

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Volume XI, Number 255

6th Waxing of Pyatho 1365 ME

Sunday, 28 December, 2003

Senior General Than Shwe sends message of sympathy to President of Iran

YANGON, 27 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 Seyed Mohammad Khatami, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, for the heavy loss of life and property caused by the devastating earthquake which hit the Islamic Republic of Iran on 26 December 2003. — MNA

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

YANGON, 27 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 Mohammad Reza Aref, First Vice-President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, for the heavy loss of life and property caused by the devastating earthquake which hit the Islamic Republic of Iran on 26 December 2003. — MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt sends message of sympathy to President of Iran

YANGON, 27 Dec— General Khin Nyunt, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of sympathy to His Excellency Mr Seyed Mohammad Khatami, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, for the heavy loss of life and property caused by the devastating earthquake which hit the Islamic Republic of Iran on 26 December 2003. — MNA

Build and defend the motherland together

The colonialists, during their rule over our land, intentionally sowed discord among the national races. As a result, internal armed conflicts accompanied the nation's independence and thus delayed its development. In the time of the Tatmadaw Government, national reconsolidation has been restored and rapid development achieved. It is a tangible proof that the development of the State totally rests on national unity. Should national unity collapse, there can be a bloodbath in the nation which will then be erased from the map of the world.

Therefore, it is the duty of all the national brethren residing together in the states and divisions of the Union made up of 14 States and Divisions to join hands in building and defending their motherland. This is Union Spirit.

Senior General Than Shwe,
Chairman, State Peace and Development Council,
Defence Services Commander-in-Chief
(From address at the graduation parade of the 4th
Intake of the Defence Services Medical Academy)



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attends launching ceremony of School Family Day for 2003-2004 academic year.— MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attends launching ceremony of School Family Day for 2003-2004

YANGON, 27 Dec— Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee, attended the ceremony to open School Family Day for 2003-2004 academic year of the Ministry of Education at Diamond Jubilee Hall on Pyay Road, here, at 8 am today.

Also present on the occasion were Vice-Chairmen of MEC Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win and Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, members of MEC, ministers, the chair-

man of Civil Service Selection and Training Board, the Yangon Mayor, deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads, diplomats of foreign missions, resident representatives of UN agencies, members of the Leading Committee and Work Committees for Organizing the School Family Day, directors-general and chairmen of departments and boards under the Ministry of Education, rectors and principals of universities and colleges, township education officers, school heads and teachers, members of School Board of Trustees, officials of NGOs, wellwishers, students who won prizes in the local and international competitions. At 7 am, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt arrived at Diamond Jubilee Hall where students welcomed the Prime Minister with singing the song entitled "Myanma School".

Seventh Standard students Ma Yadana Aye Min and

Naw Mary of Sangyoung Township Basic Education High School No 2 acted as masters of ceremonies.

Altogether 14 students from Yangon Institute of Education Practising High School representing States and Divisions formally launched the School Family Day. Next, students presented the song entitled Thiri Yadana to the accompaniment of Myanmar orchestra led by Po Thagyan.

Afterwards, students of Mingala Taungnyunt BEHS No 3, Kamayut BEHS No 2, Hline BEHS No 4, Tamway BEHS No 1, Kyimindine BEHS No 1, Dagon BEHS No 1, Dagon BEHS No 3, Yankin BEHS No 1, Sangyoung BEHS, Thingangyun BEPS No 8, Kamayut BEHS No 1, Dagon BEHS No 1, Bahan BEHS No 2 and Shwepaukkan BEHS No 6 performed dances and songs to the audience.

(See page 8)

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

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

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 28 December, 2003

Safeguard the independence and sovereignty of the State

The Union of Myanmar, under her own monarchs, has stood tall in international communities as a sovereign nation for years countable by the thousand. Myanmar people with great historical traditions and high cultural standard have a fine tradition of repelling the alien encroachment upon the nation with unyielding spirit.

Myanmar lost her independence after being staged three aggressive wars by the colonialists. Although the colonialists ruled Myanmar, the patriotic national people who did not want to live under subjugation, fought against the usurpers politically, economically and socially.

As all the national brethren launched anti-colonialist struggles and national liberation movements based on Union Spirit and patriotism, Myanmar regained her independence on 4 January 1948. The entire national people always remember the history of the independence struggles which were launched sacrificing many lives, sweat and blood. All the national people are to safeguard the sovereign and independent State.

The State has laid down four objectives for the coming 56th Anniversary Independence Day. They are:

- 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 in unity 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.

The above-mentioned objectives are the national duties that have to be performed by all the national people.

Nowadays, the Government is trying its utmost for the nation to be on a par with nations of the world. Various infrastructures are being built throughout the country for ensuring equitable development of all the regions in the country and it can be seen that the nation-building tasks are gaining momentum. For further enhancing the economic development of the State, the short-term five-year plan from 2001-2002 to 2005-2006 is being implemented. During the period, targets are being set to realize the goal of development in agriculture, industrial, electric power and energy sectors and efforts are also being made for effecting development in other sectors.

At a time like this, all the citizens are urged to participate in nation-building tasks while unitedly safeguarding the independence and sovereignty of the State.

Myakantha Myanmar cuisine and cafe opened

YANGON, 27 Dec — A ceremony to open Myakantha Myanmar cuisine and cafe was held at Sakhantha Hotel at Yangon Central Railway Station this morning. Sakhantha Hotel Manager U Thein Tan explained matters on service of the shop and gave replies to the queries raised by the mediamen. — MNA

The ceremony to open Myakantha Myanmar cuisine and cafe at Sakhantha Hotel in progress. — MNA

The 57th Anniversary Union Day objectives

- for all national races to safeguard the national policy— non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty
- to keep the Union spirit ever alive and dynamic among the national people
- for all national people to defend and safeguard the Union for its perpetual existence
- to prevent, through national solidarity, the danger of internal and external destructive elements undermining peace and stability of the State and national development, and
- for all national races to make concerted efforts for successful implementation of the seven-point future policy programme.

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

YANGON, 27 Dec — U Win Aung, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of sympathy to His Excellency Dr Kamal Kharrazi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, for the heavy loss of life and property caused by the devastating earthquake which hit the Islamic Republic of Iran on 26 December 2003. — MNA



SPED Director-General U Thuang Htaik presents the championship trophy to Kachin State women's team. SPED

ISD Inter-School Mini-tennis Tourney held

YANGON, 27 Dec — The seventh Inter-State / Division Inter-School Mini-tennis Tournament sponsored by Myanmar Tennis Federation was held at Theinbyu Tennis Court this evening.

It was attended by Director-General of Sports and Physical Education Department under the Ministry of Sports U Thuang Htaik and officials, Director-General of No 3 Basic Education Department (Yangon City) under the Ministry of Education U Aye Kyu and officials, Secretary of Myanmar Tennis Federation Dr Tin Aung Linn and executives, guests and prize-winning athletes.

After the tourney, Kachin State stood first, Mandalay Division second and Bago Division and Magway Division third in women's team-wise event. Mandalay Division stood first, Chin State second and Kachin State and Magway Division third in men's team-wise event.

Woman of the match award went to Nwe Yadana Oo of Kachin State while man of the match award went to Wan Ko Ko of Mandalay Division. The most progressive award (women) went to Thanda Tun of Kachin State while the most progressive award (man) went to David of Chin State. Officials presented prizes to the outstanding athletes. Afterwards, Secretary Dr Tin Aung Linn presented certificates of honour to U Thein Lwin and U Khin Maung who provided assistance for the tournament. — 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၏ ဒုတိယပတ်တန်နေ့နှင့်နောက်ဆုံးပတ်တန်နေ့တို့သည် ရုံးလုပ်ငန်းအတွက် မဖြစ်မနေသွားလာရန်လိုအပ်သည့် ကိစ္စရပ်များမှအပ မော်တော်ယာဉ်များ မသုံးစွဲရန်ဖြစ်သည်။

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



School Family Day

(27 December 2003 to 3 January 2004)

471 US soldiers killed since beginning of military operations in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 27 Dec — 471 US soldiers have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq, according to the Department of Defense. Of those, 323 died as a result of hostile action and 148 died of non-hostile causes, the department said.

The British military has reported 52 deaths; Italy, 17; Spain, eight; Denmark, Ukraine and Poland have reported one each.

On or since 1 May, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 333 US soldiers have died 208 as a result of hostile action and 125 of non-hostile causes, according to the Defense Department's figures.

Since the start of military operations, 2,332 US service members have been injured as a result of hostile action, according to the Defense Department's figures. Non-hostile injured numbered 370.

The latest deaths reported by the US Central Command:

Two Task Force Ironhorse soldiers were killed Friday one by an explosive southwest of Duluyah, and the other while attempting to disarm a homemade explosive near Baqouba.

Two Task Force Ironhorse soldiers were killed Thursday in a mortar attack near Baqouba.

A 1st Armoured Division soldier was killed Wednesday by an explosive in Baghdad.

A Task Force Ironhorse soldier died Wednesday after he was apparently electrocuted while repairing a communica-

tion tower wire in Kirkuk.

The latest identifications reported by the Department of Defence and family members:

Army Maj Christopher J Splinter, 43, Platteville, Wis.; killed Wednesday when his vehicle struck an explosive near Samara; assigned to the 5th Engineer Battalion, 1st Engineer Brigade; Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

Army Capt Christopher F Soelzer, 26, South Dakota; killed Wednesday when his vehicle struck an explosive near Samara; assigned to the 5th Engineer Battalion, 1st Engineer Brigade; Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

Army Sgt Benjamin W Biskie, 27, Tucson, Ariz; killed Wednesday when his vehicle struck an explosive near Samara; assigned to the 5th Engineer Battalion, 1st Engineer Brigade; Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

Army Command Sgt Major Eric F Cooke, 43, Scottsdale, Ariz; killed Wednesday when his vehicle struck an explosive in Baghdad; assigned to 1st Brigade, 1st Armoured Division, based in Ray Barracks, Friedberg, Germany.

Army Sgt Michael E Yashinski, 24, Monument, Colo.; died Wednesday while running a communication wire in Kirkuk; assigned to the 501st Forward Support Company, 173rd Airborne Brigade; Vicenza, Italy. — Internet

ထိုက်တိုက်နှစ်ခု ချိုးဖျက်ခြင်း

Five US soldiers killed in Iraq guerilla attacks

BAGHDAD, 27 Dec — Striking several times in a 24-hour period in Iraq's restive triangle region, guerillas killed five US soldiers, including three Friday north of Baghdad and two Thursday in a mortar attack.

One soldier was killed and one was wounded in a rocket-propelled grenade attack in Duluyah, 47 miles (76 kilometers) north of Baghdad, said Master Sgt Robert Cargie of the 4th Infantry Division.

Another soldier was killed by an improvised explosive device near Ba'qubah, about 30 miles (48 kilometers) northeast of the capital. A second soldier was killed Friday in Ba'qubah, but the circumstances of that death are unclear.

On Thursday night, the Ba'qubah region was the site of two more US military deaths, according to a 4th Infantry spokesman. Two soldiers were said to

have been killed and four wounded in a mortar attack on their forward operating base in Ba'qubah, the spokesman said Friday. The Sunni Triangle is the area north and west of Baghdad, a region in which opposition to the US-led coalition has been the greatest. Since the war in Iraq started in March, 474 US troops have died — 326 under hostile circumstances.

Four other coalition soldiers were wounded in incidents across Iraq, and troops pressed on with raids to root out the guerilla infrastructure, bracing for an escalation of attacks during the holidays.

Internet

Jordan suspends beef imports from US

AMMAN, 27 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

Belarus says to prepare against US attack

MINSK, 27 December — President Alexander Lukashenko, isolated by the West for his lack of political and economic reforms, said on Friday Belarus must be prepared to defend itself against US attack.

Lukashenko, has criticized Washington's military campaign against Iraq, saying it had created a precedent whereby undesirable leaders could be unseated with military force.

"Belarus has to be vigilant and pay particular attention to strengthening its fighting efficiency. The world has returned to times when war and brute force were real instruments of foreign policy," Official news agency BelTA quoted him as saying. "The United States declared its particular right to use military force

towards countries that dare to implement independent foreign and internal policies," he said.

Belarus, an impoverished former Soviet country of 10 million, had achieved considerable progress in reforming its Armed Forces, Lukashenko said, pledging to increase state financing for the military next year. "We are not going to do any sabre-rattling. We are not going to threaten anybody. We are talking only about defending our motherland," he said. — MNA/Reuters



US Army soldiers look over the remains of a car which exploded, killing two men when a roadside bomb exploded on a road near the Baghdad airport, on 26 Dec, 2003.

INTERNET

China seals gas well after leak

LONDON, 27 Dec — Engineers have plugged a burst gas well in China that had spewed toxic fumes killing at least 191 people, state media has reported.

The well, near the southwestern city of Chongqing, was sealed on Saturday morning, Xinhua news agency said.

But officials said it would be a few hours until they were sure the operation had worked. Nearly 10,000 people have been taken to

hospitals suffering from poisoning and chemical burns after Tuesday's blast. It was China's worst industrial accident - described by Chinese media as a "zone of death".

Engineers on Saturday pumped 480 cubic metres of concrete into the well to

seal it. But they need to wait for the concrete to dry until they can be sure there are no more leaks. The BBC's Francis Markus in Shanghai says the region's climate is very foggy and it could take some time for the sulphurous gas to dissipate. — Internet

China's central govt to increase investment in water diversion project

BEIJING, 27 Dec — China's central government will increase its investment in the ambitious south-to-north water diversion project.

Zhang Jiyao, minister of the office of the project's commission under the State Council, released this information while addressing the sixth session of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC) here Thursday.

Following the construction of the two eastern sections last year, China will kick off eight new subprojects in the first phase of the eastern and central

sections by the end of this year — five in the eastern section and the others in the central section, Zhang said.

According to the original general outline of the water diversion project, the total investment for the major subprojects of the eastern and middle sections is 124 billion yuan. Of this, 24.8 billion yuan will come from the state budget and national debt; 55.8 billion yuan will be in the form of

bank loans; and the other 43.4 billion yuan will be raised through other financing channels. "Considering the project's heavy burden of repayment of loans and payment of interests to banks, the State Council has made a decision to increase the investment in the ambitious water diversion project, while reducing the amount of bank loans and diversifying financing channels," Zhang said. — MNA/Xinhua



US soldiers from the 1st battalion, 22nd Regiment of the 4th Infantry Division escort an Iraqi prisoner (C) at their base in Tikrit, 180 Kilometres (110 miles) north of Iraqi capital Baghdad, on 26 Dec, 2003. — INTERNET

Iraq ambush, explosions kill 3 US soldiers

BAGHDAD, 27 Dec—An American soldier died in a rebel ambush and two others were killed in bomb explosions on Friday, one of the bloodiest days for the US military since the 13 Dec capture of Saddam Hussein.

Two of the deaths occurred in Baquba, a center of guerrilla activity northeast of Baghdad in a Sunni Muslim area that served as a power base for Saddam, the former Iraqi dictator. US forces, who have a base in the town, often conduct raids and arrest suspected guerrillas.

One of the US soldiers killed Friday was in a US convoy that came under attack, said Capt Jefferson Wolfe of the Army's 4th Infantry Division. Another soldier was injured, but troops fired back, killing two attackers, he said.

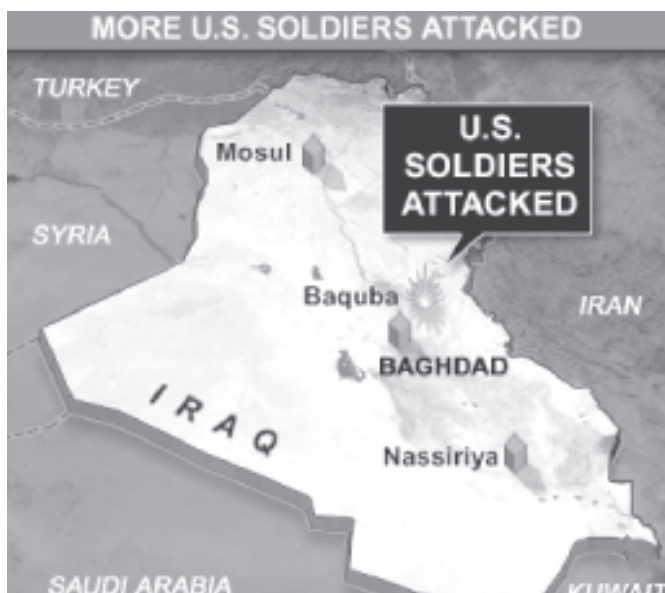
In a separate incident in the same area, a soldier tried to defuse a homemade bomb, but it blew up and killed him, Wolfe said. Such bombs are a favored weapon of rebels, who leave them on roadsides and detonate them as military convoys pass. The guerrillas used that tactic Friday in Balad, north of Baghdad, setting off a bomb that killed one soldier, the US military said.

In the capital, a car exploded on the road to the airport, killing its two occupants. US soldiers at the scene said

they suspected the two men were bombers whose bomb exploded prematurely. Further north, three soldiers from the US Army's 101st Airborne Division were wounded in an ambush in Mosul when their convoy came under small arms fire, said Maj. Trey Cate, the division spokesman.

The soldiers, who were searching the city's streets for bombs, returned fire but did not catch their attackers, Cate said. Witnesses claimed a taxi driver was killed in the firefight, but the spokesman could not confirm the report. On Thursday, Iraqi insurgents shelled an American base in Baquba, 30 miles northeast of Baghdad, killing two US soldiers, the military said.

Four other soldiers were wounded in the attack, Maj. Josslyn Aberle of the 4th Infantry Division said. A total of 11 US soldiers have died from hostile action since Monday. The latest military deaths bring the toll to 323 US troops killed in hostile action since the invasion in March. —Internet



Two US soldiers were killed by bombs in two separate incidents in Iraq on 26 Dec, 2003. — INTERNET

East China standardizes Internet cafe administration

NANJING, 27 Dec—East China's Jiangsu Province has established a specialized web site in the provincial capital, Nanjing, to standardize the management of Internet cafes.

Officially opened Wednesday, the www.njwx.cn was established by the Nanjing Internet Service Association, founded in December 2002.

An official with the association said the web site would provide a platform of information technology services to Internet users not only in Jiangsu, but also in the nearby provinces of Anhui, Zhejiang, Jiangxi, Shandong, Hunan and Hubei.

The web site offers information concerning Internet cafe management, and related laws and regulations, said the official.

He said cafe owners could exchange experiences and hire Internet technicians through the web site, while Internet users could have an overall view of cafe information, including addresses, charges and scales.

MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam suspends US beef imports

HANOI, 27 Dec—Vietnam has suspended the importation of US beef since Thursday after the United States reported its first suspected case of mad cow disease.

The suspension will be maintained until the United States verifies that the case has not affected the quality of beef and other beef-related products, local newspaper quoted sources from Vietnam's Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development on Friday. Vietnam imports beef mainly from Australia and New Zealand, and little from the United States. — MNA/Xinhua

Iranian earthquake kills 20,000

TEHERAN, 27 Dec—At least 20,000 people have died in the huge earthquake which struck south-eastern Iran, according to officials.

Rescuers are working through the night to hunt for survivors from the quake, which struck before dawn on Friday.

The ancient city of Bam has been devastated—most of its buildings have been flattened including two hospitals and a 16th Century citadel.

A big relief operation is under way, with many foreign countries sending supplies and rescue workers to Iran.

President Mohammad Khatami described the quake as a "national tragedy" and said it was too huge for Iran to cope with alone.

The United States offered humanitarian

assistance, and President George W Bush said he was "ready to help" Iran.

Aid agencies are making urgent appeals for supplies such as tents, blankets and field hospitals.

But there are immediate fears for the safety of survivors—temperatures at night in the desert city drop to well below freezing, and food and water are in short supply.

The country suffers frequent earthquakes, with small tremors happening almost daily. In one earthquake in 1990, 35,000 people died.

Internet

စက်မှုရေးရာ၊ သစ်တောရေးရာ

Two Polish soldiers wounded in Iraqi mine attack

WARSAW, 27 Dec—Two Polish soldiers serving in Iraq's south-central zone were seriously wounded on Friday by a remote-controlled mine, a Polish military spokesman said.

"The remote-controlled explosive went off when a 20-man, four-vehicle patrol was returning to its base," local PAP news agency quoted Colonel Lech Zajda as saying. "Immediately after the explosion, someone opened fire on the convoy from some roadside bushes, but the attackers managed to escape," he added.

The attack occurred about four miles from Camp Babylon, the headquarters of a 2,500-strong Polish force leading a multinational division in one of Iraq's four stabilization zones.

Two Polish soldiers were injured in a similar road explosion earlier this month. In November, Poland suffered its first combat fatality, and over Christmas a Polish soldier died in a gun-cleaning accident.

MNA/Reuters

Casualties in Iraq hit Fort Wood in the heart

FORT LEONARD WOOD, 27 Dec—Members of a battalion stationed at this central Missouri Army post were hit hard by the news that three of their own perished in Iraq on Christmas Eve, a colonel said Friday.

The combat engineers—Maj Christopher Splinter, 43, of Platteville, Wis.; Capt. Chris Soelzer, 26, of South Dakota; and Sgt Benjamin Biskie, 27, of Tucson, Ariz.—died in a roadside bombing near Samarra, said Col Paul Kelly, commander of the 1st Engineering Brigade.

The three were members of the 5th Engineering Battalion, which is part of the 1st Brigade. The battalion has about 500 soldiers organized in four companies that are scattered north of Baghdad. They were traveling along Highway One—a north-south route linking Baghdad to Tikrit—when an explosion struck their vehicle. Kelly wasn't sure whether the men were traveling in a Humvee. —Internet

Iraqi tribal chief gunned down in northern city

MOSUL (Iraq), 27 Dec—Gunmen shot and killed a tribal chief and member of the US appointed local council in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul on Friday, Iraqi police said.

Sheikh Talal al-Khalidi's son was also killed in the incident, which follows a spate of attacks in Mosul on Iraqis working under the US-led administration ruling the country.

A grenade was thrown at Iraqi policemen when they arrived to investigate the slaying, police said. One policeman was wounded.

Judges, oil company executives and policemen have been among Iraqis targeted in attacks the US occupation authority blames on supporters of Saddam Hussein, the toppled Iraqi leader who was captured by American forces two weeks ago. —MNA/Reuters



An Australian soldier keeps watch from an armored vehicle outside Baghdad's Palestine Hotel on 26 Dec, 2003. — INTERNET

CONTINUING RESISTANCE AGAINST US TROOPS



An Iraqi policeman attends the scene of a failed suicide car bomb attack on an American convoy, in Baghdad, on 26 December, 2003. —INTERNET



Iraqis stand on top of a house destroyed by the US forces Friday on 26 Dec, 2003 in Khalidiya, some 100 kilometres (some 60 miles) west of Baghdad.

INTERNET

A general view shows a protective wall (R) at the entrance to the Sheraton hotel, where the main international media are based in Baghdad, which was attacked by a missile early 25 December 2003.

INTERNET



US Army troops secure the scene of a failed suicide car bomb attack on an American convoy, in Baghdad, on 26 December, 2003. — INTERNET



US troops block the road after an explosive went off under an underpass in Mosul, some 400 kilometres (249 miles) north of Baghdad on 26 Dec, 2003

INTERNET



A US Army soldier stands next to a destroyed car on a highway to the Baghdad's International airport, on 26 Dec, 2003.

INTERNET



Hailing the 56th Anniversary Independence Day:

Towards a new nation of new era



The 12 political, economic and social objectives of the State are guidelines in marching towards a new peaceful, modern and developed nation.

The four political objectives serve as prime guidelines of the drive to create the country as a peaceful, modern and developed one. During 40 years after regaining independence, 35% of cultivable land fell vacant due to internal strife. In consequence of it, nearly 3 million people were left homeless and 22,000 civilians and 5,700 military and government service personnel perished.

The economic and social spheres in the country were on the decline to the degree that it was not possible to catch up with the international community in terms of development. After assumption of the State's duties on 18 September 1988, the Tatmadaw Government made peace with armed groups so as to secure stability and peace in the country.

As the political weather became calm, there prevailed across the country peace and stability along with the rule of law to the extent that the national people could travel freely and peace-

fully to earn their living. The need has arisen to write a firm Constitution that would protect the national people, decide their future and make their life safe. The realization of such task is based on the unity of the entire national people.

As long as an enduring Constitution exists, sovereignty of a nation will never be lost. The same thing can be said of the national solidarity, with which a modern and developed nation will be able to stand firm as long as the world exists.

Stability and tranquility and the rule of law in the country are essential elements in the four political objectives of the State and the symbol of national security. The emergence of a firm Constitution depends on the national solidarity. Therefore, it is the national concern of all entire national people to establish a modern and developed nation in consonant with the new Constitution.

In shaping a modern and developed nation, measures are being taken to implement the four economic objectives in harmony with the four political objectives.

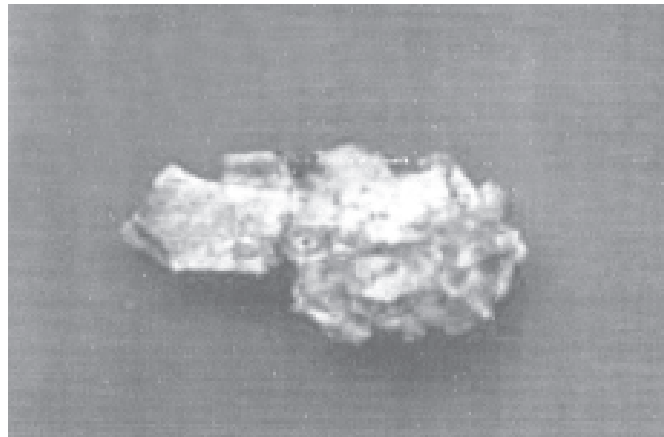
In fact, the economy of Myanmar rests on agriculture, which mainly provides food for the people. In addition, agriculture also fulfills the requirements of other economic sectors.

With the aim of developing the agro-based economic life, the Tatmadaw Government gives encouragement to industries that are based on agriculture. Construction of roads, bridges and irrigation facilities, all of which are vital for agro-based economic life, is well under way. Moreover, vacant and virgin lands are also reclaimed for agricultural purpose. Thanks to these measures, the yield of crops including paddy are on the gradual rise. As a result,

sufficiency of rice and other crops for local consumption has been assured and the surplus can even be exported. Moreover, success has also been achieved in cultivation of crops from single to double or triple cropping. With the increased income of rural people, the living standard of farmers is not much different from that of urban people. These are the tangible results of the economic objectives.

The Tatmadaw Government has introduced the market economic system. It invited the participation in term of technical know-how and private investments from the

inside the country and abroad, the Union of Myanmar as well as the entrepreneurs who invested in the country can enjoy the economic profits. The government has made arrangements for creating opportunities for the foreign firms that invest in Myanmar to enjoy mutual benefits. In this regard, the Government of the Union of Myanmar enacted Myanmar Foreign Investment Law, and laws, bylaws and rules and regulations concerning the right to carry out economic enterprises by Myanmar citizens. It has also taken necessary including reforms for the benefit of investors. Eco-



No 2 and No 3 molars of an Amphipithecus found by Myanmar-French team at Paukhaung Kyitchaungs in November, 2003.

sources inside the country and abroad, after abolishing the laws concerning the socialist economic system and enacting laws and rules and regulations favouring the market economic system.

The market economic system is the one which can bring about economic progress within the period set by the State. Practical requirement for the economic progress of the State is to bring about economic development by inviting the participation in terms of technical know-how and investments from sources inside the country and abroad.

By inviting the participation in terms of technical know-how and investments from sources

economic enterprises, moreover, the government has established infrastructures and organizations and provided services for the proper evolution of market economic system, and conducting training courses for workers.

One of the economic objectives of the State — the initiative to shape the national economy must be kept in the hands of the State and national people — is the essence of the four economic objectives of the State. It is a working guideline that safeguards the sovereignty of the State and all the possible benefits of economic development of the State. As much as all the citizens can bring about development and

modernization of the economic life of the nation, there will be further improvement of national interest resulting in the higher level of the socio-economic superstructure.

Four economic objectives of the State, depending on each other, will develop the infrastructure of the State or economic life (Material life) and enable the nation to build a modern and developed socio-economic life in the future.

Four social objectives have been laid down with

regulations.

The second social objective of the State — Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character — has been laid down with the noble aim of preserving and promoting the culture, customs, traditions and religion of Myanmar national races.

Discoveries of anthropoid primates in Pondaung and Ponnay have served as an evidence that human species existed in the Union of Myanmar about 40 million years ago. Geologists have concluded that human species originated in Myanmar.

The State Peace and Development Council formed the Committee for Preservation of National Cultural Heritages dated 10 September 1998 with a view to effectively preserving and safeguarding the cultural heritages.

Simultaneously, it adopted a policy on prevention against the danger of narcotic drugs attended with decadent culture regarding it as the national duty.

Then, the Tatmadaw launched operations to destroy poppy plantations and to expose opium refineries sacrificing thousands of lives of its members. It vividly indicates that the government has been taking effective measures to safeguard the youths against the penetration of alien culture that can degrade and harm the prestige and integrity of the entire people and to fight against the danger of narcotic drugs that can endanger the future of the new generation youths and ruin their lives.

(See page 7)

Kyaiphiyu

Hailing the 56th Anniversary Independence Day:

Endeavours for development of national brethren

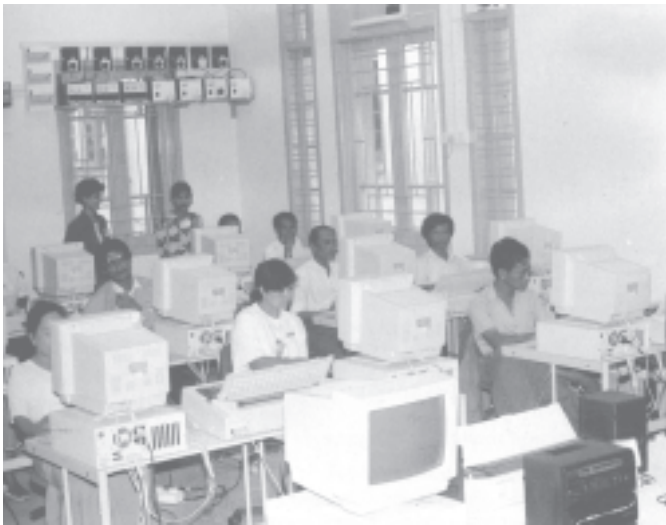
The Tatmadaw Government has introduced the market economic system. It invited the participation in term of technical know-how and private investments from the sources inside the country and abroad, after abolishing the laws concerning the socialist economic system and enacting laws and rules and regulations favouring the market economic system.

The market economic system is the one which can bring about economic progress within the period set by the State. Practical requirement for the economic progress of the State is to bring about economic development by inviting the participation in terms of technical know-how and investments from sources inside the country and abroad.

By inviting the participation in terms of technical know-how and investments from sources inside the country and abroad, the Union of Myanmar as well as the entrepreneurs who invested in the country can enjoy the economic profits.



As drug elimination tasks are being carried out as a national duty, Tatmadawmen, hand in hand with local people, taking part in destruction of poppy fields in Pinlaung Township, Shan State.



Human resource development plays a vital role in building the nation to be modern and developed one.

(from page 6)

The third of the four social objectives laid down by the State — uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit — means that patriotism is the noble spirit that one never accepts any invasion of foreign countries and with unyielding spirit, one is always ready to repulse the intruders.

In actual fact, Myanmar national races have been equipped with the nationalist spirit as the heritage of their ancestors that one is ready to fight back whenever one's nation and people are insulted by others. Panglong Conference which emerged to-

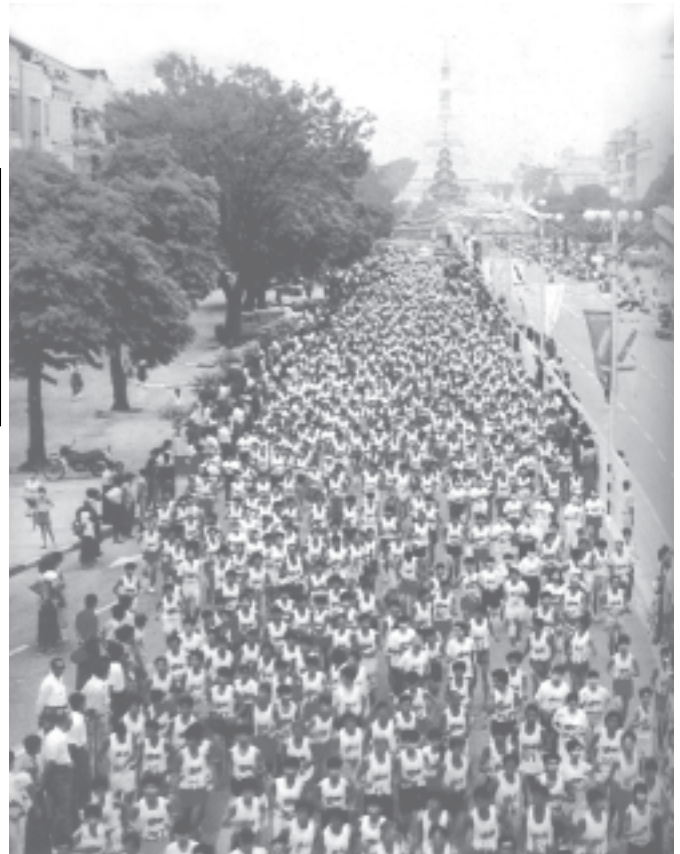
gether with anti-colonialist struggles, resistance against the fascists and independence struggles revealed the might of the complete unity of the entire people. And it is the symbol of flourishing of patriotism and nationalistic spirit. Throughout the period from the time when Myanmar fell under the servitude of the colonialists after the three aggressive wars until the time when Myanmar regained her independence, Myanmar nationals brilliantly fought against the colonialists with patriotism.

The fourth of the four social objectives, "Uplift of health, fitness and educa-

tion standards of the entire people", also plays a vital role in building up a new nation.

The tasks for uplift of health and fitness as well as education standards are to be implemented at the same time. Promotion of the education standards means polishing and elevating the role of human resources. With highly-qualified human resources, success will be achieved before long in carrying out such nation-building tasks as political, economic and cultural sectors for emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation.

Therefore it can be said



Sports festivals are held to uplift the health and fitness of the entire people. People are actively taking part in the sports festivals.

that measures for raising health, fitness and education standards of the entire people plays a fundamental role in modernization and development of the nation.

And, the twelve political, economic and social

objectives are the policy adopted by the State for the emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation in future. In other words, it is the strategy to realize the goal. With the combined endeavours of the entire people with full

sense of patriotism and Union Spirit for successful accomplishment of the twelve objectives, there will definitely emerge a peaceful, modern and developed nation.

Translation:
KTY'+MWT'+MS



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects finishing works of Tampalawha bronze Buddha image near Yangon-Mandalay Highway in Oktha Myothit, Bago Township.— MNA

Prime Minister attends ...

(from page 16)
near Yangon-Mandalay Highway in Oktha Myothit, Bago, and donated provisions to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Visuddha.

Next, the General and party proceeded to the work

site of Tampaloha bronze Buddha image and viewed preparations for carrying out finishing works of the image.

Afterwards, the General and party arrived back here in the evening.— MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt enshrines religious objects into the reliquary of Myathalyaung Reclining Buddha Image in Bago.— MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attends ...

(from page 1)

After the ceremony, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and guests viewed computer technological skills under the motto of Harnessing ICT Through Education performed by the students at e-Education in Myanmar 2004 Booth displayed on the third floor.

At the booth, Deputy Minister for Education U Myo Nyunt briefed on the motto of Myanmar Education, tasks on education with applying ICT technology and Internet in the education sector, giving of education lectures to States and Divisions

through e-Education Learning Centres and future tasks.

Next, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party saw over the booth on learning management software and rural development through e-education of For-ever Group Enterprise, the IT booth of Yangon University, booths of Inforithm Maze, Cyber English Centre, primary level facts for life of Kamayut BEHS No 2, Queen Star Computer Centre and Myanmar Millennium Group.

Then, the General cordially greeted the students and left there later in the morning.

From 9 am to 12 noon today, 82 students participated in the Tokiwa Colour Pencil Painting Contest. Basic Education Departments, universities, Yangon University of Foreign Languages, Central Universities' Library, Myanmar Education Research Bureau and basic education schools will open their booths at the Diamond Jubilee Hall from 8 am to 5 pm daily up to 3 January 2004.

To mark the School Family Day, arts and science, economic and social paper-reading sessions will be held at the hall of Convocation

Council, the halls of Physics and Chemistry Departments of YU from 30 December to 1 January; the band contest at the People's Square on 28 December; the education concert at the National Theatre on 29 to 31 December; the rowing contest of education family at Inya Lake and the Myanmar and International Social Relations Contest at the hall of MERB from 31 December to 2 January; Patthana Recitation Ceremony at Universities' Dhammayon on 31 December and prize presentation ceremony on 3 January 2004.

MNA

MES holds annual conference

YANGON, 27 Dec — Annual Conference of Myanmar Engineering Society (2003) was held at the MICT Park in Hline Township this afternoon.

Present on the occasion were Patrons of MES Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, Deputy Minister for Mines U Myint Thein, Deputy Minister for Energy

Brig-Gen Than Htay and Rector of the Defence Services Technological Academy Brig-Gen Win Myint, members of the panel of patrons of the society, President of ASEAN Engineering Federation Chairman of Myanmar Engineering Society Prof Dr Sein Myint and central executive committee members, members of MES

and guests.

Patron Deputy Minister U Myint Thein chaired the conference and made an opening speech. Next, the chairman of MES spoke on the occasion. General Secretary U Than Myint and Treasurer Dr Daw Khin Aye Win read out the annual report and financial statement. The conference approved the re-

port and the financial statement. An amendment of constitution of the society was submitted to the conference and, it approved the amendment. Afterwards, Dr Sein Myint presented ASEAN engineer certificates to 12 members of MES.

Deputy Minister U Myint Then made concluding remarks.— MNA

Minister visits school family day exhibition

YANGON, 27 Dec — Chairman of the Leading Committee for Holding the School Family Day for 2003-2004 Academic Year Minister for Education U Than Aung, accompanied by Chairman of the Work Committee (2) Deputy Minister U Myo Nyunt and members

of the leading committee, visited the booth of the New Century Biotechnology Development Centre on Inya Road this morning.

Professors of the Zoology Department of Yangon University Daw Tin Tin Aye and Dr Daw Tin Nwe and Head of Botany Department

of Yangon University Dr Daw Aye Kyi conducted the minister and party round the booths. Afterwards, the minister viewed the Tokiwa colour pencil drawing contest held in Diamond Jubilee Hall on Pyay Road. Next, the minister and party visited the handicraft booth of basic

education schools there.

At 11 am, the minister attended a ceremony to honour the wellwishers who contributed cash towards the funds of Education Promotion Programme for 2003-2004 and accepted cash donations of the wellwishers.

MNA

ACWF delegation leaves

YANGON, 27 Dec — Delegation led by Vice President Mme Chen Xiurong of All China Women's Federation (ACWF) left here by air this evening.

The delegation was seen off at Yangon International Airport by Vice President of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation Prof Dr Daw May May Yi, General Secretary Prof Dr Daw Khin Aye Win, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Myanmar Mr Li Jinjun and officials.

MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives Pa-O National Organization (PNO) Chairman U Aung Hkam Hti and Vice-Chairman U Khin Kyaw Nyo at Zeyathiri Beikman. (News on page 16)— MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects students learning at multimedia teaching centre at Bago BEHS No 6.—MNA

Bago BEHS No 6 gets multimedia teaching centre

YANGON, 27 Dec—A multimedia teaching centre of No 6 Basic Education High School was opened at the school in Bago this afternoon, attended by Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt.

Also present were member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, Chairman of Bago Division

Peace and Development Council Brig-Gen Ko Ko, the ministers, Chief of Staff (Navy), the deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of departments, members of Division, District and Township Peace and Development Councils, departmental personnel, social organizations, wellwishers, the director-

general of No 1 Basic Education Department, members of school board of trustees, headmistress, teachers and students.

A ceremony to unveil the inscription "Our Vision" and signboard "Education Goal" was held at the No 6 BEHS.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and audience saluted the State Flag. The students then sang the na-

tional anthem.

Next, Outstanding students formally unveiled the inscription "Our Vision" and signboard "Education Goal".

The students then sang the song "Myanmar School". Headmistress Daw Khin Sein and Chairman of school board of trustees U Ngwe Shein formally opened the multimedia teaching centre.

Afterwards, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt formally unveiled the signboard in commemoration of the opening of multimedia teaching centre.

The Prime Minister and party inspected domestic science room, art studio, printed media (reading corner), computer aided instruction, computer application, e-mail, electronic media (language lab) and elec-

tronic media (video system).

The Prime Minister and party watched performance of the students at the art studio.

Headmistress Daw Khin Sein reported on purposes of the opening of the multimedia teaching centre and teaching with the use of modern teaching aids.

Chairman of school board of trustees U Ngwe Shein reported on efforts for opening of the multimedia teaching centre.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt presented two computers and teaching aids video cassettes to Headmistress Daw Khin Sein.

On behalf of the wellwishers Commander Brig-Gen Ko Ko presented K 100,000 donated by U Win Htay, K 2.5 million by U Ngwe Shein and a computer by Bago Division Peace and Development Council to Deputy Minister for Education Col Aung Myo Min.

The deputy minister then spoke words of thanks.

After the ceremony, the prime minister, members of school board of trustees, teachers and students posed for souvenir photos.

MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt poses for documentary with officials and students at opening ceremony of multimedia teaching centre at Bago BEHS No 6.—MNA

Secretary-1, Secretary-2 watch Mister Myanmar and Miss Myanmar contests

YANGON, 27 Dec—Mister Myanmar and Miss Myanmar contests, organized by Myanmar Body Building and Physical Culture Federation, were held on the first floor of Yangon City Hall at noon today.

Secretary-1 of the State

Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win and Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein watched the contests and presented prizes.

Among the spectators were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Com-

mander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Daw San Yon, wife of Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung, Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and wife, Vice Mayor Col Maung Pa

and YCDC members, Director-General of Sports and Physical Education Department U Thauung Htaik and wife, President of MBBPCF Secretary of YCDC Col Myint Aung and officials, guests from embassies in Yangon and officials. Fifteen participants participated in Mister Myanmar (Junior) contest, nine in Mister Myanmar (Senior) and seven in Miss Myanmar (Open).

At the prize-presentation ceremony, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win presented awards to from-first-to-sixth prize winners of Mister Myanmar (Senior) contest and Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein presented awards to from-first-to-sixth prize winners of Mister Myanmar (Junior) contest. Daw San Yon and Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and wife also presented other prizes. —MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win presents first prize to Aung Khaing Win in Mr Myanmar (Senior) Contest.—MNA

MWEA President receives Chinese guests

YANGON, 27 Dec—Daw Khin Myint Myint, President of Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs' Association, received Mme Chen Xiurong, Vice-President of All China Women's Federation of the People's Republic of China, and party at the meeting hall of MWEA on Shwedagon Pagoda Road in Dagon Township here this morning.

Also present at the call were Vice-President of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation Prof Dr May May Yi, General Secretary Prof Dr Daw Khin Aye Win and

officials, Prof Daw Yi Yi Myint, founder and adviser of MWEA, Adviser Daw Sein Sein, MWEA Vice-President Daw Nu Nu Yi, Secretary Daw Hla Wady, Joint-Secretary Daw Khin Lay, Treasurer Daw Tin Shwe, Joint Treasurer Daw Myint Myint, member of the international relations committee Daw Myat Thanda and officials.

First, MWEA President Daw Khin Myint Myint extended greetings and introduced the guests to the officials of the association. Prof

Daw Yi Yi Myint explained the set-up, purposes and tasks of the association and facts about the tenth World Conference of the International Women's Entrepreneurs Federation. Afterwards, the guests signed in the visitors' book.

Daw Khin Myint Myint presented souvenirs to the guests and hosted a lunch in honour of the guests. The lunch was also attended by Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, President of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation, and officials. —MNA



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe views round the fun fair. — MNA

Commander attends opening of fun fair

YANGON, 27 Dec — Yangon Division Supervisory Committee for Maternal and Child Welfare Association organized a fun fair at Hline sports grounds in Hline Township this morning, attended by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and wife. Patron of Yangon Division Supervisory Committee for MCWA Daw Khin Thet Htay formally opened the fun fair. Then, the commander and wife and party viewed round the fun fair which will last up to 29 December. — MNA



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe and officials inspect the sanitation works in Ahlon Township. — MNA

Gold plates donated to Shwedagon Pagoda

YANGON, 27 Dec — The Sedana Thabarya Wut association in Kyimyindine Township donated gold plates to the Shwedagon Pagoda for 53rd time this morning, attended by Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe.

State Ovadacariya Siri Pavara Dhammacariya Aungmingalar Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Cariya and members graced the ceremony by their attendance. Also present were Division Secretary Lt-Col Kyaw Tint, local authori-

ties, members of religious associations and well wishers.

The Sayadaw invested the congregation with the Five Precepts. Members of the Sangha recited Metta parittas.

The commander and officials presented offertories to members of the Sangha.

People presented nine and a half ticals of gold for offering gold plates to the pagoda; Ko Kyaw Htay, Ma Hla Shwe and Ma Tin Tin Yee, U Aung Zaw Moe (English Department, Toungoo University), U Min Thein-Daw Moe Moe and family, U Hla Khin-

Daw Thin Thin Hlaing and family, U Hla Aung, Daw Khin, U Aung Kyaw Myint, U Myo Myint Aung, U Toe-Daw Si Te and family, three ticals of gold each; Ko Aung Aung-Ma Nwe Ni Hlaing and family, one and a half ticals of gold, U Myint Swe-Daw Khin San Win and family, one tical of gold; and U San Hla-Daw Su Yin and family, one set of Three Patikas through the commander, who then presented certificates of honour to them.

The Sayadaw delivered a sermon, followed by sharing of merits gained.

MNA

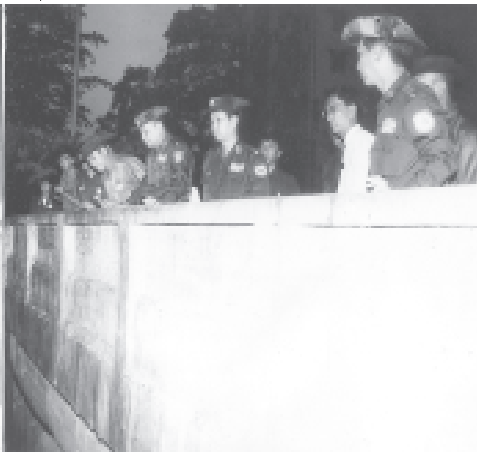
Sanitation tasks carried out in Yangon municipal area

YANGON, 27 Dec — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor

Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin inspected sanitation tasks carried out in Yangon municipal area by Tatmadawmen, members of Myanmar Police Force and social organizations and YCDC staff this morning.

The commander and the mayor viewed the unblocking of the drains, collecting of rubbish and weeding of wild plants in front of the Central Women's Hospital in Ahlon Township, Yangon West District. In response to the reports presented by officials concerned, they gave instructions and attended to the needs.

Next, they inspected the dredging of Aung Chan Tha drain in Sangyoung Township and called for combined efforts of local administrative bodies, departments, social organizations and people in carrying out sanitation tasks for beautifying and cleanliness of Yangon City. Similar tasks were also carried out in Tamway, South Okkalapa, Dagon Myothit (South), Dagon Myothit (North) and Botahtaung townships in the morning. — MNA



UMFCCI Vice-President meets Chinese delegation

YANGON, 27 Dec — Vice-President of Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Aung Lwin, General Secretary U Sein Win Hlaing, CEC member U Myat Thin Aung and officials of Myanmar Livestock Breeding Federation

met with a 29-member delegation led by Deputy Director-General Mr Song Xiao Guo of International Economic and Trade Department of Chong Qing City of the People's Republic of China at the UMFCCI Office this morning.

They discussed invest-

ment opportunities in agriculture and livestock breeding, participation of Myanmar businessmen in the trade fair to be held in Chong Qing City and import of machines and technology to be used in livestock breeding farms.

MNA



UMFCCI Vice-President U Aung Lwin receives the Chinese delegation. — UMFCCI

Rural roads opened

YANGON, 27 Dec — As a gesture hailing the 56th Anniversary Independence Day, Kontha-Myaseinyang rural gravel road and Pyinywa Village rural gravel road constructed by Myaungmya Township Development Affairs Committee were opened on 23 December.

Myaungmya District Peace and Development Council Chairman Lt-Col

Kyi Htut Win and officials formally inaugurated the roads. Local people of the villages along the road can travel on the roads in any season. — MNA

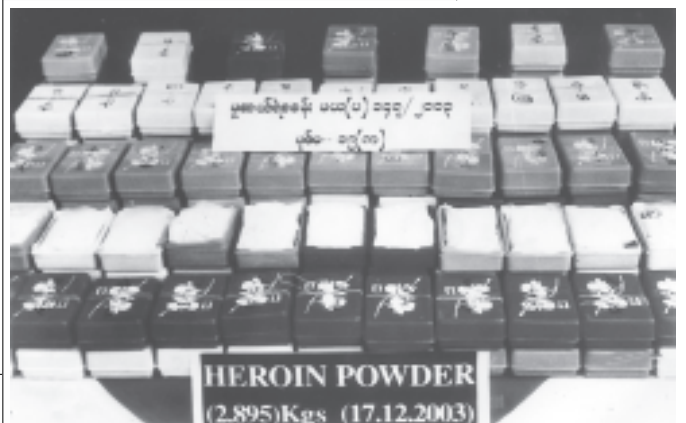
Heroin seized in Muse

YANGON, 27 Dec — On 17 December, a combined team comprising members of the local intelligence unit and Special Anti-Drug Squad, acting on information, tried to arrest a

suspect near Kaungya Village in Muse Township, who later managed to escape, leaving behind him a total of 198 soap boxes of heroin weighing 2.895 kilos.

Action is being taken against the fugitive according to Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law by the police station concerned.

MNA



Seized 2.895 kilos of heroin seen on 17 December 2003. — MNA

အိမ်တိုင်းမှာသစ်ပင် ရွာစဉ်မှာတောတန်း
တစ်တောင်တစ်တောင်တက် မြို့တက်မယ့်လမ်း။

Hailing the 56th Anniversary Independence Day:

Achievements of the Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs in the time of the State Peace and Development Council



The new communication station constructed in NyaungU, Mandalay Division, by Myanma Posts and Telecommunications.

The Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs has constructed post offices, telegraph offices and telephone exchange stations with the aim of providing convenient communication services required for economic, social and management affairs of the people.

Moreover, the ministry is also implementing projects to upgrade the communication facilities with the use of modern communication technologies.

Developments in the communication sector from 1988 to 2003

Post and Telegraph

No	Subject	1988	2003
1.	Post office	1115	1307
2.	Telegraph office	310	460
Total		1425	1767

Telephone

No	Subject	1988	2003
1.	Auto phone exchange	33	127
2.	Manual phone exchange	212	599
3.	Phone line	67016	342317

Mobile phone

No	Subject	Opening date	Quantity (2003)
1.	Cellular phone system	8-12-1993	8500
2.	Digital European Cordless Telecommunication system	30-1-1997	2700
3.	CDMA system	17-10-1997	Fixed-18250 Mobile-11800
4.	GSM Mobile system	12-3-2002	21900
Total			63150

Oversea communication

No	Subject	Channel/Line	Year
1.	Satellite system	930	1994
2.	Underwater cable system	834	1999
3.	Internet	57	1999



The construction tasks of a microwave tower being carried out in Tachilek.



The installation tasks being carried out for Microwave (32) tower in Taunggyi, Shan State (South).



The inauguration ceremony of the digital micro-wave link between Mandalay and Loikaw to facilitate communication services of the regions.

မညာရေးဖြင့် ခေတ်မီပွဲပြီးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့

US troops detain five suspects for shelling coalition HQ in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 27 Dec — Five men suspected of firing rockets at the headquarters of the US-led coalition in Baghdad on Christmas night was detained, the US military said on Friday.

After a rocket attack on the fortified compound, an aircraft observed the launch point and reported the location, where soldiers on the ground then captured the five suspects, the military said in a statement. Two rockets hit a parking lot near the headquarters on west bank of the Tigris River at 11:15 pm (2015 GMT) Thursday without causing casualties, said the military. Sirens wailed after several huge explosions were heard near the coalition compound, dubbed as the Green Zone, on Thursday night.

The attack appeared to be part of a planned resistance offensive coinciding with the first Christmas Day after the coalition forces ousted Saddam Hussein from power and occupied the country in April. Guerrillas fired mortars, rockets and rocket-propelled grenades throughout Thursday, targeting a luxurious hotel housing Westerners, at least one foreign embassy and governmental buildings.

Three Iraqis were wounded when one of

the rockets meant to attack the Sheraton Hotel building standing in front of the hotel.

A *Karyusha* rocket fired a hundred metres in distance hit the fence of the Iranian Embassy in central Baghdad, Private Hussein Ibrahim guarding at the compound told *Xinhua*.

Two Iraqi ministry office buildings, two national banks, a Kurdish television station and a Christian church were also targeted by rockets, grenades and home-made bombs.

No substantial damage or heavy casualties were seen in the latest round of coordinated attacks, which seemed more symbolic rather than aiming at inflicting toll.

Bomb and mortar attacks on US troops remained lethal although a US senior spokesman insisted that the number of insurgent attacks targeting US forces continued to fall.

Nine US soldiers have been killed by hostile fire in Iraq since the forces captured Saddam on 13 December. — *MNA/Xinhua*

China takes better care of collected SARS specimens

BEIJING, 27 Dec — Most SARS specimens and viral strains collected during the SARS outbreak in China have been safely transferred to designated laboratories, the Ministry of Health said here Friday.

The ministry said it has asked local health administrations to report on the storage of severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) virus specimens in their jurisdiction and transfer them to the designated

institutes. "Most of SARS virus specimens kept in local institutes have been transferred safely to the designated places," said a spokesman of the Health Ministry.

The appointed places include the Chinese Centre for

Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Institute of Military Medical Sciences, the National Institute for the Control of Pharmaceutical and Biological Products, Beijing CDC and Guangdong CDC. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Malaysia records steady recovery of tourist arrivals

KUALA LUMPUR, 27 Dec — Malaysia recorded a steady recovery of tourist arrivals despite setbacks earlier in the year, Tourism Malaysia said on Friday.

"Although it is a 26.1-per-cent decrease compared with the previous year's 10-month period of 10.976 million arrivals, the monthly figures since May indicate a steady recovery," Tourism Malaysia said in a statement released in Kota Kinabalu, eastern Malaysia. Between January and October this year, Malaysia recorded 8.11 million arrivals, according to Tourism Malaysia, a promotion organization under the Ministry of Culture, Art and Tourism.

It said aggressive promotions by the

industry players managed to chalk up an upward swing beginning in the third quarter of 2003. "If not for the war in Iraq and the outbreak of the severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) during the first half of 2003, Malaysia would have registered a much higher figure," it said. The highest number of arrivals was recorded in January with 1.07 million arrivals while the lowest was in April with 459,374. It began to pick up in May with 541,267 arrivals and by October the number was 995,858. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Iraq issue impacts relations between big powers

WASHINGTON, 27 Dec — The US-led war in Iraq and post-war rebuilding, rolling on a path characterized by both conflicts and compromises, widened the rifts between the world's big powers, reinforcing the globe's tendency of moving toward multipolarization.

Early in the year, sabre-rattling United States and Britain deployed large numbers of troops in neighboring regions of Iraq, which was accused of having weapons of mass destruction.

Within the United Nations, the two countries nevertheless vigorously sought a Security Council resolution authorizing the use of force to rid Iraq of its alleged banned weapons.

However, France, Germany, Russia, China and most of other Security Council members stood against such a resolution before any progress was achieved on UN weapons inspections in Iraq.

Amid warning and opposition, the United States and Britain launched war on Iraq on 20 March, a unilateral move that pushed the United States and Europe wider apart within NATO.

US attempting to build a unilateral world

Analysts say the conflict among big powers over Iraq is a showcase of the unilateralism vs. multilateralism struggle.

With the end of the Cold War, the common

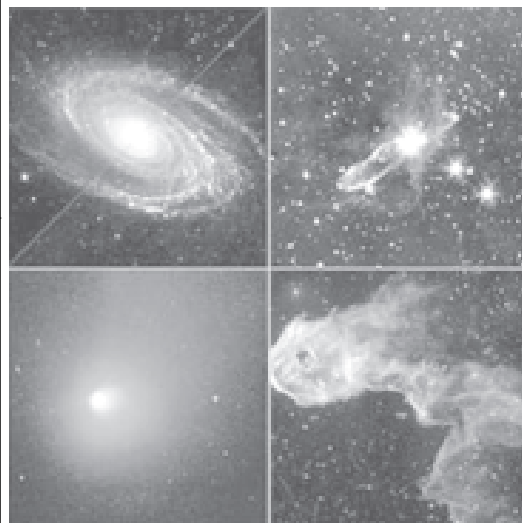
threat to both sides of the Atlantic Ocean disappeared, but differences on building a new world order have widened largely due to US attempts to build a unilateral world by relying on its economic and military advantages. The United States sees multipolarization as a destructive factor triggering confrontation among big powers and an obstacle for it to carry on with its so-called "Peace Mission."

Bush's national security adviser Condoleezza Rice said in June that polarization is a kind of theory to intensify the confrontation of big powers and therefore must be discarded.

Europe, led by France, Germany, Russia and a few other countries, advocates establishing a polarized world and opposes the use of force in handling relations with other countries.

While striving to play a big part in a multi-polar world, Europe urged to seek security through multilateral cooperation and solve disputes through political and diplomatic means.

Internet



NASA's Spitzer Space Telescope, formerly known as the Space Infrared Telescope Facility. Clockwise from lower left, the images show a comet, a swirling, dusty galaxy, a hidden newborn star, and a glowing stellar nursery, demonstrating the power of the telescope's infrared detectors to capture cosmic features never before seen.

INTERNET

UN, Russia, Germany offer aid to Iran quake victims

GENEVA, 27 Dec — The United Nations and several countries including Russia and Germany offered help on Friday to victims of a devastating earthquake in southeastern Iran that has killed more than 5,000 people.

UN officials said they were releasing an immediate emergency grant of 90,000 US dollars to help Iran in handling the aftermath of the quake and had sent a team of experts to help assess the damage.

The world body's Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said the team, due to arrive at the ancient Silk Road city of Bam later in the day, would also work to mobilize and over-

see international assistance.

The immediate need was for medicines, tents, mobile hospitals, electricity generators, water purification equipment and blankets, OCHA's Madeleine Moulin-Azevedo said.

The UN children's fund UNICEF said it was sending first aid kits and essential medical supplies. It called for 350,000 US dollars in donations.

Russia's Emergencies Ministry, highly skilled in reacting to frequent natural and man-made disasters, has offered rapid-response units of doctors, paramedics and sniffer dog-handlers to help find people buried under rubble.

ITAR-TASS news agency quoted the Emergencies Ministry as saying that planes would be leaving for Iran early on Saturday with 100 experts for searching collapsed buildings, 10 doctors and search dogs.

In Berlin, German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer offered Teheran help in rescuing earthquake survivors who may be trapped in collapsed buildings and to repair damage.

"Germany is ready to do everything in its powers to contribute to recovering and rescuing people in the earthquake region," Fischer said in a telegram sent to his Iranian counterpart Kamal Kharrazi.

MNA/Reuters



South Korean protesters carry posters of Iraqi war victims at a rally near the National Assembly hall, in Seoul, on 26 Dec, 2003. — INTERNET

SPORTS

Soccer star Maradona Subject of new musical El Diez aiming for London and New York

NEW YORK, 27 Dec — Argentinian soccer legend Diego Maradona will be the subject of a new musical which will premiere in Buenos Aires in January before aiming for London and Broadway. *El Diez*, *Entre el Cielo y el Infierno* (Number 10, Between Heaven and Hell) will debut at the Metropolitan Theatre in Argentina's capital, 3 Jan, 2004.

The title refers to the soccer player's jersey number as well as his tumultuous life story. The musical tells the story of his rise to fame from a boy in a small town to a champion in the World Cup. A few years after his international success, he was at the center of a drug scandal and was banned from soccer. He returned to the game a few years later before retiring at 37 in 1997.

Maradona will be played by three actors in the musical — one adolescent, one adult (during his soccer prime) and one as a (fictionally projected) elderly man of 80. The cast of the stagework totals at 45 — a number that closely resembles that of another musical about a famous Argentinean, *Evita*. — *Internet*



Manchester United's Nicky Butt fires in a great shot to make it 1-nil against Everton during their Premiership clash at Old Trafford in Manchester, Britain on 26 Dec, 2003. United won 3-2 to stay top of the Premiership. — *INTERNET*

Spartak's Mitrevski set to join Portsmouth

Moscow, 27 Dec — Spartak Moscow's Macedonian defender Igor Mitrevski has said that he hopes to sign a contract with Portsmouth

next week.

"We've already agreed the details and I just need to sign a contract which I'm fully satisfied with,"

Mitrevski was quoted as saying by Russian daily *Sovietsky Sport*.

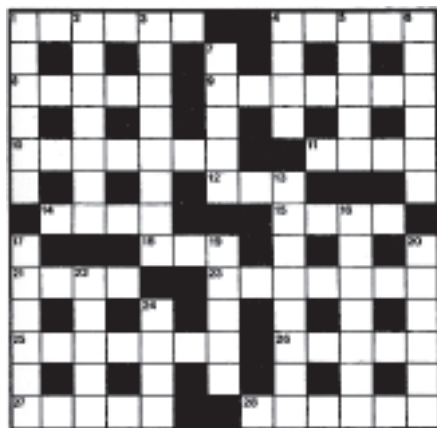
"I'm spending Christmas and New Year at home in Macedonia, so I think I will sign the deal on January 2."

The 24-year-old would join the English Premier League side on a free transfer after spending the last three seasons with the Moscow club.

Portsmouth are 15th in the 20-strong league after beating Tottenham 2-0 on Friday.

MNA/Reuters

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

- 1 London rail-terminus
- 4 Not at all
- 8 Pursue
- 9 Hairy, shaggy
- 10 Clothing
- 11 Metallic element
- 12 Largest deer
- 14 Mosquito
- 15 Free from pain
- 18 Tree
- 21 Coarse
- 23 Put into words
- 25 House on wheels
- 26 Later
- 27 Village leader
- 28 Motor-car fuel

DOWN

- 1 Armed guard
- 2 Standing-place
- 3 Pancake made of eggs
- 4 Informer (sl.)
- 5 Alluring woman
- 6 Sprain
- 7 Colourless
- 13 Souvenir
- 16 Place of refuge
- 17 Children's nursery
- 19 Intended
- 20 Of the stars
- 22 Risked
- 24 Affirm

Big guns start the psychological warfare

LONDON, 27 Dec — Christmas is supposed to be the season of goodwill to all men — it is just that nobody bothered to inform Premier League managers Sir Alex Ferguson and Arsene Wenger.

The managers of Manchester United and Arsenal normally manage to hold off until around mid-March before firing their first shots in the psychological warfare that has become such a traditional part of an English Premiership title run-in.

This year however, the mind games have kicked off with less than half the season gone, both Ferguson and Wenger seeking to extract maximum benefit from the mid-season stutter that has cast doubt on Chelsea's ability to push their more experienced rivals all the way to the wire.

"The decisive period is in

the season," Ferguson said. "I hope we can keep that up."

The underlying message was not lost on Wenger, who believes his side's unbeaten start to the season has been testimony to the lessons painfully absorbed last year when the Gunners effectively blew the title by allowing United to overcome a nine-point deficit.

"Alex Ferguson says his team get stronger in the second half of the season but you could say the same of Arsenal," was Wenger's response to Ferguson's jibe.

"In 1998 we were 11 points behind United in January and we went on to win the double."

Chelsea bounced back from two successive defeats with its win over Fulham at the weekend.

But the three points came at the price of losing Ireland winger Damien Duff for up to six weeks with a dislocated shoulder and the Blues face another exacting examination of their title credentials when they make the short trip to Charlton.

Arsenal in contrast should be able to run off any Christmas Day excesses with ease when it entertains bottom side Wolves at Highbury while Manchester United rarely gives anything away against Everton.

Internet

Chelsea crash, but United, Arsenal march on

LONDON, 17 Dec — Chelsea suffered a Christmas hangover on Friday as they suffered a 4-2 battering at London rivals Charlton Athletic.

The defeat was especially costly for Claudio Ranieri's expensively assembled team as title rivals Manchester United and Arsenal both won at home.

Manchester United rested Paul Scholes, Ryan Giggs and leading scorer Ruud van Nistelrooy but still beat Everton 3-2 and Arsenal won 3-0 against bottom club Wolverhampton Wanderers.

Nicky Butt, in for the injured Roy Keane, volleyed United ahead with his first league goal of the season after eight minutes.

Gary Neville's own goal levelled the score before Brazilian Kleberson restored United's lead shortly before halftime, nodding in Neville's pinpoint delivery.

David Bellion scored his first league goal for the champions after 68 minutes before Duncan Ferguson pulled one back with a last-minute header.

United now top the table with 43 points, one more than Arsenal with Chelsea third on 39 points.

Chelsea, who began the day level with Arsenal, fell behind in the first minute to Hermann Hreidarsson's header. Although Ranieri's side were soon level through John Terry's header, they never looked comfortable.

Matt Holland restored Charlton's lead with a thumping header from Jonatan Johansson's cross after 35 minutes and Johansson made it 3-1 just after the break, tapping in after some brilliant work by Paolo Di Canio.

Jason Euell stunned Chelsea with a fourth after 53 minutes and Eidur Gudjohnsen's goal was purely academic as Chelsea slid to their third league defeat of the season.

"The beginning of the second half we switched off and then it was very difficult," said Ranieri on Sky Sports.

"We were poor defensively, they had too many chances, they scored four but could have scored more."

Unbeaten Arsenal were simply a class above Wolves, with Thierry Henry the chief tormentor.

The Frenchman's corner was turned in by Wolves defender Jody Craddock after 13 minutes and when he converted a pass from Patrick Vieira seven minutes later the Gunners were threatening to run riot.

Wolves held out until the 89th minute, but Henry struck again with a low shot past Michael Oakes to send Arsenal temporarily top of the league.

Manager Arsene Wenger said he was pleased with the result after three draws in their last four games.

"We felt we didn't play our best against Bolton and wanted to put that right today," he said. "We were sharp and dominated the game for 90 minutes."

Fulham moved into fourth place after Louis Saha's double in a 2-0 home victory against Southampton while Liverpool returned to form with a much-needed 3-0 victory against Bolton Wanderers at Anfield.

MNA/Reuters



Arsenal's French forward Thierry Henry (L) puts the ball beyond Wolverhampton keeper Michael Oakes (R) to score the first of his two goals during a premier league match at Highbury on 26 Dec, 2003. Arsenal won 3-0. — *INTERNET*

MRTV-3**28-12-2003 (Sunday)
Morning Transmission
(9:00 - 10:00)**

- 9:00 Signature Tune
Greeting
9:02 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights
9:06 Thihathana Throne
9:10 Headline News
9:12 Easily Cooked Tasty
Dishes
9:15 National News
9:20 Central Glass Pavil-
ion
9:25 From Independence
Towards a Modern
Developed Nation
(Agri & Forestry)
9:30 National News
9:35 Pet Show & Contest
in Myanmar (Part-2)
9:40 Song "Blessed Mya-
nnar"
9:45 National News
9:50 Unique Biodiversity
of Indawgyi Lake
9:58 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights

**28-12-2003 (Sunday)
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 "Mingalabar"
15:36 Thihathana Throne
15:40 Headline News
15:42 Easily Cooked Tasty
Dishes
15:45 National News
15:50 Central Glass Pavil-
ion
15:55 From Independence
Towards a Modern
Developed Nation
(Agri & Forestry)
16:00 National News
16:05 Pet Show & Contest
in Myanmar (Part-2)
16:10 Song "Blessed
Myanmar"
16:15 National News
16:20 Unique Biodiversity
of Indawgyi Lake
16:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights
16:30 National News



Sunday, December 28

View today:

- 7:00 am**
1. မေတ္တာစုစည်းပေးရန်အထူးအားပေး
သောအားဖြင့် နိုင်ငံတော်သံသရာမဟာမုဗ္ဗာ
အဖွဲ့အတိုင်းတော်ဆောင်ရွက် အထိစာ
မဟာမုဗ္ဗာအဖွဲ့အတိုင်းအထူးအားပေးသည့်
ဓာတ်ကတ္တီရက်စလေးများအားဖြင့်
ဆရာတော်ဘုရားရှင်တော်တို့၏
ပရိတ်တရားတော်
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. ယဉ်ကျေးလိမ္မော်(ခ)ပြာမင်္ဂလာ
8:05 am
6. အတိုးမြှင့်
8:15 am
7. ဓမ္မစိုက်ပျိုးရေး
8:30 am
8. International news
8:45 am
9. Say it in English
11:00 am
1. Martial Song
11:10 am

- 16:35 Off-shore Fishing
Boat Construction
16:40 Myanmar Cuisine
"Traditional Shwe-
daung Noodle"
16:45 National News
16:50 Novitiation Cere-
mony
16:55 Myanmar National
Races Cultural
Dances
17:00 National News
17:05 Photo Exhibitions of
Shwedagon Pagoda
17:10 Song "Pleasant and
Greenish Lake"
17:15 National News
17:20 Precious Myanmar
Lacquerware
17:28 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights

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

- 19:30 Signature Tune
Greeting
19:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights
19:36 Union of Myanmar
19:40 Headline News
19:42 Easily Cooked Tasty
Dishes
19:45 National News
19:50 Unique Biodiversity
of Indawgyi Lake
19:55 Dance of the
Konbaung Era
20:00 National News
20:05 Lucky Bamboo
20:10 Song "Dear Myan-
mar"
20:12 Pet Show & Contest
in Myanmar (Part-1)
20:15 National News
20:20 Myanmar Musical
Orchestra
20:25 Song "Pleasant
Kayah"
20:30 National News
20:35 Myanmar Art of
Marionettes
20:40 Myanmar Cuisine
"Pineapple Salad"
20:45 National News
20:50 Glimpses At
Myanmar Movies
21:00 National News
21:05 Nan Pan Market Day
Songs on Screen
"My Ardent Wish"
21:15 National News
21:20 Glimpses At Myan-
mar Movies
21:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights
21:35 Thihathana Throne
21:40 Headline News
21:42 Easily Cooked Tasty
Dishes

2. Musical programme
11:25 am
3. Rounding-up of the week's
International News
11:40 am
4. နိုင်ငံတော်သံသရာမဟာမုဗ္ဗာ
အဖွဲ့အတိုင်းတော်ဆောင်ရွက် အထိစာ
မဟာမုဗ္ဗာအဖွဲ့အတိုင်းအထူးအားပေးသည့်
ဓာတ်ကတ္တီရက်စလေးများအားဖြင့်
ဆရာတော်ဘုရားရှင်တော်တို့၏
ပရိတ်တရားတော်
12:10 pm
5. Milo Success in soccer
12:20 pm
6. Myanmar Video
Feature:
"ကောင်းစရာကောင်းကြောင်း"
ရန်ကုန်မြို့တော်အတွင်းရှိ
ရန်ကုန်မြို့တော်အတွင်းရှိ
ရန်ကုန်မြို့တော်အတွင်းရှိ
ရန်ကုန်မြို့တော်အတွင်းရှိ
1:50 pm
7. ရွှေလောင်းတံတား
2:05 pm
8. Musical Programme
2:25 pm
9. အဆင်းလေ့အဆင်းလေ့
ပြောဆိုအားပေးသော
2:35 pm
10. ရန်ကုန်မြို့တော်အတွင်းရှိ
ရန်ကုန်မြို့တော်အတွင်းရှိ
ရန်ကုန်မြို့တော်အတွင်းရှိ
ရန်ကုန်မြို့တော်အတွင်းရှိ
4:00 pm
11. International News
4:15 pm
1. Martial song
4:30 pm
2. Songs to uphold
National Spirit
3. English for everyday
use
4:45 pm
4. (ဂျစ်) နိုင်ငံတော်သံသရာမဟာမုဗ္ဗာ
အဖွဲ့အတိုင်းတော်ဆောင်ရွက် အထိစာ
မဟာမုဗ္ဗာအဖွဲ့အတိုင်းအထူးအားပေးသည့်
ဓာတ်ကတ္တီရက်စလေးများအားဖြင့်
ဆရာတော်ဘုရားရှင်တော်တို့၏
ပရိတ်တရားတော်



Deputy Minister for Mines U Myint Thein addresses the annual conference of Myanmar Engineering Society. MNA

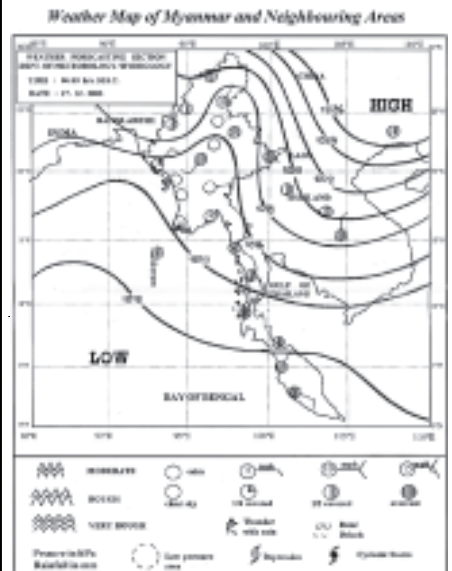
**Myanmar Engineering Society holds
annual conference**

YANGON, 27 Dec — The Myanmar Engineering Society held the annual conference for 2003 at the (Myanmar Information and Communication Technology) MICT Park in Hline Township here this afternoon.

Present on the occasion were Patrons of MES Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, Deputy Minister for Mines U Myint Thein, Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay, Rector of Defence Services Technological Academy Brig-Gen Win Myint and members, ASEAN Engineering Societies Federation President MES Chairman Professor Dr Sein Myint and Central Executive Committee members and others.

The meeting was presided over by Deputy Minister U Myint Thein. After the speech of the meeting chairman, MES Chairman Dr Sein Myint made an address. The CEC report was submitted by General Secretary U Than Myint and financial statement by Dr Daw Khin Aye Win. The report and the financial statement were then approved. Next, MES Chairman Dr Sein Myint presented ASEAN engineering certificates to 12 MES members. So far, 65 enginners of MES have obtained the ASEAN engineering certificates. — MNA

- 21:45 National News**
21:50 Central Glass Pavil-
ion
21:55 From Independence
Towards a Modern
Developed Nation
(Agri & Forestry)
22:00 National News
22:05 Pet Show & Contest
in Myanmar (Part-2)
22:10 Song "Blessed Mya-
nnar"
22:15 National News
22:20 Unique Biodiversity
of Indawgyi Lake
22:25 Song "City of
Bagan"
22:30 National News
**22:35 Off-shore Fishing
Boat Construction**
22:40 Myanmar Cuisine
22:45 National News
22:50 Novitiation Cere-
mony
22:55 Myanmar National
Races Cultural
Dances
23:00 National News
23:05 Photo Exhibitions of
Shwedagon Pagoda
23:10 Song
23:15 National News
23:20 Precious Myanmar
Lacquerware
23:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights

**WEATHER**

Saturday, 27 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) above normal in Shan State, (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Chin State, Mandalay and Bago Divisions, (5°C) to (6°C) below normal in Rakhine State, Ayeyawady and lower Sagaing Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperature was (1°C) in Hakha. Maximum temperature on 26-12-2003 was 34.5°C (94°F). Minimum temperature on 27-12-2003 was 17.2°C (63°F). Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 27-12-2003 was 83%. Total sunshine hours on 26-12-2003 was (8.5) hours approx. Rainfall on 27-12-2003 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 7 mph from Northeast at (14:50) hours MST on 27-12-2003.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 28-12-2003: Weather will be partly cloudy in Kachin State, Yangon and Taninthayi 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 28-12-2003: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 28-12-2003: Fair weather.

**Tune in today:**

Sunday, December 28

- 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
1.30 pm News/Slogan
1.40 pm Story of Children
"The wolf & the
Lamb"
1:50 pm Songs for children
9:00 pm Weekly news
review
9.10 pm Music
9.15 pm Article
9:25 pm Let's Improve
English Through
Songs/To love is
to give: K Ja Nu
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



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects progress in building Myathalyaung reclining Buddha image in Bago.—MNA

Prime Minister attends enshrinement ceremony of Naungdawgyi Myathalyaung Reclining Buddha Image in Bago

YANGON, 27 Dec — Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, together with member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, ministers, the Chief of Staff (Navy), the deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads and officials, left

here for Bago this morning.

On arrival at Wanbawdat Bridge near Thayagon Model Village in Bago Division, the Prime Minister and party were welcomed by Bago Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Southern Command Commander Brig-Gen Ko Ko and officials.

The Prime Minister and

his entourage arrived at the work site for renovation of Naungdawgyi Myathalyaung Reclining Buddha Image on Teiktha Street in Mazin Ward, Bago.

The enshrining of religious objects into the reliquary of the image began at 11 am at the pandal near the image, attended by the Prime Minister.

The ceremony was graced by the presence of members of the Sangha led by Bago Dhamma Lankara Monastery Sayadaw Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Bhaddanta Visuddha.

Also present were Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, Commander Brig-Gen Ko Ko, the ministers, the Chief

of Staff (Navy), the deputy ministers, officials, departmental heads, local authorities, social and religious organizations, wellwishers and local people.

The Sayadaw administered the Nine Precepts to the congregation. Lay persons presented paritta flowers, thread and sand to the Sayadaws. Members of the Sangha recited parittas. Next, the laity scattered the paritta sand and tied the paritta flowers in the precinct of the image.

The General presented religious objects to be enshrined and offertories to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Visuddha.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, the commander and the ministers also presented offertories to members of the Sangha.

Led by the Sasana flag carrying team and the regal procession troupe, the General and party and wellwishers conveyed relics to the reliquary.

The General enshrined golden Bodhi tree, Buddha images, relics, palm-leaf inscriptions on Tri-pitakas and jewellery into the reliquary of the Buddha image. The General closed the reliquary and sprinkled scented water on it.

After the ceremony, the Prime Minister performed rituals of golden and silver showers to mark successful completion of the ceremony.

Next, the cash donation ceremony for Naungdawgyi Myathalyaung reclining Buddha image was held.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, Commander Brig-Gen Ko Ko and Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung accepted K 39,077,400 do-

nated by wellwishers including K 10 million by Agga Maha Thiri Thudhamma Theingi Daw Khin Kyi and family; K 5 million each by U Thein Win-Daw Ni of Shwe Thanlwin family; U Khin Shwe, Chairman of National Development Companies Group Ltd; and U Tint Hsan-Dr Htay Myint (ACE Co); K 3.1 million by Teingyar family; K 2.7 million by Daw Aye Mya Nwe (Bagan Hotel); K 1 million by U Win Thin (Yangon); K 537,400 by U Zeya Thura Mon-Daw Khaing Khaing Myint; K 500,000 each by Adviser U Arnt Maung-Daw Tin Tin Wai; U Sein Hla Win (Sein & San Co); U Tin Win-Daw San San Win (AN Co); U Kyin Wam (Gyothain); U Myint Sein-Daw Hla Kyi (Myingyar Cheroot); and U Kyaw Min and family (Sangyoung).

Chairman of Bago Division Sangha Nayaka Committee Oktha Thiri Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Vimala delivered a sermon, then the Prime Minister and party shared merits gained.

In the afternoon, the Prime Minister and party went to Dhammalankara Buddha Rekkhita Monastery

(See page 8)

INSIDE**Perspectives**

Safeguard the independence and sovereignty of the State

Page 2

Article

Towards a new nation of new era

Page 6

Circulation

23,639

Prime Minister receives Pa-O National Organization (PNO) Chairman and party

YANGON, 27 Dec — Chairman of Work Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt received Chairman of Pa-O National Organization (PNO) U Aung Hkam Hti, Vice-Chairman U Khin Kyaw Nyo and party of Shan State (South) Special Region-6 at Zeyathiri Beikman on Konmyinttha at 5 pm today.

Also present at the call were Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt,

Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and departmental heads.

At the call, the national race leaders reported to the Prime Minister that they supported seven-point future programme of the State declared by the Prime Minister and they promised that they will attend the National Convention without fail.

Next, the national race leaders reported on education, health, roads/bridges and economic tasks for regional development.—MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt greets Pa-O National Organization (PNO) Chairman U Aung Hkam Hti at Zeyathiri Beikman.—MNA