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Saturday, 27 December, 2003

Senior General Than Shwe sends message of sympathy to Chinese President

YANGON, 26 Dec— Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of sympathy to His Excellency Mr Hu Jintao, President of the People's Republic of China for the heavy loss of life and property caused by a blow-out at the natural gas field in Chongqing, southwestern part of the People's Republic of China. — MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye sends message of sympathy to Chinese Vice-President

YANGON, 26 Dec— Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of sympathy to His Excellency Mr Zeng Qinghong, Vice-President of the People's Republic of China for the heavy loss of life and property caused by a blow-out at the natural gas field in Chongqing, southwestern part of the People's Republic of China. — MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt sends message of sympathy to his Chinese counterpart

YANGON, 26 Dec— General Khin Nyunt, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of sympathy to His Excellency Mr Wen Jiabao, Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China for the heavy loss of life and property caused by a blow-out at the natural gas field in Chongqing, southwestern part of the People's Republic of China. — MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives All China Women's Federation Vice-President

YANGON, 26 Dec— Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt received All China Women's Federation-ACWF Vice-President Mme Chen Xiurong and party of the People's Republic of China at Zeyathiri Beikman on Konmyintha at 2 pm today.

Also present at the call were Minister for Foreign Affairs

U Win Aung, Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Win, President of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, Vice-President Prof Dr Daw May May Yi and Director-General Thura U Aung Htet of the Protocol Department. The guests were accompanied by Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Li Jinjun. — MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives All China Women's Federation-ACWF Vice-President Mme Chen Xiurong and party at Zeyathiri Beikman. — MNA

Industrialists visit No 1 Automobile Factory

YANGON, 26 Dec — The industrialists from respective industrial zones who are on the study tours and attending workshops organized by Myanmar Industrial Development Committee visited No 1 Automobile Factory of Myanma Automobile and Diesel Engine Industries un-

der the Ministry of Industry-2 here this morning. Chairman of the Myanmar Industrial Development Work Committee Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin briefed the industrialists on functions of the ministry, factories and products and assistance rendered for indus-

trial development. General Manager of the factory U Hlaing Thein presented assembling of TE trucks and buses. Minister Maj-Gen Saw Lwin, Deputy Minister Lt-Col Khin Maung Kyaw and officials conducted the visitors round the factory.

MNA

4th TMME exhibition concludes

YANGON, 26 Dec — The Fourth Traditional Medicines and Medical Equipment Exhibition, organized by the Traditional Medicine Department of the Ministry of Health, continued for the tenth and last day at the Tatmadaw Con-

vention Centre on U Wisara Road here today.

Deputy Commander of Yangon Command Col Wai Lwin and officials visited the exhibition.

At the exhibition, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Industry-1, the

Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and the Ministry of Forestry, and private traditional medicine producers displayed their products and equipment in 134 booths and put them on sales at reasonable prices.

MNA

A historic duty

It is a historic duty of all Myanmar national races to eliminate incorrect and ill attitude such as suspicions, hatred and disunity, the evil legacy of the divide-and-rule policy of colonialists, among the national brethren with Union Spirit.

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

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23,639

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

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 27 December, 2003

Myanmar Geosciences

Society— one of the national forces

In building the Union of Myanmar to keep abreast with nations of the world, the State Peace and Development Council is nurturing national forces in various sectors. With the combined strength of these national forces, strong and stable political, economic and social foundations have been built in the country.

Now, endeavours are being made to serve the national interest through the combined strength of the existing national resources of the State and technicians in the respective fields.

By doing so, it is very important to turn out brilliant intellectuals and intelligentsia in the respective fields. It is also necessary to organize them into consolidated national forces in the respective fields.

A ceremony to form Myanmar Geosciences Society was held at Myanmar Information and Communication Technology Park on 21 December, with an address by Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt.

In his address the Prime Minister said that it is not the time for the government alone to make efforts for development of the nation and the people; that all the national people are responsible for the task; and that with this concept, the entire people are to make endeavours in the interests of the nation and the people in their respective fields.

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

Assistance rendered by the geosciences plays a crucial role in construction of infrastructures such as major roads, bridges, dams and reservoirs, workshops and factories, and in urban development undertakings.

Out of the endeavours made by geoscientists, the significant ones are achievements in drawing of Myanmar's geological map in 1977, the finding of Pongtaung Primate fossils in 1977 and presentation of anthropoid primates excavated in Myanmar. They are significant achievements not only for the geoscientists but also for the entire national people.

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

We firmly believe that the geoscientists under the flag of Myanmar Geosciences Society will become the ones who will serve the interests of the State and its people.

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.

Minister U Win Aung sends message of sympathy to Foreign Minister of PRC

YANGON, 26 Dec — U Win Aung, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of sympathy to His Excellency Mr Li Zhaoxing, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China for the heavy loss of life and property caused by a blow-out at the natural gas field in Chongqing, southwestern part of the People's Republic of China. — MNA

Minister U Win Aung sends message of congratulations to the Philippines

YANGON, 26 Dec — U Win Aung, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of congratulations to Her Excellency Mrs Delia Domingo Albert, who has been appointed as Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Philippines. — MNA



Ar Wha and Aik Sein seen together with seized stimulant tablets. — MNA

Stimulant tablets seized in Tachilek

YANGON, 26 Dec — A combined team comprising members of the local intelligence unit and Tachilek Special Anti-Drug Squad, acting on information, searched suspect Ar Wha in Talok Market in Macaokham Ward, Tachilek Township, on 12 November and seized him together with WY brand 1,400 stimulant tablets. The stimulant tablets were bought from Aik Sein of Hsamsai B Ward, Tachilek Township. On the same day, the team raided the house of Aik Sein at No 2/31, Hsamsai B Ward, Tachilek Township and seized 5,600 stimulant tablets tied together with a yellow tape beside the water tank upstairs of the house. Action is being taken against them by Tachilek Police Force. — MNA

MPBSMA holds annual meeting

YANGON, 26 Dec — The 11th annual general meeting of the Myanmar Pulses, Beans and Sesamum Merchants Association was held at the Traders Hotel here on 24 December with addresses by UMFCI President U Win Myint and MPBSMA President U Tun Aung. — MNA

People's Desire

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

Efficient use of electricity

- * Use daylight as the main source of light
- * Use the least possible amount of electricity only if there is not enough natural light
- * Use the least possible amount of electricity required in production and service enterprises
- * Preventing waste of electricity benefits the user and others

There are about 500,000 households using electricity in Yangon. Thus, saving a four-foot fluorescent lamp every day by each household amounts to saving power that is equal to the capacity a 20-megawatt power station can supply.

Efficient use of fuel

- * Saving one gallon of fuel per car per month will save the nation one US dollar
- * Thus, a total of 455,822 cars in Myanmar can save US\$ 5.5 million in a year
- * The amount, US \$ 5.5 million, can build a major bridge across Ayeyawady River

All this needs to be known

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

နိုင်ငံတော်အစိုးရဌာနပိုင် မော်တော်ယာဉ်များမသုံးစွဲရနေ့

လစဉ်လ၏ ဒုတိယပတ်တန်နေနဲ့နှင်နောက် ဆုံးပတ်တန်နေနဲ့တိုသည်ရုံးလုပ်ငန်းအတွက် မဖြစ်မနေ သွားလာရန်လိုအပ်သည့် ကိစ္စရပ်များမှအပ မော်တော်ယာဉ်များ မသုံးစွဲရနေ့ဖြစ်သည်။

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(၂၅-၁-၂၀၀၄)



School Family Day

(27 December 2003 to 3 January 2004)



President of Myanmar Pulses, Beans and Sesamum Merchants Association U Tun Aung speaks at the meeting. — UMFCI

Eight killed as blasts, gunfire rock Iraq

BAGHDAD, 26 Dec — Militants fired a missile that hit a heavily guarded Baghdad hotel used by Westerners late yesterday after deadly attacks earlier on Christmas Eve.

The hotel attack caused no casualties, but three US soldiers died in a bomb blast north of Baghdad and a suicide car bomber killed himself and four other people in northern Iraq.

About 90 minutes after the hotel was hit, US aircraft and artillery pounded suspected guerrilla hideouts in southern Baghdad.

Blasts and heavy machinegun fire echoed across the city as Operation Iron Grip to flush guerrillas from the capital went into a second night. Similar attacks on Tuesday targeted fields and empty areas used by insurgents to strike at US patrols.

Earlier yesterday, a roadside bomb ripped through a US military convoy near the town of Samarra, 60 miles north of Baghdad, killing three soldiers, the military said.

The deaths brought to 205 the number of US soldiers killed since Washington declared major combat over in Iraq on 1 May.

The guerrilla attack on the hotel slightly damaged the roof, but the manager said no one had been hurt.

"A mortar round hit the top of the

Sheraton," a US soldier said outside the 17-storey building in central Baghdad. "We've been informed that two Iraqi individuals in two cars fired a mortar round at the hotel. Security guards fired at them as they fled," said another soldier, Private Michael Williams.

A Reuters correspondent said he had seen insurgents fire a rocket at the hotel from a car. He said two cars sped away along a dirt road beside the nearby Tigris river after the attack, as security guards and US troops opened fire.

The projectile struck just above a top-floor restaurant neatly decorated with Christmas lights. Tables were set for dinner, but the room was empty at the time of the blast.

"I heard a very big explosion," said Ameena Al Jabouri, a British lawyer staying at the hotel. "Really we can't do anything because if we move to a different hotel that will be hit too."

Guerrillas fired rockets at the Sheraton and the adjacent Palestine hotel from donkey carts on 21 November, wounding two people. They used the same method to hit the Oil Ministry the

same day.

Many foreign contractors and journalists stay at the two hotels, which are surrounded by concrete blast walls and guarded by US troops in tanks and armoured vehicles.

US-led occupation officials had warned that insurgents would launch spectacular attacks during the holiday season.

In the northern Kurdish city of Arbil, a car bomb blew up outside the local Interior Ministry, killing the bomber, two police guards, a passerby and a 13-year-old girl. A Kurdish official said more than 100 people were wounded.

The official blamed "extremists who came from outside Iraq", an apparent reference to itinerant militants.

The blast cratered the road, damaged the Interior Ministry building used by the pro-American Kurdish administration in the north, and destroyed several cars.

US Brigadier General Marc Kimmitt said troops had arrested five suspected bomb-makers and seized their materials after the latest anti-guerrilla drive was launched on Tuesday. — *Internet*

ထိုက်တိုက်နှစ်ဆ တိုးမြှင့်ခြင်း

Kurdistan TV office in Baghdad hit by rocket

BAGHDAD, 26 Dec — The Kurdistan satellite television office in Baghdad was attacked by a rocket on Thursday morning. Seerwan Tawfiq, a correspondent of the TV station, told *Xinhua* that the rocket hit the headquarters in Mansur District in western Baghdad at 6:00 a.m. (0300 GMT) without causing casualties among the staff.

Windows and doors of the office building were broken by the force of blast, said Tawfiq, who described the attack as a coward action against all Iraqis indiscriminately.

The attack appeared to be part of a planned insurrection that involved overnight bombings and shellings on different targets in the capital city.

The Sheraton Hotel and the Iranian Embassy in central Baghdad were among the most prominent targets, with Iraqi civilian residence also compromised in the Christmas attacks. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Billionaire Soros, independent groups target Bush

WASHINGTON, 26 Dec — US President George W Bush's most-feared political opponents for now may not be any Democratic presidential candidate, but a billionaire financier and anti-Bush advocacy groups with big-spending plans.

"Liberal special interests, led by billionaire currency trader George Soros, are raising millions in soft, unregulated money to defeat President Bush," the Bush campaign says in an Internet posting.

Bush has already raised more than 110 million US dollars for his primary campaign, in which he has no challenger, far outstripping any Democratic rival.

Campaign spokesman Scott Stanzel said anti-Bush groups threaten to spend as much as 400 million US dollars, justifying the Bush's primary-season goal of raising a record 170 million US dollars, largely through a network of major supporters who funnel donations to the campaign.

But campaign finance experts say there is little chance of Bush being outspent. "The Bush campaign is raising money hand-over-fist. He has the aura of the incumbency and the power of the presidency. He's in the catbird seat," said Celia Wexler, research director of the Common Cause good-government group. Along with Soros, the Hungarian-born financier who has pledged 12.5 million US dollars to ensure "we can write off the Bush doctrine as a temporary aberration", another chief target of Republican ire are independent political groups such as the Internet-based MoveOn.org.

— *MNA/Reuters*

Early morning attacks hit Baghdad Sheraton

BAGHDAD, 26 Dec — Guerrillas have carried out mortar attacks in and around the Iraqi capital, Baghdad. There have been no immediate reports of casualties.

The US military and employees of the Sheraton Hotel, said the building was hit early on Thursday.

Five or six mortars or rockets were fired, said a military official.

The military also announced that a US soldier was killed on Wednesday night in a roadside bombing in Baghdad. Earlier the same day three US troops were killed in a similar attack in the north central town of Samarra and four Iraqi civilians were killed in a suicide bombing in the town of Arbil.

In Baghdad on Thursday AFP reporters heard blasts, which started at 6:20am (03:20 GMT), and lasted for about 10 minutes, laced with a barrage of automatic gunfire. A few more explosions were heard after 07:00, but sounded more like heavy weapons fire.

An explosion shook the capital's Sheraton Hotel on Wednesday night, but much confusion surrounded the origin of the blast. US occupation forces said it was unclear if the blast was part of the ongoing US "military operation" code named "Iron Grip". It was not known if anyone was injured in the blast.

A witness near the hotel said a rocket had been fired at the building from a car, but the hotel appeared to be untouched. — *Internet*



Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshiyar Zebari, left, gestures as he talks to the Secretary General of the Arab League, Amr Moussa, on 25 Dec, 2003, at the League's headquarters in Cairo, Egypt. — INTERNET

Chinese farmer opens newspaper collection exhibition

TAIYUAN, 26 Dec — A Chinese farmer who is also an avid newspaper collector is helping his fellow farmers learn about the world with an exhibition of over 1 million newspapers he has collected since his youth.

More than 1.1 million copies of 60,000 Chinese and foreign newspapers are shown in 11 sections of pre-New China, minorities, cultural revolution, overseas and

Hong Kong-Macao-China (Taipei).

The exhibition was organized by 48-year-old farmer Miao Shiming, who has been collecting newspa-

pers for 30 years, in the ancient city of Pingyao, north China's Shanxi Province.

The earliest newspaper was Shanghai-published *Shenbao* in 1872.

The shortest lived newspaper featured is *Xibao* which was the first and final publication. The longest lived publication is Hong Kong-based *Ta Kung Pao*,

which has a history of 101 years. The rarest was a silk newspaper marking the return of Hong Kong to China in 1997.

— *MNA/Xinhua*

China gas field blast kills at least 191

BEIJING, 26 Dec — An explosion at a natural gas field in China's southwestern municipality of Chongqing has killed at least 191 people and poisoned scores, the official Xinhua news agency said on Thursday. Authorities had evacuated residents within three miles of the disaster site, it said.

The blast happened on Tuesday morning at the Chuandongbei gas field in Kaixian County of Chongqing Municipality. A well had burst, releasing "a high concentration of natural gas and sulfurated hydrogen", the news agency said.

The field belongs to China National Petroleum Corp (CNPC), parent of oil major PetroChina. A hospital worker in Kaixian said: "We are very busy. There are patients everywhere. We haven't counted the casualties."

Some had been poisoned and others had suffered chemical burns, he said, declining to give other details or his name. Chongqing and the neighbouring province of Sichuan are among China's major natural gas producing areas.

— *MNA/Reuters*



An Iraqi girl makes her way through a hole made by a rocket in a building close to the German Embassy in Baghdad on 25 Dec, 2003, after guerrillas hit central Baghdad with more than a dozen grenades, rockets and mortar shells on Christmas Day. — INTERNET

US compound in Baghdad under fire as troops celebrate Christmas

BAGHDAD, 26 Dec— The US compound in the Iraqi capital came under rocket fire as American troops marked Christmas while stepping up offensive operations against guerrillas.

Two rockets exploded in the vicinity of the US headquarters in Baghdad late Thursday, a US military officer told AFP.

He said two rockets hit in the area around the Green Zone, but refused to say if they landed inside the fortress-like former palace of deposed Iraqi president Saddam Hussein.

Four rockets landed inside the complex early Thursday but caused no casualties.

The attacks followed a decision by Baghdad's churches to cancel Christmas Eve midnight mass, citing fears of violence in the capital. Insurgents went on to launch a series of Christmas Day rocket and bomb attacks.

Churches in the capital held services Wednesday instead, but with shortages of electricity and gasoline, Christians also cancelled their traditional Christmas parties and chose to celebrate at home.

But in Ankawa, a small village close to Arbil, residents celebrated all night. Young men and women gathered in the streets while their parents attended mass.

"For us Christians living in the north of the country, we have no security concerns because the situation is good and our hope is that this situation will be extended to the whole country," said Bulus Shimon, who heads the town's cultural association.

Twelve churches in nine different Kurdish cities or villages celebrated midnight mass.

Meanwhile, the US military was conducting Operation Iron Grip for a third night. In it, the US First Armoured

Division rounded up loyalists of the former dictator and pounded suspected insurgent locations with artillery and aircraft canon fire.

A coalition military spokeswoman reported "a large amount of activity" in the city Thursday night.

"Offensive operations conducted by coalition forces include ground and air assets in cooperation with Iraqi authorities," she said.

About four hours of sporadic loud fire reverberated across the city. Some of the firing came from artillery, which the US-led coalition employed two nights earlier.

An airplane droned over Baghdad late Thursday as it did two nights earlier when troops called in air support.

In a separate development, a US soldier was electrocuted repairing a communications tower on Christmas Eve in the northern oil centre of Kirkuk, a military official said.

Christmas Day ended the way it began — with explosions.

A rocket struck the Turkish ambassador's residence, with minor damage only and no casualties.

Other projectiles pummeled the Sheraton hotel Wednesday night and again Thursday morning.

The hotel's eighth floor was scarred by the impact of a hit. The lobby and various floors of the hotel were strewn with broken glass.

Thursday's rebel offensive came amid predictions by the US-led coalition administering Iraq that guerrillas would wage a spectacular offensive to embarrass the US military during the Christmas period. —*Internet*



Iraqi Policeman stands guard next to an unexploded rocket outside Baghdad City Council on 25 December, 2003. The council building was hit by another rocket early Thursday morning. —INTERNET

HK Chief praises police for effective operation

HONG KONG, 26 Dec— The Chief Executive of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Tung Chee-hwa Wednesday afternoon praised Hong Kong police for its latest operation as it just smashed an armed syndicate and arrested two suspects.

Speaking at the police headquarters in Wanchai, Tung said the operation was outstanding and effective, and stressed that a high quality police force was crucial to Hong Kong's prosperity and stability.

MNA/Xinhua

Spain arrests 62 illegal immigrants, 2 traffickers

MADRID, 26 Dec— Over the past two days, Spanish police have captured two traffickers and 62 illegal immigrants, mostly from Sub-Saharan Africa, authorities said Wednesday.

The 62 illegal immigrants who belonged to three groups were caught in the Canary Islands coast. The first group was spotted on Tuesday afternoon aboard a boat some eight kilometres from Pozo Negro, in Antigua municipality. The vessel, carrying 29 men from Sub-Saharan Africa and two traffickers of Moroccan origin, was intercepted by a patrol boat of the Civil Guard and was taken to the port of Gran Tarajal.

MNA/Xinhua

Bolivia declares emergency due to heavy downpour

LIMA, 26 Dec— Bolivian authorities on Wednesday declared a state of emergency after heavy downpour hit the centre of the country, leaving one bridge collapsed, 19 people dead and 50 missing, reports reaching here said.

Rescue crews retrieved 19 bodies on Wednesday from Chapare River in the Cochabamba region of central Bolivia.

A bridge over the river collapsed, plunging into the torrent several vehicles, including a police car and a bus full of passengers. The bodies of 16 bus passengers and three policemen were recovered. Six were rescued.

The bridge, 20 metres tall and 350 metres long, has served as an important connection between Cochabamba and three other states, Santa Cruz, San Luis de Potosi and La Paz. Weather forecasts said that more heavy rains were expected in the region. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Chile seizes 5,220 doses of Ecstasy

SANTIAGO, 26 Dec— Chilean police seized 5,220 doses of Ecstasy in a recent operation, according to reports of the local Press on Thursday.

The drug was found in a parcel inside audio equipment sent by a Dutchman named Diego Rialis. The addressee was identified as Jose Astorga, of Chilean origin.

"It has been police intelligence work that has taken some time," Vice-Interior Minister Jorge Correa said, adding that the operation took place on Tuesday and Wednesday.

This is the largest amount of such drug ever seized in the South American country.

MNA/Xinhua

ဝက်မွန်အား ခေတ်ကျော်လွှား

Occupation forces bomb Baghdad for third night

BAGHDAD, 26 Dec— US-led occupation forces have bombed Baghdad for the third consecutive night as resistance fighters have lobbed at least three mortar bombs into the vicinity of the US-led occupying administration headquarters.

US forces attacked what they say is a suspected resistance fighter hideout in the outskirts of Baghdad on Thursday night. Military officials said they launched "offensive operations" involving ground and air units. It was part of Operation Iron Grip, aimed at stamping out resistance fighters in the capital.

The resistance in Baghdad is the widest in scale since the 13 December capture of ousted leader Saddam Hussein.

Meanwhile, there was no immediate word of casualties after bombs struck the US headquarters in central Baghdad. Warning sirens blared in the huge facility shortly after the attack.

The night attack came 17 hours after resistance fighters fired more than a dozen rockets and mortar bombs in central Baghdad, hitting the vicinity of the US headquarters, two hotels occupied by Westerners, two embassies and an apartment bloc.

Rockets struck the outer wall of the Iranian embassy, the Turkish embassy and a residential building next to the Germany embassy. Two Sheraton and Burj al-Hayat hotels, used by Westerners, and an Iraqi apartment block nearby were also targeted.

A rocket missed the Interior Ministry and landed in a nearby street, said witnesses. Police said US troops defused a rocket aimed at the finance ministry in another neighbourhood. One woman was wounded in the attacks, which took place around sunrise.

Near Baquba two Iraqi Civil Defence Corps (ICDC) members were wounded in a drive-by shooting, said police. Several bullets hit Lieutenant Naim Ijbari in the stomach and he was taken to hospital in Baghdad.

His colleague, Haidar Abd al-Kazem, was hit in the right hand and cut by shards of glass when assailants pulled up alongside their car and riddled it with bullets.

Internet

Iran earthquake 'kills thousands'

TEHRAN, 26 Dec— Thousands of people are feared dead after a powerful earthquake hit the city of Bam in south-eastern Iran.

The ancient city's historic quarter - a popular tourist destination - was badly damaged, and telephone and water links were disrupted by the quake on Friday. Rescuers have rushed to the area, but there are reports local hospitals were damaged, slowing relief efforts.

Iran suffers frequent earthquakes, with small tremors happening almost daily and 35,000 dying in one 1990 quake. Iranian

officials say at least 2,000 people were killed in Friday's quake.

"So far we can only confirm 2,000 dead but the number is sure to rise," an unnamed official told Reuters by telephone.

The French news agency AFP reports that 500 people have already been buried. Iranian state television reported that 60% of the houses in Bam had been destroyed. —*Internet*



The quake was the most powerful in the region since 1998.

INTERNET

IRAQ UNDER US OCCUPATION



A private security guard points his gun from the roof of a Sheraton hotel terrace in Baghdad, on 25 December, 2003, after the hotel came under rocket propelled grenade attack.—INTERNET



A wounded Iraqi woman looks at the hole caused when a rocket tore into her family's apartment in central Baghdad.—INTERNET



An Iraqi vendor stands inside his damaged store along a commercial street in central Baghdad on 25 Dec, 2003. A roadside bomb exploded on a busy Baghdad street, blowing off the hand of a policeman and seriously wounding two other officers.—INTERNET



Iraqi police officers stand in front of a broken window after a rocket hit a wall of the Iranian Embassy in Baghdad on 25 December, 2003. Just outside the green zone, a half dozen rockets were fired at the Iranian Embassy and one hit the wall of the building, Iraqi police said. —INTERNET



Bahzar Ramadan, advisor to the Iraqi Minister of Construction and Housing, lies in hospital emergency unit after he was severely wounded by unknown assailants in Baghdad on 25 December, 2003.
INTERNET



A wounded Iraqi girl, sits in her bedroom in front of a hole caused when a rocket tore into her family's apartment in central Baghdad.—INTERNET

Hailing the 56th Anniversary Independence Day:

Towards a new nation of new era

Kyaiphyu


The Tatmadaw, after the assumption of State responsibilities on 18 September 1988, first and foremost carried out restoration of law and order; prevailing peace and tranquillity in the country.

At the same time, the Tatmadaw made efforts to repair and build roads and bridges for secure and smooth transportation and establish new satellite towns in Yangon down to all parts of the country in implementing the construction tasks all over the country with the dedicated service of the public. The Tatmadaw also rendered assistance as necessary to the drive ensuring the swift flow of commodities for the convenient living of the people.

Realizing that the planning economic system the Burma Socialist Programme Party had practised could not guarantee the economic growth of the State in the light of objective conditions of the country, the Tatmadaw introduced the market economic system and adopted the 'open door' policy to attract international investments in trade. To make the market economic system and the 'open door' policy successful, the Tatmadaw annulled economic laws, orders and declarations released in the time of the BSPP and replaced them with new ones capable of propping up the market economic system and the 'open door' policy. The Tatmadaw Government endeavoured to the best of its ability to boost the local and foreign investments in terms of business transactions. Moreover, the Tatmadaw Government fulfilled the requirements for the promotion of private sector and the cooperatives. On 30 November 1988, the Tatmadaw Government enacted the 'Union of Myanmar Investment Law' under the Notification No 10/88.

Besides, continuous steps were also taken to enable the respective ministries to serve the interest of the country and the people to the full through the changes in the organization set-up, the enacting of laws, and supervision and inspection to be able to work in accord with the political and economic policies of the State. As a result, all the



Chairman of the Central Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races Head of State Senior General Than Shwe presents gifts to national race leaders in Nagmon Region, Kachin State.

administrative machinery of the State gained momentum.

Priority was given to the development of national races residing in border areas that lagged far behind in development owing to the flame of internal strife that lasted for over four decades since regaining independence. The Tatmadaw has firmly believed that the national solidarity is the key to the progress of border areas and national races.

It is safe to assume that failure of successive governments to work for the development of border areas and national races was due to lack of stability and tranquillity in those areas.

Therefore, the Tatmadaw Government laid down Our Three Main Na-

tional Causes: Non-disintegration of the Union, Non-disintegration of national solidarity and Perpetuation of sovereignty, as national guiding policy.

Further, the Tatmadaw Government gave encouragement to the cultivation of poppy-substitute crops in border areas, where poppy was grown previously, with the aim of putting an end to poppy production once and for all. With these objectives, the Tatmadaw Government implemented the project of border areas and national races development.

In order to systematically carry out the development tasks for border areas, the Tatmadaw Government formed the Central Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races under the Notification No 23/89 dated 25 May 1989 and the Work Committee under the Notification No 24/89 on 31 May 1989. Consequently, nine work subcommittees were also formed on 31 May 1989 to speed up the development measures. The nine work subcommittees are as follows:

- (1) the subcommittee for agriculture and forestry,
- (2) the subcommittee for livestock breeding,
- (3) the subcommittee for road transport,
- (4) the subcommittee for trade and cooperatives,
- (5) the subcommittee for housing estates,
- (6) the subcommittee for

energy,

- (7) the subcommittee for health and education,
- (8) the subcommittee for public relations, and
- (9) the subcommittee for management and finance.

To make more effective the accelerated measures for development of border areas and national races, the Tatmadaw Government enacted the 'Law for Development of Border Areas and National Races' on 13 August 1993, and formed the Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs on 30 January 1994.

Since the assumption of State responsibilities, the Tatmadaw Government has taken steps phase by phase to turn the country into a new democratic. In doing so, the Tatmadaw laid down our three main national causes as the national guiding policy and at the same time implemented the four immediate tasks successfully. Moreover, the 12 political, economic and social objectives of the State have also been put into action to ensure the emergence of a discipline-flourishing peaceful and developed democratic nation in the future. These 12 objectives are:

Four political objectives

- * Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order
- * National reconsolidation
- * Emergence of a new en-

during 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 people

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

In this process, measures have been taken on the basis of the strength of national unity. Therefore, success has been achieved on the political, economic and social fronts in so short a time.

Translation: KTY



Since its assumption of the State duties in 1988, the Tatmadaw Government has been carrying out nation-building tasks. Tatmadawmen taking part in construction of irrigation facilities in the South-West Command region.

Hailing the 56th Anniversary Independence Day:

Endeavours for development of national brethren

The Tatmadaw made efforts to repair and build roads and bridges for secure and smooth transportation and establish new satellite towns in Yangon down to all parts of the country in implementing the construction tasks all over the country with the dedicated service of the public. The Tatmadaw also rendered assistance as necessary to the drive ensuring the swift flow of commodities for the convenient living of the people.



Scene of houses in Kaungkha Village seen immediately after restoring peace in the region in 1991.



Scene of Developed and prosperous Kaungkha Town in Shan State (North) today.



The Tatmadaw Government endeavoured to the best of its ability to boost the local and foreign investments in terms of business transactions. Moreover, the Tatmadaw Government fulfilled the requirements for the promotion of private sector and the cooperatives. On 30 November 1988, the Tatmadaw Government enacted the 'Union of Myanmar Investment Law' under the Notification No 10/88. Besides, continuous steps were also taken to enable the respective ministries to serve the interest of the country and the people to the full through the changes in the organization set-up, the enacting of laws, and supervision and inspection to be able to work in accord with the political and economic policies of the State. As a result, all the administrative machinery of the State gained momentum. Priority was given to the development of national races residing in border areas that lagged far behind in development owing to the flame of internal strife that lasted for over four decades since regaining independence. The Tatmadaw has firmly believed that the national solidarity is the key to progress of border areas and national races.

After taking charge of the State duties, the Tatmadaw Government has constructed roads for smooth and secure transport. Yangon-Pyay road has been upgraded.



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt greets All China Women's Federation (ACWF) Vice-President Mme Chen Xiurong. (News on page 1) — MNA

အိမ်တိုင်းမှာသစ်ပင် ရွာစဉ်မှာတော့တန်း
တစ်တောင် တစ်တောင်တက် မြို့တက်မယ့်လမ်း။

Chinese guests visit Kyauktan Township MCWA (Branch)

YANGON, 26 Dec — The visiting Chinese guests led by Vice-President of the All China Women's Federation Mme. Chen Xiurong paid a visit to Kyauktan Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association (Branch) in Yangon South District this morning.

Together with Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation Vice-President Professor Dr Daw May May Yee, General Secretary Professor Dr Daw Khin Aye Win, Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association Vice-President Dr Daw Tin Lin Myint, Secretary Dr Daw Wai Wai Tha, Joint-Secretary Dr Daw Nwe Oo and officials, the Chinese guests arrived at Myaingthaya Model Village in Kyauktan Township, where they were welcomed by Patron of Yangon Division Maternal and Child Welfare Association Daw Khin Thet Htay and members.

The guests viewed the courses on tailoring, silver smith, lace knitting, flower arrangement and fruits arrangement conducted by Yangon Division MCWA Supervisory Committee. Mme. Chen Xiurong and Daw Khin Thet Htay exchanged gifts.

The guests also visited Lunge Yeikmyon and Alindan Thuta Yeikmyon day nurseries.

MMCWA President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe hosted a luncheon to the guests at the Sedona Hotel.

In the afternoon, Mme. Chen Xiurong and party visited the Gems Mart of the Ministry of Mines on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road. — MNA



All China Women's Federation (ACWF) Vice-President Mme Chen Xiurong and party visit Gems Mart on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road. — MNA

Industrialists urged to gradually...

(from page 16)

At the same time, infrastructures in the electricity energy, human resources and transport sectors have been developed.

Concerning the electricity sector, mass production of the hydel-run generators is needed in supplying electricity to villages in cooperation with the local people. The whole nation now has over 100,000 industries, up from only over 39,600 in the past. Over 6,800 industries have been relocated at the 18 industrial zones. And the industrial sector is enjoying not only the quantitative advantage, but also the qualitative development.

For development of the industrial zones, the ministers concerned are giving close supervision for the development of industrial zones as heads of the zones. The Industrial Development Committee has been formed, impetus is given to develop cottage industries into ones which apply advanced technology and machines by combining State-owned and private-owned industries harmoniously.

A new policy has already been introduced to the rice trade in accord with the market-oriented economic system. The new policy permits free rice milling, trading and transport and to export the surplus.

The industrialists are required to upgrade their rice mills to produce quality rice to be able to compete with that from other countries. Machine parts used in rice mills will be displayed as import-substitute goods at the exhibition to upgrade the rice mills that will begin on 8 January 2004.

The industrialists are urged to study the use of advanced machinery and rubber processing methods at the State-owned factories to invent goods that may be actually useful for the nation. The industrial zones will have to strive for wider distribution of 10-ton rice mills so that the nation will be able to produce and consume more quality rice. The industrialists are going to visit the Nyaung Chehtauk factory, where they will have to study the production of computer-controlled CNC lathe machines and lathes using digital read-out system. In this regard,

they will have to consider the use of the new generation machines for manufacturing products of superior quality.

The industrial zones play a key role in developing the industrial sector of the State. Thus, the entrepreneurs will have to gradually develop their industries from manual control system to mechanical control system, and then to computer-controlled system.

Similarly, the industrialists will get an opportunity to study casting and forging technologies at the factories in Sinda and Htonbo and modern technologies on cutting and shaping at Myaungdaga and Kyaukhswekyo steel mills. So, it will contribute substantially towards assembling of small automobiles including jeeps as well as 60-passenger buses and 10-ton and above trucks in their industrial zones.

A total of 474 small automobiles were assembled in 11 industrial zones last year. And this year, 861 out of 1,038 targeted automobiles have been assembled. The government and respective ministries will provide necessary assistance and set standards in connection with the work programme presented by eight industrial zones for smooth manufacturing of 60-passenger buses and 10 tons and above trucks needed for better transportation of the nation.

At a time when the government places great emphasis on development of industrial zones and private industries, harmonious efforts are to be made to speed up the development momentum of agro-based industries, and to ensure development of the industrial zones that can manufacture import-substitute products and emergence of high-technology-based industries. Moreover, the excursion tour will enhance skills of the industrialists and contribute much towards progress of their industries.

Employing the knowledge gained from the study tour, the industrialists are to endeavour in taking innovative measures to manufacture new items and import-substitute goods. The industrial zones must be upgraded to the ones that can produce quality products with the use of advanced machines. Only then, can they conveniently manufacture quality items in a short time, the Secretary-1 said.

(See page 9)



MMCWA President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe and ACWF Vice-President Mme Chen Xiurong and party pose for documentary photo. — MNA

Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe meets with ACWF Vice-President

YANGON, 26 Dec — President of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe met with All China Women's Federation-ACWF Vice-President Mme Chen Xiurong and party of the People's Republic of China at the multipurpose building of MMCWA at the corner of Thanthuma and Parami Roads in South Okkalapa Township this morning.

Also present at the meeting were Vice-Presidents of MMCWA Dr Kyi

Soe and Dr Daw Tin Lin Myint, Vice-President of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation Dr Daw May Yi, Secretary of MMCWA Dr Daw Wai Wai Tha and CEC members, General Secretary of MWA Prof Dr Daw Khin Aye Win, Counsellor of the Chinese Embassy Mr Yu Boren and officials.

First, Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe extended greetings. Secretary of MMCWA Dr Daw Wai Wai Tha explained matters related to MMCWA. Dr Daw Khin

Win Shwe and Dr Kyi Soe answered queries raised by the guests.

Next, Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe and Dr Daw Tin Lin Myint presented gifts to the guests.

Afterwards, the Vice-president of the ACWF signed in the visitors' book and posed for documentary photo with those present.

Later, the guests visited Earlier Childhood Development Centre, Feminine Disease Diagnosis Centre and Domestic Science Training School. — MNA



Pathan Desana recitation ceremony held at Shwedagon Pagoda

YANGON, 26 Dec — The 2003-2004 academic year School Family Day Pathan Desana reciting ceremony was held at Rahu corner (north-west corner) of the Shwedagon Pagoda platform this morning, attended by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe.

Also present on the occasion were Chairman of the Leading Committee for Holding 2003-2004 School Fam-

ily Day Minister for Education U Than Aung, Chairman of the Work Committee-1 for Holding the School Family Day Deputy Minister Lt-Col Aung Myo Min, Chairman of the Work Committee-2 Deputy Minister U Myo Nyunt, officials, principals, teachers and students.

Those present kept the Five Precepts. Next, flowers, water and lights were offered to the pagoda.

The students collectively recited Pathan Desana, followed by sharing of merits gained. — MNA



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Minister for Education U Than Aung attend Pathan Desana recitation ceremony of basic education students. — MNA

Co-ord Meeting held for holding Fourth World Buddhist Summit

YANGON, 26 Dec — The Fourth World Buddhist Summit will be held in Myanmar soon. So, the coordination meeting concerning the summit was held at the lecture hall of International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University this morning. At the meeting, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Chairman of Work Committee for Organizing the Summit, spoke on the occasion. Before the address of the minister, those present recited Namo Tassa three times. Then, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko and Director-General Dr Myo Myint of the Religious Affairs Department reported on matters related to the summit.

Those leading the sub-committees submitted sector-wise reports to the meeting. The participants of the meeting took part in the discussions before the concluding remarks of the minister. Also present on the occasion were deputy ministers, Vice-Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa, Adviser to the State Peace and Development Council Office U Arnt Maung and departmental heads. — MNA



Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung addresses the coordination meeting for holding the Fourth World Buddhist Summit. — MNA

Industrialists urged to gradually...

(from page 8)

Arrangements had been made to hold workshops enabling private entrepreneurs to exchange opinions and experiences gained from the study tours of the State-owned factories, the Secretary-1 said. With the aim of providing modern technologies to the entrepreneurs, technicians from the ministries concerned had been invited to the workshops to disseminate technologies for production of farm implement and machinery, automobiles, rubber, machines and machine tools, and import-substitute items.

Only with the united efforts of private entrepreneurs under the guidance and encouragement of the State, will the industrial sector of private entrepreneurs develop. And only with the cooperation of industries of the State sector, cooperative sector and private sector, will modern and developed industrialized nation emerge, and the heavy, medium and light industries develop harmoniously.

In conclusion, the Secretary-1 urged the entrepreneurs to exert efforts together with innovation, perseverance and goodwill towards the State for the continued success of their factories at such a good time when the State is ren-

dering assistance and encouragement.

Next, Secretary of Industrial Development Committee Chairman of Myanma Industrial Development Committee Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thuang, Chairman of Myanma Industrial Development Work Committee Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin reported on arrangements for conducting study tours and holding workshops for private industrialists. Afterwards, Chairman of the Work Committee for Conducting Study Tours of factories and Holding Workshops Secretary of Myanma Industrial Development Committee Deputy Minister for Industry-1 Brig-Gen Kyaw Win, Chairman of the Subcommittee for Conducting Study Tours of Factories Deputy Minister for Industry-2 Lt-Col Khin Maung Kyaw, Chairman of the Subcommittee for Holding Workshops Deputy Minister for Science and Technology Dr Chan Nyein reported on arrangements for conducting study tours and holding workshops. Next, Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone, Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe, Minister for Cooperatives Maj-Gen Htay Oo and deputy ministers gave supplementary reports. Afterwards, the Secretary-1 made concluding remarks. — MNA

Yangon Division Smooth & Secure Transport Supervisory Committee meets

YANGON, 26 Dec — A coordination meeting of the Yangon Division Smooth and Secure Transport Supervisory Committee was held at the meeting hall of Yangon Command this afternoon.

It was attended by Committee Chairman Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Deputy Commander Col Wai Lwin, military region commanders, responsible personnel, officials, those of the all bus lines control committees in Yangon Division and guests.

First, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe explained the tasks to be carried out by the committee members for smooth and secure transport and for the convenience of travellers and commuters in Yangon Division. Next, committee members reported on tasks being carried out at bus terminals, railway stations, jetties and airports for the convenience of those travelling around and measures to prevent car accidents. Chairmen of bus line committees

also reported on their supervision works for abiding by traffic rules and regulations.

Speaking to the meeting, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe said car accidents in the division have been reduced significantly. However, more systematic arrangements are to be made for departmental vehicles, ferries, private vehicles and taxis to strictly abide by traffic rules and regulations. He also dealt with measures for taking action against those who violate the traffic rules.

Later, the commander fulfilled the needs and the meeting came to a close. — MNA

POEM:

If it takes the form of volume of water

- * If a drop of rainwater is negligible
When many raindrops gather
Sizeable ponds, lakes and weirs appear
They take the form of creeks and rivers
And wide expanses seas and oceans
Taken together they form collections
Which can be discerned massively.
- * Those expanses of water in collection
Exist as ponds, lakes, creeks and rivers
And oceans are for humans
Source of sustenance, water for drinking and use
For human existence
Pleasant and plentiful
For humanitarian and economic
Use all round and beneficial.
- * Raindrops gather, and mass of water
Afford the human abode this much
Of benefits
Humans collectively, in masses
Like water take clean and clear form
And work unitedly, that human mass
In the collective national abode
The pleasant peace path to progress
Will constantly be straight.

Po Wa (Trs)

Chinese guests visit Mandalay

YANGON, 26 Dec — The visiting Chinese delegation of five, led by Mme Chen Xiurong, Vice President of All China Women's Federation (ACWF), accompanied by First Secretary of Chinese Embassy to Myanmar Mrs Deng Qinghua and General Secretary Prof Daw Khin Aye Win of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation, paid a visit to Mandalay by air yesterday morning. On their arrival they were accorded welcome by Patron of Mandalay Division Women's Affairs Committee Daw Myat Ngwe, Commissioner of the Division Administration Department U Kyin Lin, Consul-General Mr Li Xuelin of Consulate-General in Mandalay and officials. The guests and officials first visited Myanansankyaw Golden Palace, where officials explained to them the history of the palace.

Next, they went to the Sutaungpyae Pagoda on Mandalay Hill and made cash donations. The delegation then studied embroidery works in Aungmyethazan Township and arrived back here this afternoon. — MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win and party sharing merits at cornerstone laying ceremony of religious buildings at Thiri Lekkhanayama Dagon Yeiktha Alekyangsaung in Dagon Myothit (East) Township on 25 December (News reported). — MNA

72 fires break out in November

YANGON, 26 Dec— A total of 72 fires broke out across Myanmar in November 2003, causing a loss of K 22.01 million.

Fires broke out in the country due to negligence in 60 cases, eight electric shocks and arson in four cases. Local authorities and respective state and division fire services departments are reminded to make fire drills according to plan to take fire prevention measures. — MNA



Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe speaking at opening of delivery room of Maternal and Child Welfare Association (Branch) of MPF (News reported). — MNA

29 insurgents exchange arms for peace in October, November

YANGON, 26 Dec— The State Peace and Development Council, upholding Our Three Main Causes, is striving to forge national reconsolidation and making concerted efforts for development of the regions throughout the country. Understanding the endeavours and goodwill of the government, armed groups which realised that their destructive acts did not benefit the country at all have been exchanging arms for peace in groups and individually at respective military camps in October and November 2003.

Pvts Saw Don Ni, Saw Bo Nar and Nei Kyaw of No 1 Company, No 1 Battalion, No 1 Brigade of KNU armed group, village commander Hti Mei (a) U Maung Pan of No 2 Battalion, Pvt Moe Lut of No 1 Company of No 2 Battalion of KNU armed group, bringing together with them one M-22, one magazine and 24 rounds of ammunition, Hpa-an Township Administrative Committee member Saw Tint Te (a) Pha The Khee with one M-16, six magazines and 120 rounds of ammunition,

Pvt Win Naing of No 7 Battalion of ABSDF armed group, section leader Myo Lwin of split Mon armed group with one AK-47, two magazines and 40 rounds of ammunition exchanged arm for peace in South-East Command area; Pvt In Shin of SURA armed group in Triangle Region Command area; Pvts Sai Lu and Hla Aung of No 154 Battalion of No 758 Brigade of SURA armed group and Administrator Soe Moe (a) Bo Gyi of KNPP armed group in Eastern Command area; Cpl Saw Mar Lay Htoo of No 5 Battalion of No 2 Brigade of KNU armed group bringing together with one M-16, one magazine and 27 rounds of ammunition and Pvt Saw Ei Ke (a) Myint Thein of No 1 Company of No 8 Battalion of No 3 Brigade in Southern Command area; cadre Maung Zaw (a) Saw Me Too of No 3 Company of No 11 Battalion of KNU armed group with one AK-47, one magazine and 20 rounds of ammunition, Cpl Saw Gaw Phee of Combat Company of No 4 Brigade, 2nd-Lt Ye Hla, Sgt Pwe

Pwe and Pado Chit Aung (a) Hla Baw with one pistol, two AK-47, one M-79 launcher, four assorted magazines, 35 assorted rounds of ammunition, five shells, one grenade and three mines, Pvt Tar Paw Kwar, Pvt Saw Yue and Saw Pa Leik of No 3 Company of No 11 Battalion with one revolver and two rounds of ammunition, Pado Saw Ga Lee Ya of Khawtakha Administration Committee with one .38 revolver and eight rounds of ammunition, Pvt Saw Hla Baw of No 3 Company of No 10 Battalion with one M-1 pistol, one .38 revolver, 63 assorted rounds of ammunition, Platoon Commander Ko Sein and Pvt Maung Kyaw with one AK-47, one magazine, 12 rounds of ammunition and one grenade, Pvt Saw Zet Lay of No 1 Company of No 7 DO Battalion, Pvt Lo Poe (a) Aye Nge and Saw Chit Thway of No 203 Battalion of No 4 Brigade with one AK-47, one magazine, seven rounds of ammunition, MA-1, one magazine and 15 rounds of ammunition in Coastal Region Command area.

Officials of respective military camps warmly welcomed the 29 persons who exchanged arm for peace and attended to their needs. There are more armed group members wishing to exchange arms for peace. — MNA

Commerce Minister receives foreign guests

YANGON, 26 Dec — Brig-Gen Pyi Sone, Minister for Commerce, received Mr Niu Haijun, Deputy Governor of Zhilin Province, People's Republic of China, and party at 10.30 am and Mr William Lung Ng, Director (Trade Representative) of Republic of Nauru Trade Promotion Office, and party at 4 pm, at his office on Strand Road here today.

Present on the occasions were Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Tun, Director-General of Directorate of Trade U Nyunt Aye, Managing Director of Myanmar Agricultural Produce Trading U Min Hla Aung and officials.

MNA

Tourists arrive

YANGON, 26 Dec — Supervised by the Ministry of Hotel and Tourism, assisted by the Ministry of Transport and arranged by Insight Myanmar Tourism Co Ltd, MV Seabourn Spirit carrying 176 tourists arrived at Nanthida jetty here this morning. The tourists were welcomed and greeted there by officials of the ministries concerned and the company. — MNA

စေတနာရှင်ပြည်သူများစင်များ

စည်ပင်သာယာရေးဦးစီးဌာနသည် ရေရှားပါးသော ကျေးလက်ဒေသများတွင် သန့်ရှင်းသော သောက်သုံးရေဖူလုံစွာ ရရှိရေးကို ဆောင်ရွက်လျက်ရှိပါသည်။ ရေလျှော့ချခြင်းဖြင့် မတောင်းဘဲနှင့် ပြည့်စုံနိုင်သော အကျိုးဆယ်ပါးကို ရရှိနိုင်ပါသည်။ ရေအကျိုးဆယ်ပါးမှာ—

- (၁) လျင်မြန်ခြင်း၊
- (၂) သန့်ရှင်းစင်ကြယ်ခြင်း၊
- (၃) ကျော်ကြားလူသိများခြင်း၊
- (၄) ဆာလောင်မွတ်သိပ်မှုကင်းခြင်း၊
- (၅) အခြေအရံများခြင်း၊
- (၆) အသက်ရှည်ခြင်း၊
- (၇) အဆင်းလှခြင်း၊
- (၈) ချမ်းသာကြီးခြင်း၊
- (၉) ခွန်အားစလကြီးမားခြင်း၊
- (၁၀) ဉာဏ်ပညာကြီးမားခြင်း တို့ဖြစ်ပါသည်။

စည်ပင်သာယာရေးဦးစီးဌာနသည် ရေရှားပါးသောဒေသများမှာ သန့်ရှင်းသောရေဖူလုံစွာရရှိရန် စီမံချက်များချမှတ်ပြီး အင်တိုက်အားတိုက် ဆောင်ရွက်နေပါသည်။ ရေအကျိုးဆယ်ပါးရရှိစေရန်၊ ရေရှားပါးသည့် ကျေးလက်ဒေသများသို့ စက်ရေတွင်းများ လျှော့ချခြင်း လိုပါက အောက်ပါနှုန်းထားအတိုင်း လျှော့ချနိုင်ပါသည်—

၂လက်မ စက်ရေတွင်း အနက် ၂၀၀မ တစ်တွင်း (စက်ပစ္စည်းစုံ) ကျပ် ၂၅သိန်း
၂လက်မ စက်ရေတွင်း အနက် ၄၀၀မ တစ်တွင်း (စက်ပစ္စည်းစုံ) ကျပ် ၅၀သိန်း နှင့်
၄လက်မ စက်ရေတွင်း အနက် ၂၀၀မ တစ်တွင်း (စက်ပစ္စည်းစုံ) ကျပ်၅၀သိန်း ဖြစ်ပါသည်။

မည်သည့်မြို့နယ်တွင်မဆို စေတနာရှင်များအနေနှင့် ပါဝင်လျှော့ချခြင်းလိုပါက အောက်ဖော်ပြပါ စည်ပင်သာယာရေးအဖွဲ့အစည်းများနှင့် ဆက်သွယ်လျှော့ချနိုင်ကြောင်း အသိပေးနှိုးဆော်အပ်ပါသည်—

- (၁) သွန်ကြားရေးမှူးချုပ်၊ ၀၁-၂၄၅၄၂၀၊ ၂၄၅၄၈၈။
- (၂) ဒုတိယသွန်ကြားရေးမှူးချုပ်၊ ၀၁-၂၄၀၁၁၈။
- (၃) သွန်ကြားရေးမှူး (အင်ဂျင်နီယာ)၊ ၀၁-၂၄၀၉၆၇။
- (၄) သွန်ကြားရေးမှူး (စစ်ကိုင်းတိုင်းစည်ပင်သာယာရေးအဖွဲ့)၊ ၀၇၁-၂၀၁၁၂။
- (၅) သွန်ကြားရေးမှူး (မကွေးတိုင်းစည်ပင်သာယာရေးအဖွဲ့)၊ ၀၆၃-၂၃၁၆၄။
- (၆) သွန်ကြားရေးမှူး (မန္တလေးတိုင်းစည်ပင်သာယာရေးအဖွဲ့)၊ ၀၂-၅၄၆၅၇။

56th Anniversary

Independence Day Exhibition

Date — 3rd to 11th January 2004

Time — 9 am to 5 pm

Place — Tatmadaw Hall on U Wisara Road, Yangon.

(Free entrance)

Hailing the 56th Anniversary Independence Day:

Seven Ayeyawady river crossing bridges constructed by the Ministry of Construction in the time of the State Peace and Development Council



Ayeyawady river crossing Dedaye Bridge, which is 4,088 feet long and was opened in Dedaye Township, Ayeyawady Division, on 23-3-2003.



Ayeyawady river crossing Nawaday Bridge, which is 4,183 feet long and was opened in Pyay, Bago Division, on 18-9-1997.



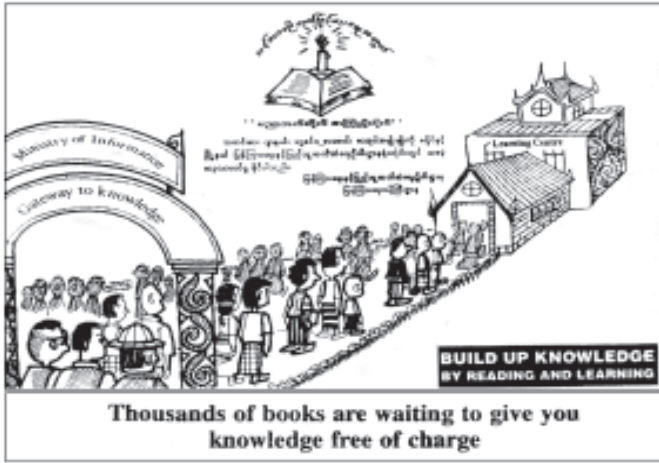
Ayeyawady river crossing Magway Bridge, which is 8,989 feet long and was opened in Magway Township, Magway Division, on 24-11-2002.

The Ministry of Construction has constructed a total of 165 bridges of 180 feet and above, including seven bridges across Ayeyawady river, the artery of Myanmar. Although there existed only Ayeyawady river crossing Sagaing Bridge in the past, now the State opened Bala Min Htin Bridge in Kachin State, Anawrahta Bridge in Magway Division, Ayeyawady Bridge (Magway) in Magway Division, Nawaday Bridge in Bago Division, and Bo Myat Htin Bridge, Maubin Bridge and Dedaye Bridge in Ayeyawady Division. Ayeyawady river crossing Yadanabon Bridge is under construction.

No	Name	Location	Length	Cost	Date of completion
1.	Nawaday Bridge	Pyay Township, Bago Division	4183 feet	K 833.17 million, FE 8.685 million	18-9-1997
2.	Bala Min Htin Bridge	Myitkyina, Kachin State	2688 feet	K 1077.3 million, FE 5.9 million	14-11-1998
3.	Bo Myat Tun Bridge	Nyaungdon, Ayeyawady Division	8544 feet	K5565.45 million, FE 8.6 million	15-11-1999
4.	Anawrahta Bridge	Chauk, Magway Division	5192 feet	K 3284 million, FE 5.05 million	4-4-2001
5.	Maubin Bridge	Maubin, Ayeyawady Division	2362 feet	K680 million, FE 2.21 million	10-2-1998
6.	Ayeyawady Bridge (Magway)	Magway, Magway Division	8989 feet	K 7951 million, FE 8.58 million	24-11-2002
7.	Dedaye Bridge	Dedaye, Ayeyawady Division	4088 feet	K 3550 million, FE 1.6 million	23-3-2003



Ayeyawady river crossing Anawrahta Bridge, which is 5,192 feet long and was opened in Chauk, Magway Division, on 4-4-2001.



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Reg. No. 3155/2003 in respect of "International Class 33: alcoholic beverages (except beers)".

Fraudulent imitation or unauthorised use of the said Trade Mark will be dealt with according to law.

Win Mu Tin, M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L. for CAMUS LA GRANDE MARQUE
 P.O. Box 60, Yangon:
 Dated: 27 December, 2003

Small plane crash kills 5 in southern California

LOS ANGELES, 26 Dec—A two-engine small plane crashed Wednesday in the mountains near an airport in southern California, killing all five people aboard, US authorities said.

The plane, which left Long Beach at 9.54 am local time, crashed about 26 minutes after takeoff in a rugged mountain terrain near the Catalina Island Airport, said Federal Aviation Administration spokesman Donn Walker.

Santa Catalina Island is 26 miles southwest of Los Angeles.

Walker said the seven-seat Piper Seneca was attempting to execute a "missed approach", and was turning around to head back to the airport when it crashed.

"The visibility was poor," Walker said. "The cloud ceiling was only 100 feet." US National Transportation and Safety Board officials are investigating the crash.

MNA/Xinhua

BRIGHTER
 အဆင့်မြင့် ခန့်မှန်းထုတ်ကုန်
 ဥပဒေ၊ ဘဏ္ဍာရေး၊ အခြားအသုံးပြု
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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV SEA MERCHANT VOY NO (487)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SEA MERCHANT Voy No (487) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28-12-03 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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Veteran Chinese artists accept career awards

BEIJING, 26 Dec— "As an artist, I have been lucky to have lived in this era," Pan He, a 78-year-old sculptor, said here Wednesday, when he accepted an award for his lifetime's work from China's Ministry of Culture.

The annual awards were conferred on 10 prominent artists who are considered to have contributed greatly to China's art heritage. Pan and the other nine specialists in performance and fine arts, who accepted the awards average over 75 years of age.

The awards committee said, "With works reflecting China's memories of the past century, they have influenced a whole era."

Most of the winners were born in the 1920s, a decade when a republic succeeded China's last dynasty. They pursued their artistic careers in the 1930s and 1940s, and witnessed the establishment of the People's Republic of China in 1949.

They won back their reputations along with the opportunity to pursue their careers after China's introduction of the opening-up and reform policies in the late 1970s.

"My biggest ambition is to record in my works the

history I have experienced, so that our children can understand what happened," said Pan, whose 105 sculptures are scattered in 63 cities.

These 10 artists typify a generation of China's art pioneers who explored the possibilities of modernizing China's traditional arts, sometimes by converging with Western practices.

Yuan Xuefen spent over 60 years perfecting one of China's oldest traditional dramas. Wu Guanzhong, who graduated from a fine art school in Paris, has dedicated his life to bringing China's ink painting and Western painting together.

"China's cultural heritage brings inspiration to East Asian countries," said Toshusai Fukami, the Japanese donor of this award, who is committed to Sino-Japanese cultural exchanges. "Therefore, these artists are not only treasures of China, they are also treasures of East Asia." —MNA/Xinhua

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 Dated: 27 December, 2003

Southern China province strengthens anti-drug efforts

GUANGZHOU, 26 Dec—Police in this capital city of south China's Guangdong Province are making greater efforts to help local drug addicts kick out their habits, said a police official Wednesday here.

Xie Fuxing, vice director of Guangzhou City Public Security Bureau, said some 150 million yuan (18.3 million US dollars) will be used to build drug rehabilitation centres with a total of 16,000 beds to accommodate drug addicts for treatment. This is an improvement on the current capacity of 5,500 beds.

Statistics show 6,903 drug addicts were forced to take treatment in local drug abstinence centers and 2,539 people were sent to labour camps for detoxification from January to November. Meanwhile, 4,134 people voluntarily underwent anti-drug treatment in the city.

Local police cracked 493 drug-related crimes from January to November, confiscating 109 kilos of heroin, 4.3 tons of "ice", four tons of materials used to make drugs and drug revenue of over three million yuan.

MNA/Xinhua

SAARC commerce secretaries meet fails to clinch agreement on SAFTA

ISLAMABAD, 26 Dec—The two-day special meeting of Commerce Secretaries of the SAARC countries ended here on Wednesday without clinching an agreement to finalize the draft of the South Asian Free Trade Agreement (SAFTA).

It has now been decided that the contentious issues would be forwarded to the SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) Foreign Ministers meeting which would be held here on 2 January ahead of the regional summit, official sources said.

The Commerce Secretaries made "reasonable progress" on the draft agreement of SAFTA but failed to clinch agreement on it, they said.

The Indian delegation at the conference was headed by Commerce Secretary Dipak Chatterjee.

"There are still many differences among the member states in the way of evolving consensus on the Free Trade Agreement among the member states", state run APP newsagency quoted officials as saying.

The meeting failed to finalize the deal as Bangladesh, which categorized itself as the Least Developed Country, (LDC) opposed many issues pertaining to anti dumping, quota safeguards, concessions and the time frame in the draft agreement.

Prior to this, six meetings of the Committee of Experts at the level of Joint Secretaries were held in Kathmandu.

Since they eluded a consensus, it was referred to the two-day meet of the Commerce Secretaries which too did not reach any agreement.

The issues would now be referred to the Standing Committee meeting of the SAARC to be attended by the Foreign Secretaries of all the seven SAARC countries to be held here on 31 December and 1 January.

Later it would be referred to the meeting of Foreign Ministers to be held on January two and three and if they managed to reach an agreement, it would be referred to SAARC summit of heads of state and government to be held here from January four to six. —MNA/PTI

Heilongjiang's foreign trade soars

HARBIN, 26 Dec—Foreign trade of northeast China's Heilongjiang Province boomed this year, and the gross turnover is expected to reach more than 5 billion US dollars, according to an official with the provincial department of foreign trade and economic cooperation here Thursday.

Statistics from the department covering January to November showed that the total import and export turnover amounted to 4.7 billion US dollars, an 18.4 per cent increase over the corresponding period of last year.

The official attributed the increase to more foreign investment in Heilongjiang in 2003, amounting to one billion US dollars worth.

Economic cooperation with Russia accounts for a big proportion of Heilongjiang's foreign trade,

said the official. In the first 11 months of this year, the province did 2.6 billion dollars-worth of business with Russia, a 25.2 per cent growth, including the startup of a number of resources exploitation projects, the official said.

The official said that Heilongjiang's export turnover would be 2.6 billion US dollars-worth this year, and the province has enjoyed an overall favourable trade balance for the first time in recent years. —MNA/Xinhua

2 killed, 7 injured in road accident in Mexico

MEXICO CITY, 26 Dec—A detached trailer loaded with gas hit two vehicles and exploded, killing two people and injuring seven in the state of Campeche in southeast Mexico Wednesday.

Campeche judicial authorities said the accident occurred near Escarega and blamed the accident on a failed attachment of the trailer. A passenger bus and another cargo truck with a trailer caught fire in the explosion of the gas tank.

The authorities said the victims have not yet been identified and that the rescuers have moved the injured to hospitals nearby. —MNA/Xinhua

ပညာရေးနှင့် ခေတ်မီပွဲပြုစိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့



Hotel employees clean broken glass in Sheraton Hotel in Baghdad on 25 Dec, 2003 after it came under rocket attack.

INTERNET

Three policemen wounded in bomb blast in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 26 Dec—A roadside bomb exploded on a busy Baghdad street on Thursday, blowing off the hand of a policeman and seriously wounding two other officers, fellow policemen said.

Some civilians were also hurt in the blast, one of around a half dozen attacks in Baghdad on Christmas morning, officers said, but they had no concrete information on the number of wounded.

The policeman who lost his hand had approached the bomb, hidden in a black bag, on Palestine Street, a busy commercial boulevard in the city's centre.

It blew up just as he stepped forward, said Colonel Ahmed Hussein.

"He went toward the bomb. When he just moved

his hand trying to do his job, it exploded," Mr Hussein said.

"Two other policemen were seriously hurt by shrapnel, one hit in the stomach and the other in leg."

The policeman's severed hand was lying in a plastic bag in a police pickup truck.

A second bomb was

also found on the street, disguised in a white bag, Mr Hussein added.

Police detonated the bomb in a controlled explosion, he said.

But when the second bomb exploded, pandemonium ensued as passers by ran in panic and then applauded as they realised the police had defused the bomb. —Internet

Jordan asks Saddam daughters stay out of politics

AMMAN, 26 Dec — Jordan has indirectly asked Saddam Hussein's two daughters to stay out of politics after US forces captured the former Iraqi President earlier this month.

Government spokeswoman Asma Khader told Reuters on Wednesday Raghd and Rana, who had taken refuge in Amman in August, should not use Jordan as a platform to make political statements to the media.

"We are not asking them

to abstain from meeting the Press, but we hope their future statements are of a humanitarian nature and not politically inclined," Khader said.

Saddam's daughters have made several comments to the Press from Amman, where they live in a palace belonging to Jordan's King Abdullah, who granted them asylum.

The former Iraqi leader's eldest daughter Raghd recently told Dubai-based Al Arabiya television that the sisters wanted an interna-

tional court to try their father.

She said the Iraqi Governing Council should not be allowed to try Saddam because it was appointed by US occupiers.

Khader said the government had not made any formal demands on the sisters but conveyed the message through the Press.

"They should respect the stances and commitments of their host country," she said, adding that the sisters were free to leave the country whenever they

wanted.

Raghd and Rana fled Iraq to Jordan shortly after US-led forces occupied Baghdad.

Their husbands were killed in 1996 when they returned to Iraq after briefly defecting to Jordan.

Saddam is believed to have ordered the killing of both sons-in-law upon their return to Iraq, after accusing them of giving information on the country's weapons to the West.

MNA/Reuters

Syrian President ends visit to Egypt

CAIRO, 26 Dec — Syrian President Bashar al-Assad left the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh for home on Wednesday afternoon, Egypt's official MENA news agency reported.

During his stay in the seaside resort, Assad held talks with his Egyptian counterpart Hosni Mubarak over the volatile Middle East situation, the report said.

Assad's visit to Egypt came on the heels of a decision by Libya to renounce its banned weapons programmes.

Syria, accused by the United States of pursuing weapons of mass destruction, has been under mounting pressure following the Libyan move.

On Friday, the Libyan Government announced that it had decided "on its free will" to completely eliminate the internationally banned weapons of mass destruction (WMD).

Libya said it would quit programmes of developing chemical and nuclear weapons and long-range missiles beyond a range of 300 kilometres.

In early November, Mubarak paid a short visit to Syria and reiterated Egypt's support for Syria.

MNA/Xinhua

Jordan suspends beef imports from US

AMMAN, 26 Dec — Jordan has temporarily suspended the imports of US beef and its byproducts after a suspected case of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) was found in the United States, the Jordan Times reported Thursday.

"It is a precautionary measure, which was taken after there was a suspected case of BSE," Awni Taamah, secretary-general of the Jordanian Planning and International Cooperation Ministry, was quoted by the paper as saying.

He said Jordan would observe the latest situation and update its data about the

US BSE case with international organizations.

Jordan, which imports large quantities of beef from the US market every year, made the decision although US agricultural officials stressed that they are confident in the safety of their beef supply to consumers abroad.

MNA/Xinhua



An Iraqi shows a piece of shrapnel he found outside the apartment building behind him after it was hit by a rocket in Baghdad on 25 Dec, 2003.

INTERNET

SAARC to establish business forum in Kathmandu

KATHMANDU, 26 Dec — The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) will set up a new business forum here next month with an aim of promoting social development among businesses in the region, The Himalayan Times newspaper reported Thursday. The South Asian Forum for Responsible Business, a private initiative to put social responsibility on the agenda of boardrooms of companies across South Asia, is expected to be operational from January next year, the independent English daily quoted S Sen, deputy director-general of the Indian Industry Confederation, as saying.

MNA/Xinhua

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

SPORTS

Beckham says little talking between Ferguson and him

LONDON, 26 Dec— England captain David Beckham has hardly spoken to Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson since he left the team for Real Madrid, he said in a television documentary broadcast Wednesday.

"He hasn't spoken to me still," the England captain said in The Real Beckhams, shown on Britain's ITV. "We spoke for five minutes at a funeral. He hasn't rung me... I just expected a bit more respect at the end of the career when I had been at the club for that many years."

Tensions between player and manager were widely reported before Manchester United sold Beckham to Madrid.

Beckham said he was surprised by the team's decision to sell him and its public announcement of the fee it was getting, which he said came before Manchester United informed him of the amount.

MNA/Xinhua

FA deny Rio Ferdinand two year ban report

LONDON, 26 Dec— The English Football Association has flatly denied suggestions that it wanted to serve Rio Ferdinand with a two year ban for missing his drugs test.



Rio Ferdinand

The Manchester United defender was suspended for eight months on Friday for skipping the control at United's training ground on September 23.

Reports on Wednesday however suggested the FA's disciplinary panel was seeking to hand out the maximum two year sentence to Ferdinand.

But a FA spokesman issued a point blank denial, saying: "Stories implying that the Football Association were seeking a two-year ban for Rio Ferdinand are totally without foundation."

United have requested written clarification from the FA spelling out the reasons for the verdict pending a possible appeal. Ferdinand, who played in United's 2-1 win over Tottenham on Sunday 48 hours after the hearing in Bolton, is due to begin his ban on January 12.

The player, who joined Old Trafford from Leeds for a British record 30 million pounds in July 2002, was also fined 50,000 pounds after being found guilty of misconduct.—Internet

Beckham's transfer voted top World Sports story of 2003

LONDON 26 Dec—David Beckham, the most recognizable face in the world's most popular game, was the biggest newsmaker in international sports in 2003.

The England captain's \$43 million transfer from Manchester United to Real Madrid was voted the top sports story of the year in a worldwide poll of Associated Press subscribers.

The Beckham saga finished comfortably ahead of the doping scandals that rocked sports, Michael Schumacher's record sixth Formula One title, Lance Armstrong's fifth straight Tour de France victory and England's World Cup rugby triumph.

Beckham received 15 first-place votes and 321 total points from 55 ballots cast from sports editors and broadcasters on all continents - not counting the United States,

United, his home for 13 years, to Real Madrid, a nine-time European champion. He joined a roster that includes Ronaldo, Zinedine Zidane, Luis Figo, Roberto Carlos and Raul Gonzalez.

"If I have become a better player it's because these players around me have made me step up to another level," Beckham said. "I would say coming to Real Madrid was one of the best decisions I have ever made."

A series of high-profile drug cases finished second in the AP voting with 13 first-place votes and 297 points.

British sprinter Dwain Chambers, four US track and field athletes and four NFL players have tested positive for the THG, a previously undetectable steroid.

The scandal has widened with dozens of prominent stars, including baseball's Barry Bonds, testifying before a federal grand jury in San Francisco investigating the California lab accused of being the source of the drug.

Third in the voting with 279 points, including seven first-place votes, was Schumacher's F1 title. The Ferrari driver won his latest championship by just two points over Kimi Raikkonen, with an eighth-place finish in the season's final race.

Armstrong was fourth in the poll with 225 points. The Texan matched Eddy Merckx, Miguel Indurain, Bernard Hinault and Jacques Anquetil with his fifth Tour de France victory.

England's first World Cup rugby championship, an overtime victory against Australia in Sydney - was fifth with 196 points.

Roman Abramovich's transformation of Chelsea's soccer team was sixth followed by the death of Cameroon soccer star Marc Vivien Foe at the FIFA Confederations Cup. Kobe Bryant's arrest on sexual assault charges was voted eighth.—Internet



Beckham

which has its own survey.

Even before this year, Beckham was magnet for attention: his hairstyles, fashion statements, sponsorship ads and marriage to a former Spice Girl - not to mention his trademark free kicks and brilliant passes.

But Beckham mania grew to a frenzy in June with his transfer from Manchester

Top 10 athletes in World Sports in 2003

*** BING, 26 dec—Following is the list of top 10 athletes in the world for the year 2003, selected by Xinhua News Agency:

1. Michael Schumacher, claimed a record sixth FormulaOne title on October 12, overtaking late Argentine Juan Manuel Fangio's 1950s haul of five championships. The German also helped Ferrari take the constructors' title for a record fifth year in a row while Williams settled for second and McLaren, third.

2. Michael Phelps, made a series record-breaking performance at the Barcelona swimming World Championships in July as he became the swimmer setting most world records at a single swim meet. The 18-year-old American renewed five world standards in the men's 400m individual medley, the 100m and 200m butterfly as well as 200m individual medley (twice) and won three gold medals. The unstoppable teenager from nearby Baltimore broke his own world mark in the 200m individual medley at the U.S. Swim Championships in early August.

3. Lance Armstrong, the American cyclist who survived the onslaught of cancer, raced to his fifth consecutive victory on the Tour

de France on July 27, becoming the second rider to win the cycling race five times in a row.

4. Tim Duncan, captured the NBA Finals Most Valuable Player honors for the second time after 1999 in addition to his regular-season MVP awards the past two seasons as the 7-foot power forward helped San Antonio Spurs to the NBA championship. He was the firstman in a decade to have an NBA Finals "triple double" -- scoring 21 points, pulling down 20 rebounds and passing out 10 assists in Game Six as his team won the finals 4-2 over the New Jersey Nets.

5. Yao Ming, a 23-year-old from Shanghai, clinched a spot in the first choice team in the Houston Rockets in his second year in NBA. The 2.26-meter center carried on the sensation from 2002 when he was written into the history book as the first non-American topkick in NBA's history. He became the first Asian to be voted the Laureus World Newcomer of the Year for his amazing debut in the top basketball league in May. He was also the Most

Valuable Player at the Asian Basketball Championship in October and one of the China's Top 10 Youngsters.

6. Li Xiaopeng, won the men's team, vault and parallel bars for China at the World Gymnastics Championships in Anaheim, the United States, in August, piling up a total of 13 world and Olympic titles to his name. His aim is to overtake Li Ning who holds 14 world and Olympic titles as a Chinese record.

7. Roger Federer, is on his way to be the new king of the tennis world. The 22-year-old Swiss pulled off seven titles, an ATP-best for the year, and the Wimbledon and Masters Cup champion also topped the ATP match wins table for 2003 with a 78-17 win-loss record.

8. Hicham el Guerrouj, the Moroccan middle distance

king romped to his fourth 1,500m world title at the Paris athletics World Championships in August and was named World Athlete of the Year by the International Association of Athletic Federations for the third year running.

9. Birgit Prinz, played a key role in Germany's first ever triumph at the women's soccer World Cup where the 25-year-old forward scored seven goals, receiving both the World Cup MVP and top scorer awards. Her stunning performance also earned her the FIFA Female Player of the Year title.

10. Zinedine Zidane, French soccer star and the Real Madrid playmaker, won the 2003 FIFA World Player of the Year award for the third time following his 1998 and 2000 successes. Enditem Internet

Porto striker Derlei likely to miss rest of season

LISBON, 26 Dec—Porto striker Derlei Silva is likely to be out of action for the rest of the season because of a torn knee ligament, the Portuguese premierships club said on Tuesday.

Brazilian Derlei, who has extended his contract with Porto until 2007, was carried off the pitch on a stretcher after a tackle with an opposing defender in his team's 2-1 league win over Alverca on Monday.

"We can't say for certain that it (Derlei's season) is over," club doctor Nelson Puga told journalists.

"We have hopes that won't be the case, but it is highly likely it is over." The absence of Derlei, the top scorer in the Portuguese premierships with 12 goals, will come as a blow to the reigning Portuguese champions when they face Manchester United in the knock-out phase of the Champions League on February 25.—Internet



FC Porto could be without star striker Derlei, the Portuguese league's leading scorer, for up to six months after the 28-year-old Brazilian injured his right knee.—INTERNET

Leeds forward Smith hearing date brought forward

LONDON, 26 Dec — Eng-

land's Football Association has brought forward Alan Smith's disciplinary hearing one day ahead of schedule because the original date clashed with Leeds' Premier League clash with Newcas-

tle on January 7.

The striker has admitted a charge of improper conduct after he threw a bottle back into the crowd during Leeds' League Cup clash with Manchester United at Elland Road on October 28.

The hearing will now be held on January 6 instead of January 7. An FA spokesman said: "We can now confirm that Alan Smith's hearing will take place on Tuesday, January 6 after consultation with his club."

He was selected by England manager Sven-Goran Eriksson for the friendly with Denmark but was then dropped from the squad after it emerged he had been arrested by police for the bottle-throwing incident.—MNA/Xinhua

MRTV-3



27-12-2003 (Saturday) (Programme Schedule) Morning Transmission (9:00 - 10:00)

- 9:00 Signature Tune Greeting
- 9:02 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Mingalabar"
- 9:06 Union of Myanmar (II)
- 9:10 **Headline News**
- 9:12 Easily Cooked Tasty Dishes (Sour soup of tender tamarind leaves with head of fish)
- 9:15 **National News**
- 9:20 Unique Biodiversity of Indawgyi Lake (IV)
- 9:25 Dance of the Konbaung Era
- 9:30 **National News**
- 9:40 Song "Dear Myanmar"
- 9:42 Pet Show & Contest in Myanmar (2003) (Part-1)
- 9:45 **National News**
- 9:50 Myanmar Musical Orchestra (Bwe Song)
- 9:58 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"

27-12-2003 (Saturday) 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 "Myanma Panorama & Myanma Sentiment"
- 15:36 Union of Myanmar (II)
- 15:40 **Headline News**
- 15:42 Easily Cooked Tasty Dishes (Sour soup of tender tamarind leaves with head of fish)
- 15:45 **National News**
- 15:50 Unique Biodiversity of Indawgyi Lake (IV)
- 15:55 Dance of the Konbaung Era
- 16:00 **National News**

- 16:05 Song "Dear Myanmar"
- 16:10 Pet show & Contest in Myanmar(2003) (Part-1)
- 16:15 **National News**
- 16:20 Myanmar Musical Orchestra (Bwe Song)
- 16:30 **National News**
- 16:35 Myanmar Art of Marionettes
- 16:40 Myanmar Cuisine "Pineapple Salad"
- 16:45 **National News**
- 16:50 Glimpses At Myanmar Movies
- 17:00 **Weekly News Highlights**
- 17:05 Nan Pan Market Day
- 17:10 Song on Screen "My Ardent Wish"
- 17:15 **Weekly News Highlights**
- 17:20 Glimpses At Myanmar Movies
- 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 Union of Myanmar (I)
- 19:40 **Headline News**
- 19:42 Easily Cooked Tasty Dishes (Prawn Salad)
- 19:45 **National News**
- 19:50 Unique Biodiversity of Indawgyi Lake (III)
- 19:55 Scenic Beauty of Tiddim & Cultural Dance
- 20:00 **National News**
- 20:05 Marvel of a Pagoda with uncountable Buddha Images
- 20:10 Myanmar Modern Song "Feel like an earthquake"
- 20:12 Mazin Industry's Wood Products
- 20:15 **National News**
- 20:20 Biological Expedition to Hponkan Razi Region (V) (Wang Mung Camp 2 to 4)
- 20:25 Song "Invitations from Manaw land"
- 20:30 **National News**
- 20:35 Lobsters Trading
- 20:40 Myanmar Cuisine "Steamed Fish"
- 20:45 **National News**
- 20:50 Livistona Speciosa (Taung Htan)

- 20:55 A Romantic Duet
- 21:00 **National News**
- 21:05 Medicinal Plants at Popa Mountain Park
- 21:10 Song "Bagan the wonder land"
- 21:12 Myanma Eretes Sticticus
- 21:15 **Weekly News Highlights**
- 21:20 Meditation Centre
- 21:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Myanma Panorama & Myanma Sentiment"
- 21:35 Union of Myanmar (II)
- 21:40 **Headline News**
- 21:42 Easily Cooked Tasty Dishes (Sour soup of tender tamarind leaves with head of fish)
- 21:45 **National News**
- 21:50 Unique Biodiversity of Indawgyi Lake (IV)
- 21:55 Dance of the Konbaung Era
- 22:00 **National News**
- 22:05 Song "Dear Myanmar"
- 22:10 Pet Show & Contest in Myanmar (2003) (Part-1)
- 22:15 **National News**
- 22:20 Myanmar Musical Orchestra (Bwe Song)
- 22:25 Song "Hakha"
- 22:30 **National News**
- 22:35 Myanmar Art of Marionettes
- 22:40 Myanmar Cuisine "Pineapple Salad"
- 22:45 **National News**
- 22:50 Glimpses At Myanmar Movies
- 23:00 **National News**
- 23:05 Nan Pan Market Day
- 23:10 Song on Screen "My Ardent Wish"
- 23:15 **Weekly News Highlights**
- 23:20 Glimpses At Myanmar Movies
- 23:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"

27-12-2003 (Saturday) & 28-12-2003 (Sunday) Evening & Morning Transmission (23:30 - 1:30)

- 23:30 Signature Tune Greeting
- 23:32 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Myanma Panorama & Myanma Sentiment"

- 23:36 Union of Myanmar (II)
- 23:40 **Headline News**
- 23:42 Easily Cooked Tasty Dishes (Sour soup of tender tamarind leaves head of fish)
- 23:45 **National News**
- 23:50 Unique Biodiversity of Indawgyi Lake (IV)
- 23:55 Dance of the Konbaung Era
- 24:00 **National News**
- 00:05 Song "Dear Myanmar"
- 00:10 Pet show & Contest in Myanmar(2003) (Part-1)
- 00:15 **National News**
- 00:20 Myanmar Musical Orchestra (Bwe Song)
- 00:30 **National News**
- 00:35 Myanmar Art of Marionettes
- 00:40 Myanmar Cuisine "Pineapple Salad"
- 00:45 **National News**
- 00:50 Glimpses At Myanmar Movies
- 01:00 **Weekly News Highlights**
- 01:05 Nan Pan Market Day
- 01:10 Song on Screen "My Ardent Wish"
- 01:15 **Weekly News Highlights**
- 01:20 Glimpses At Myanmar Movies
- 01:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"

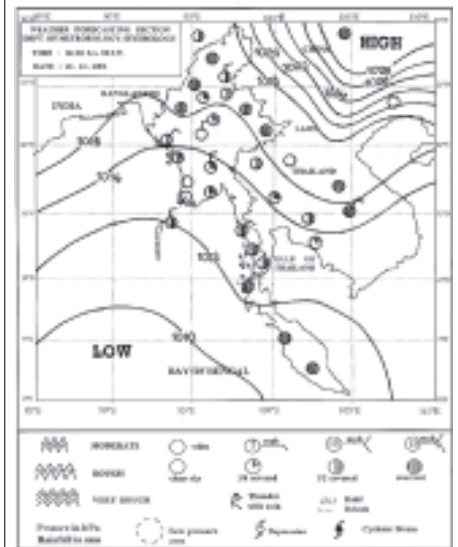
28-12-2003 (Sunday) Morning Transmission (03:30 - 07:30)

- 03:30 Signature Tune Greeting
- 03:32 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Mingalabar"
- 03:36 Union of Myanmar (II)
- 03:40 **Headline News**
- 03:42 Easily Cooked Tasty Dishes (Prawn Salad)
- 03:45 **National News**
- 03:50 Unique Biodiversity of Indawgyi Lake
- 03:55 Scenic Beauty of Tiddim & Cultural Dance
- 04:00 **National News**
- 04:05 Marvel of a Pagoda with uncountable Buddha Images
- 04:10 Myanmar Modern Song "Feel like an earthquake"
- 04:12 Mazin Industry's

- Wood Products
- 04:15 **National News**
- 04:20 Biological Expedition to Hponkan Razi Region (Part V) (Wang Mung Camp 2 to 4)
- 04:25 Song "Invitations from Manaw land"
- 04:30 **National News**
- 04:35 Lobsters Trading
- 04:40 Myanmar Cuisine "Steamed Fish"
- 04:45 **National News**
- 04:50 Livistona Speciosa (Taung Htan)
- 04:55 A Romantic Duet
- 05:00 **National News**
- 05:05 Medicinal Plants at Popa Mountain Park
- 05:10 Song "Bagan the wonder land"
- 05:12 Myanma Eretes Sticticus
- 05:15 **Weekly News Highlights**
- 05:20 Meditation Centre
- 05:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Myanma Panorama & Myanma Sentiment"
- 05:35 Union of Myanmar (II)
- 05:40 **Headline News**
- 05:42 Easily Cooked Tasty Dishes (Sour soup of tender tamarind leaves with head of fish)

- 05:45 **National News**
- 05:50 Unique Biodiversity of Indawgyi Lake (IV)
- 05:55 Dance of the Konbaung Era
- 06:00 **National News**
- 06:05 Song "Dear Myanmar"
- 06:10 Pet Show & Contest in Myanmar (2003) (Part-1)
- 06:15 **National News**
- 06:20 Myanmar Musical Orchestra (Bwe Song)
- 06:25 Song "Hakha"
- 06:30 **National News**
- 06:35 Myanmar Art of Marionettes
- 06:40 Myanmar Cuisine "Pineapple Salad"
- 06:45 **National News**
- 06:50 Glimpses At Myanmar Movies
- 07:00 **Weekly News Highlights**
- 07:05 Nan Pan Market Day
- 07:10 Song on Screen "My Ardent Wish"
- 07:15 **Weekly News Highlights**
- 07:20 Glimpses At Myanmar Movies
- 07:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Friday, 26 December, 2003

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been fair in the whole country. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Rakhine and Mon States, (5°C) to (6°C) below normal in Chin State, upper Sagaing, Ayeawady and Bago Divisions, (3°C) above normal in Shan State and Mandalay Division and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperature was (-2°C) in Hakha. Maximum temperature on 25-12-2003 was 34.5°C (94°F). Minimum temperature on 26-12-2003 was 17.0°C (63°F). Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 26-12-2003 was 76%. Total sunshine hours on 25-12-2003 was (8.7) hours approx. Rainfall on 26-12-2003 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 (12:35) hours MST on 26-12-2003.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 27-12-2003: Weather will be partly cloudy in Kachin State, upper Sagaing, Yangon and Tanintharyi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas.

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Fair weather in the whole country.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 27-12-2003: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 27-12-2003: Generally fair weather.

Weather outlook for last weeking of December 2003: During the coming weekend, weather will be partly cloudy in Yangon Division and fair Mandalay Division.

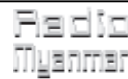


Saturday, December 27 View today:

- 7:00 am 1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayadaw U Ottamathara.
- 7:25 am 2. To be healthy exercise
- 7:30 am 3. Morning news
- 7:40 am 4. Nice and sweet song
- 7:55 am 5. Delicacies
- 8:05 am 6. အရေးကြီးမှု
- 8:15 am 7. အားကစား (စရာတစ်ခုစီ)
- 8:30 am 8. International news
- 8:45 am 9. Gramme made easy
- 11:00 am 1. Martial Song
- 11:10 am 2. Musical programme
- 11:30 am 3. News
- 11:40 am 4. Games for children

- 12:05 pm 5. Rong-up of the week's TV local News
- 1:45 pm 6. မိုးခန့်ခွဲရေးအဖွဲ့၏ အချက်အလက် (အချက်အလက်)
- 2:15 pm 7. Dance of national races
- 2:25 pm 8. "စစ်ချောင်းကတလူ နေထိုင်သောကမ္ဘာ" စစ်ချောင်းမြို့နယ်ရှိ မိုးခန့်ခွဲရေးအဖွဲ့၏ အချက်အလက် (အချက်အလက်)
- 2:45 pm 9. International News
- 4:00 pm 1. Martial song
- 4:15 pm 2. Song to uphold National Spirit
- 4:30 pm 3. English for everyday use
- 4:45 pm 4. Musical programme
- 5:00 pm 5. အစားအသုံးဆောင်ပစ္စည်းများ ရရှိနိုင်သည့်အခန်းကဏ္ဍ (အထူးပြုအားလုံး) (မြန်မာစာ)
- 5:15 pm 6. Dance variety
- 5:30 pm 7. "သစ်စကားတစ်စုံစာ" ဂန္ထဝင်မြန်မာစာတိုများနှင့် နိဂုံးချုပ်စာတိုများ

- (ဒါရိုက်တာ-နိုးထက်လူ (သစ်စကား)
- 5:40 pm 8. Musical programme
- 5:50 pm 9. Games for children
- 6:15 pm 10. Delicacies
- 6:30 pm 11. Evening news
- 7:00 pm 12. Weather report
- 7:05 pm 13. Discovery
- 7:20 pm 14. စတုတ္ထအကြိမ်တိုင်တိုင်: စစ်ချောင်းမြို့နယ်ရှိ မိုးခန့်ခွဲရေးအဖွဲ့၏ အချက်အလက် (အချက်အလက်)
- 7:30 pm 15. Musical programme
- 7:40 pm 16. အချက်အလက်အတိုချုပ်: ရှည်ကြာ မိုးခန့်ခွဲရေး အဖွဲ့၏ လယ်ယာစီးပွားရေးအဖွဲ့၏ အချက်အလက် (အချက်အလက်)
- 8:00 pm 17. "News"
- 18. International news
- 19. Weather report
- 20. Myanmar video Feature: "စား" (အချက်အလက်) ကျော်လွန်၊ နေထိုင်လမ်း၊ သေဆုံးမှု (ဒါရိုက်တာ-စစ်စောမျိုး)
- 21. The next day's programme



Tune in today:

- Saturday, December 27**
- 8.30 am Brief news
- 8.35 am Music
- 8.40 am Perspectives
- 8.45 am Music
- 8.55 am National news/ Slogan
- 9.05 am Music
- 9.10 am International news
- 9.15 am Music (Spotlight on the star)
- Aqua
- 1.30 pm News/Slogan
- 1.40 pm Music at your Request
- Hands (Crystal Gayle)
- Together forever (Precious Wilson)
- 9.00 pm ASEAN REVIEW -Exchanged News
- 9.10 pm Article/Music
- 9.20 pm Myanma culture by Dr. khin Maung Nyunt
- U Poe Kya's rejoinder to Mr. Noyce Part I
- 9.30 pm Souvenirs -Among my souvenirs (Connia Francis)
- 9.45 pm News/Slogan
- 10.00 pm PEL

Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win delivers an address at the meeting with industrialists.— MNA

Industrialists urged to gradually develop industries from manual control system to mechanical control, and to computer control

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win meets industrialists

YANGON, 26 Dec — Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win met with industrialists at the Ministry of Industry-2 here this morning.

Also present were ministers, who are the in-charge of the industrial zones, chairman of the zones and officials.

The Secretary-1 said arrangements are under way for the officials of the industrial zones and industrialists to collectively study the advanced production processes of the State-owned industries and research programmes and experimental production of goods, with the aim of developing the private industries with greater momentum. The study programme will help combine the capacity of the State-owned factories and the productivity of the industrial zones, leading to large-scale manufacturing of a new generation of

products and value-added products as import-substitute goods, installation of proper linkages between the state-owned and private industries and implementation of a cooperation programme enabling the State-owned sector and the private sector to support one another.

The Head of State has given guidance to strive for gradual development of the entire industrial sector, with agro-based industries as the starting point.

As Myanmar also is an agro-based nation, the agricultural sector's contribution to the gross domestic product is 48 per cent, while the industrial sector's participation is less than ten per cent.

Thus, the government has been building more and more irrigation facilities, and up to now it has built 155 dams and

265 water pumping stations. The annual sown acreage of the nation has reached over 40 million acres at present.

Thanks to the rise in paddy production, the nation is now enjoying an abundant supply of food for her people. The growing population of the nation in the future has been calculated in developing the agricultural sector. Both the State-owned as well as the private sectors are manufacturing and using various kinds of farm machinery on an extensive scale in transforming from conventional farming to mechanized farming. Efforts are being made for wider use of threshers.

In the first phase towards industrialization, manufacturing and use of farm machinery have been extended.

(See page 8)



Lt-Gen Kyaw Win addresses second coordination meeting of Leading Committee for Observance of 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day.— MNA

Leading Committee for Observance of 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day holds second coord meeting

YANGON, 26 Dec — The Leading Committee for Observance of 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day held the second coordination meeting at the hall of Yangon Command at 3 pm today, with an address by Member of the State Peace and Development Council Chief of Armed Forces Training Lt-Gen Kyaw Win.

Also present on the occasion were Chairman of the Management Committee for Observance of the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa, Minister for Labour U Tin Winn, Chief of Staff (Navy) Rear-Admiral Soe Thein, Vice-Chiefs of Armed Forces Training Maj-Gen Win Myint and Brig-Gen Nyan Win, Vice-Adjutant-General Brig-Gen Hla Shwe, Deputy Minister for Culture

Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung, officials of the Management Committee, the Work Committee and sub-committees, senior military officers, the Director-General of Myanmar Police Force, departmental heads, officials of MPF, Fire Services Department and Myanmar Red Cross Society.

In his address, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win said that he was satisfied with the work committee and sub-committees for their undertakings in the respective sectors. He said he believed that more success will be achieved than previous year if officials perform their duties with goodwill. He urged those present to systematically make preparations for the parade grounds and accommodation of parade columns. At present, he added, the programmes for organizing the Armed Forces Day are daily presented in newspapers and broadcast in the television programmes. So, all the committees are to continue their tasks with momentum. Next, he invited the

reports on requirements.

Next, Secretary of the Leading Committee Deputy Adjutant-General Col Khin Soe read out the minutes of the first meeting.

Afterwards, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe reported on preparations for the ceremony, progress of work and future tasks. Similarly, officials reported on their respective sectors.

Officials of MPF, FSD and MRCS submitted reports on participation of members of MPF, Fire Brigade and Red Cross Society in the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day parade.

The participants gave suggestions concerning the Armed Forces Day ceremony.

Later, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win attended to their needs and gave a concluding remarks.— MNA