- 23:20 Leisurely Cruise Along the Coast (Yangon to Mawla-myaing)
- 23:25 Song of Myanmar
- Beauty & Scenic
- Sights "Come and See Myanmar"
- *****

Asleep in Jesus Daw Than Yin (Aged 89 years)

Daw Than Yin, wife of the late U Saw Kya Doe, Member, Multi-Party Democracy General Election Commission, No. 18 C, Inya Road, Kamayut Township, Yangon, youngest daughter of the late (Mahn Shwe Pi and Gha Nyo), sister of (Daw Aye Sein), (Daw Aye Shin), (Daw Than Tin) and (Rev. Mahn Po Way), mother of Nithe Doe, aunt of (Daw Hnin Yee), Daw Kyi Kyi, (Daw Yi), Daw Mya Mya Way-B.E.H.S (I) Ahlone, fell asleep in Jesus on Tuesday, the 23rd of December, 2003 at 7:15 am. The funeral service will be held at Yangon Brayton Pwo Kayin Baptist Church on Thursday, the 25th of December, 2003 at 11:00 am and then will proceed to the Htein Bin Cemetery for entombment.

Bereaved Family

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Wednesday, 24 December, 2003

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been generally fair in the whole country.

Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Kachin, Chin, Kayah States, Sagaing, Magway and Bago Divisions, (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Rakhine, Shan, Mon States, Mandalay and Yangon Divisions, (6°C) below normal in Ayeyawady Division and about normal in the remaining areas.

Maximum temperature on 23-12-2003 was 33.0°C (91°F). Minimum temperature on 24-12-2003 was 16.3°C (61°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 24-12-2003 was 76%. Total sunshine hours on 23-12-2003 was (8.8) hours approx.

Rainfall on 24-12-2003 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 10 mph from Northeast at (10:10) hours MST on 23-12-2003.

Bay inference: Weather is partly cloudy in the south Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 25-12-2003: Weather will be partly cloudy in the whole country.

State of the sea: Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Generally fair in the whole country.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 25-12-2003: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 25-12-2003: Generally fair.



Thursday, December 25
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. Dance of national races
- 8:00 am**
- 6. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 8:10 am**
- 7. Dance variety
- 8:25 am**
- 8. နတ်သားတောရေလှေသင်္ကန်း
- 8:30 am**
- 9. International news
- 8:45 am**
- 10. Let's Go
- 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. အခင်းသရုပ်ဆောင်ပညာစာရင်း ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ - ဝတ်စုံ (သိပ္ပံအထူးပြုအားလုံး) (ခါးစာစာ)
- 5:15 pm**
- 6. Cute little dancers
- 5:30 pm**
- 7. မြန်မာ့ပြန်ဆိုရေးရာ
- 5:45 pm**
- 8. Musical programme
- 6:00 pm**
- 9. "အမှန်မြတ်ဆုံးလက်ဆောင်" နေ့စဉ်လမ်းညွှန်သတင်းစာ (ခါးစာစာ-သတင်းစာစာ)
- 6:15 pm**
- 10. သက်တောင့်သံစဉ်
- 6:30 pm**
- 11. Evening news
- 7:00 pm**
- 12. Weather report

- 7:05 pm**
- 13. Milo success in soccer
- 7:10 pm**
- 14. စတုတ္ထအကြိမ်တိုင်းရင်းဆေးနှင့် ဆေးပစ္စည်းပြပွဲ (အပိုင်း-၃)
- 7:20 pm**
- 15. Musical programme
- 7:35 pm**
- 16. ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားအစီအစဉ်
- 7:45 pm**
- 17. အချစ်အမြင်အာဟာရနှင့် ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား နိုင်ငံရေးစာပေ ပုံစံစာပေ "ကျောက်ဆည်အောက်ကန်မြစ်အောက်" (အပိုင်း-၃)
- 8:00 pm**
- 18. "News"
- 19. International news
- 20. Weather report
- 21. ကောင်းမွန်အောင်မြင်မှုများ ရောက်ရှိနေသောလမ်းညွှန်သတင်းစာ (ခါးစာစာ-သတင်းစာစာ)
- 22. The next day's programme

အိမ်တိုင်းမှာသစ်ပင် ရွာစဉ်မှာတောတန်း
တစ်တောင်တစ်တောင်ဆက်
မြို့တက်မယ့်လမ်း။

- Radio Myanmar**
- Thursday, December 25**
- 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
- 9.15 am** News/Slogan
- 9.20 am** Lunch time music - Lonely this X'mas (Mud Orbison)
- 9.00 pm** Aspects of Myanmar - Myanmar Cuisine
- 9.10 pm** Article/Music
- 9.20 pm** 56th Anniversary Independence Day Commemorative Talk "Preserving Our Independence"
- 9:30 pm** Favourite songs chosen by "Thida"
- Yesterday once more (Carpenters)
- Saving all my love for you (Whitney Houston)
- Tonight I celebrate my love (Peabo Bryson)
- 9.45 pm** News/Slogan
- 10.00 pm** PEL

MWAF President receives Chinese guests

YANGON, 24 Dec — President of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe received Vice-President of the All Women's Federation of the People's Republic of China (ACWF) Mme Chen Xiurong and party at the Women's Development

Centre on Than Lwin Street here this afternoon.

Also present at the call were MWAF Vice-Presidents Professor Dr Daw May May Yee, Daw Khin Lay The, Daw Than Than Nwe and Daw Khin Khin Win, General Secretary Professor Dr Daw Khin Aye

Win, Director-General of the Social Welfare Department U Sit Myaing and members.

The president of the MWAF extended greetings.

The guests briefed the hosts on the ACWF. Professor Dr Daw Khin Aye Win explained about organiza-

tional set-up of the MWAF.

The vice-president of the ACWF signed in the visitors' book and those present posed for a documentary photo.

After the meeting, the guests viewed the Women's Development Centre.

MNA

Minister U Win Aung arrives back after attending Ministerial Meeting of Trilateral Highway Project in India

YANGON, 24 Dec — The Myanmar delegation led by Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung arrived back here after attending the Ministerial Meeting of India, Myanmar and Thailand on Trilateral Highway Project held in New Delhi, India.

The minister and party were welcomed at Yangon International Airport by directors-general of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Charge d'Affaires of the Indian Embassy Mr Rajinder Khanna.

Director-General of the International Organizations and Economic Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs U Win Mra, Directors of the Political Department U Aung Than and U Ye Myint, Director of Budget Department U Soe Thein of the Ministry of Finance and Revenue and Superintending Engineer (Highway) U Ngwe Tun of Public Works of the Ministry of Construction also arrived back on the same flight.

On 22 and 23 December, Minister U Win Aung and party held discussions with the Indian and Thai delegations led by the Minister of External Affairs of India and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand. The meetings were held in a spirit of friendship and cooperation and Agreed Minutes were issued at the end of the meetings.

The Ministers reviewed the progress made in the

project for construction of the Trilateral Highway from Moreh in India to Mae Sot in Thailand through Bagan in Myanmar which would be implemented in 2004.

The objective of the project is to promote transport linkages among the three countries with a view to expanding trade, investment, tourism, human resource development and people to people contact and would further enhance development of South Asia and South-East Asia regions. It was agreed that the next Ministerial Meeting will be held in Mandalay in 2004. The Senior Officials' Meeting will also be held in early 2004.

The Trilateral Highway Project which is 1,360 kilometres long will be implemented in three phases. In addition, the Ministers reiterated the importance of the construction of a deep-sea port at Dawei in Taninthayi Division and the Dawei-Kachanaburi Road link to be carried out in one package together with the Trilateral Highway Project.

While in New Delhi, Minister of Communications and Information Technology of India Mr Arun Shourie hosted a dinner to Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung on 22 December at Maurya Sheraton Hotel. During the dinner, they cordially exchanged views on matters of mutual interests and cooperation between the two countries. — MNA



Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe poses for documentary photo together with All China Women's Federation (ACWF) Vice-President Mme Chen Xiurong and party. — MNA

Pile driven for construction of Twantay Bridge

YANGON, 24 Dec — A ceremony to drive Yadana pile of the Twantay Bridge Construction project in Twantay Township was held at the pandal of the project this morning.

Present on the occasion were Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, Deputy Ministers U Tint Swe and Brig-Gen Myint Thein, Secretary of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Kyaw Tint, officials of the Ministry of Construction, local authorities and local people.

First, the minister gave a speech.

Twantay Bridge will be built on the road linking Twantay-Dalla Road and Yangon-Pathein No 5 Road in Yangon. The bridge will be built across Twantay

Canal.

On completion, people can travel from Yangon City to Dedaye, Kyaiklat, Pyapon, Maubin and Nyaungdon townships in Ayeyawady Division through Twantay, Dalla, Kawhmu, Kungyangon townships easily.

With regard to construction of the bridges which are 180 feet and above in Yangon Division, a total of 23 bridges have so far been built. Five bridges including Twantay Bridge are under construction. Twantay Bridge, 4,350 feet in total length, will be built of iron beam suspension bridge. It will have a 28-foot-wide motor way together with six feet wide pedestrians. The bridge can withstand 60-ton loads. — MNA

Rural road opened

YANGON, 24 Dec — A ceremony to inaugurate the hospital road in Myoma Ward in Kanpetlet Township, Mindat District, Chin State, was held yesterday morning.

It was attended by Deputy Commander of North-West Command Col San Aung, Chairman of Mindat District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Ohn Myint Oo and members, Chairman of Kanpetlet Township Peace and Development Council U Thein Tun Lwin and members, departmental personnel, members of social organizations, bands and pom pom troupes and local people.

First, the chairman of the Township Peace and Development Council explained the tasks related to tarring the road. Member U Mya Maung of the construction committee of the road spoke words of thanks. Executive Officer of the Township Development Affairs Commit-

tee U Tin Soe Win and Head of Township Health Department Dr Myint Soe formally opened the road.

The deputy commander handed over a computer set, a television, a video player, a voltage regulator and accessories donated (See page 8)



Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung being welcomed back at the airport on his return from New Delhi where he attended the Ministerial Meeting of India, Myanmar and Thailand on Trilateral Highway Project. — MNA



Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun attending launching ceremony to drive pile for Twantay Bridge across Twantay Canal. — CONSTRUCTION

Heroin seized in Muse

YANGON, 24 Dec — A combined team comprising members of local intelligence unit, Myanmar Police Force and Special Anti-drug Squad on 8 December, acting on a tip-off, seized 109 soapboxes containing heroin weighing 2.265 kilos, a pistol and ammunition after searching a house in plot No 893, Kaunghmulwe Ward, Muse.

In connection with the case, action was taken against

(See page 8)