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Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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

Commander attends coordination meeting on cultivation of crops

YANGON, 28 Dec—Division/State, District and Township Agricultural Supervisory Committees held the coordination meeting to fully cultivate summer paddy, beans and pulses, vegetables and other crops in Yangon Division, at the meeting hall of Yangon Command this afternoon, attended by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe.

Also present were Col Myat Thu of No 11 LID, Mingaladon Station Commander Col Win Naung, local authorities and officials.

The commander gave a speech. He said summer paddy, beans and pulses, oil crops, vegetables and other crops are to be cultivated on the farmlands where monsoon paddy has already been harvested. As the greening project is being implemented in the environs of Yangon International Airport, departments concerned participate in the tasks for construction of dams, sluice

gates and digging of drains for supplying water to farmlands. District and township agricultural supervisory committee members are required to supervise the local farmers for cultivation of summer paddy, beans and pulses, edible oil crops and vegetables in vacant and virgin lands.

Next, local authorities reported on requirements of cultivation tasks. Departmental officials submitted reports on assistance for the agricul-

ture sector.

In conclusion, the commander said that efforts are to be made for greening 30-mile radius of Yangon International Airport all the year round by exploiting natural resources. And members of division/state, district and township agricultural supervisory committees should try their best for exceeding the target. Later, the commander attended to their needs.

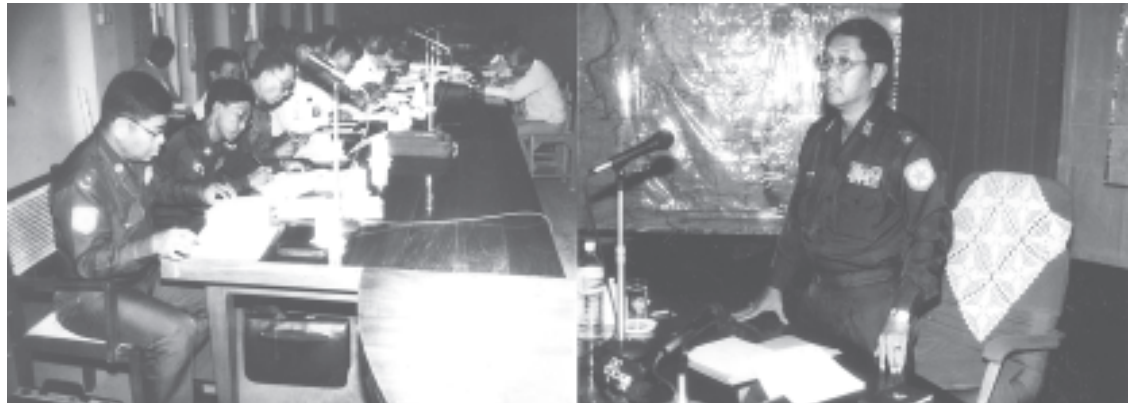
MNA

Progress in every region

With the aim of constructing a comprehensive development network encompassing the entire country, 24 Special Development Regions have been set up to promote the economic, education and health conditions and develop the highly-qualified human resources. In addition, to ensure that no area is left unattended, the five rural development tasks are being implemented. As a result of these endeavours, economic and social indicators of the Union of Myanmar today show that the targets have been fulfilled exceeding expectations.

Senior General Than Shwe,
Chairman, State Peace and Development Council,
Defence Services Commander-in-Chief

(From address at the parade of the 58th Anniversary Armed Forces Day)



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe addresses coordination meeting to grow summer paddy and other crops in Yangon Division.— YANGON COMMAND



Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung inspects construction of 200-ton Pulp Factory Project (Thabaung).— INDUSTRY-1

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

Industry-1 Minister inspects Pulp Factory in Thabaung

YANGON, 28 Dec— Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung, on Saturday morning, met with officials of Pulp Factory Project (Thabaung) and bamboo merchants at the factory near Hlaygyit Village, Thabaung Township.

Pulp Factory under Myanma Paper and Chemicals Industries is being implemented for producing 200 tons of the bleached pulp a day.

At the meeting, Managing Director U Than Shwe of MPCl reported on implementation of the project, future tasks and engineering works. After hearing the reports, the minister gave instructions on tasks to be carefully carried out on civil and engineering works and project works to be implemented on time.

The bamboo merchants reported on production of bamboo in Ayeyawady Division. The minister urged those present to make efforts for opening of the factory in October 2004.

(See page 8)

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

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 29 December, 2003

Towards development of advanced industries

Head of State Senior General Than Shwe has given guidance on striving for gradual development of the entire industrial sector, with agro-based industries as the starting point.

As Myanmar 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 nearly 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.

Both the State-owned and the private sectors are manufacturing and using various kinds of power tillers, harvesters and threshers on an extensive scale in transforming from conventional farming to mechanized one.

As regards private-owned industries, there are now over 100,000 factories and workshops in the whole country, 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 quantitative and qualitative improvement.

Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win met with industrialists at the Ministry of Industry-1 on 26 December.

On the occasion, the Secretary-1 said that as the industrial zones play a key role in developing the industrial sector of the State, the industrialists will have to gradually develop their industries from manual control system to mechanized and computerized control system.

The industrialists are to study the use and manufacturing of advanced machinery and rubber processing methods at the State-owned factories to invent goods that will be actually useful for the nation.

At a time when the State is placing emphasis on development of the private-owned industrial sector and development of the industrial zones, industrialists are urged to strive under the leadership of the State for flourishing of industries with high technical know-how that produce import-substitute items.

Peru slaps temporary ban on US beef imports

LIMA, 28 Dec— Peru said on Friday it had placed a temporary ban on its small imports of US beef and live cattle with immediate effect after the United States discovered its first case of mad cow disease.

"The ban will be maintained or lifted definitively based on the results of studies being carried out by the Peruvian authorities," the National Agricultural Sanitary Service Senasa said in a government decree.

Senasa said the ban would also be extended to bone meal, essentially ground-up animal carcasses many experts believe to be the most likely culprit in the spread of mad cow disease, a brain-wasting disease also known as BSE.

Peru's decision follows similar bans by other Latin American importers, including Mexico, Chile and Venezuela, after a cow slaughtered earlier this month in the Pacific state of Washington became the first animal to test positive for mad cow disease in the United States.

Although Peru is only a minor importer of US beef, it relies on imports of specialty meats for steak and hamburger restaurants, as well as on lower quality meat for pet food and animal feed. Peru imports the bulk of its beef from Argentina. — MNA/Reuters

Objectives of 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 successful implementation of the seven-point roadmap of the State.



GOLD PLATES DONATED TO SHWEDAGON PAGODA: The Cetanasambara Wut Association of Kyimyindine Township donated gold plates to Shwedagon Pagoda for 53rd time on 27-12-2003. Yangon Division peace and Development Council Chairman Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe accepts the gifts from a wellwisher.

MNA

Tourism, communication tasks inspected in Patheingyi

YANGON, 28 Dec— Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs and for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, accompanied by officials, discussed communication and hotel works with Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing, in Patheingyi on 25 December.

At Ngwe Hsaung Beach, the minister inspected arrival of tourists

and then met with hoteliers. Next, he inspected along the beach on board the vessel.

On 26 December morning, the minister proceeded to Hsinma and Ngayokkaung regions and saw over the places for extension of tourist destinations. While in Chaungtha Beach, the minister met with hoteliers and attended to their needs.

In Patheingyi, the minister inspected Patheingyi Hotel, the Microwave Station and Auto-exchange. — MNA

Myanmar Printers and Publishers Association meets

YANGON, 28 Dec— The Myanmar Printers and Publishers Association held the 12th annual meeting at Grand Plaza Park Royal Hotel on Alanpya Pagoda Road in Dagon Township on 26 December morning.

Present on the occasion were President of Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Win Myint, Chairperson of Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs' Association Daw Khin Myint Myint, Chairman of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association U Hla Myaing (Ko Hsaung), Director of Press Scrutiny and Registration Division U Aye Tun and Chairman of

Myanmar Printers and Publishers Association U Maung Maung and members.

At the meeting, participants approved the report of the executive committee and the annual financial statement. Then, officials answered queries raised by members of the association.

Next, 23 executive committee members including Patrons Col Kan Nyunt (Retd), U Than Nyunt and U Aung Lwin, Chairman U Maung and Secretary U Tint Swe were elected for 2003-2004 and 2004-2005 financial years. Later, the chairman gave concluding remarks. — 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

Russia, Ukraine agree compensation for downed plane

MOSCOW, 28 Dec— Moscow and Kiev agreed compensation on Friday for the families of people killed when a stray Ukrainian missile downed a Russian airliner two years ago.

The 78 passengers, who were mainly Israeli and Russian citizens, died when a surface-to-air missile hit a Tupolev-154 airliner over the Black Sea in October, 2001.

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Kostyantyn Gryshchenko and Igor Ivanov, his Russian counterpart, signed an agreement on Friday, according to a Russian Foreign Ministry statement.

"The ministers paid special attention to settling the situation of paying compensation to the families of those killed in the crash of the Russian...plane," the statement said. "As a result of the talks, an agreement was signed."

The ministers did not reveal how much compensation would be paid, although Ukrainian media reported two months ago — after Kiev signed a similar deal with Israel — that relatives would receive 200,000 US dollars for each person killed.

The plane, operated by Russian company Sibir, was on its way to the city of Novosibirsk from Tel Aviv.

MNA/Reuters

Bloody week shows Iraq far from peace despite Saddam's capture

BAGHDAD, 28 Dec—Deadly attacks in the Shiite Muslim holy city of Karbala climaxed a particularly bloody week in Iraq, confirming US warnings that Saddam Hussein's arrest would not immediately end the violence.

After a series of Christmas Day attacks on Baghdad which the military dismissed as "weak and ineffective," the guerillas showed Saturday they can still strike with deadly precision nine months after US and British forces invaded.

Six coalition soldiers and seven Iraqis died and at least 129 people were wounded as guerillas attacked Karbala with four suicide car bombs, machine-gun fire and mortars.

Earlier in the week, bomb and mortar attacks claimed the lives of 10 US soldiers, and assailants gunned down two Iraqi officials in Mosul, while a suicide bomber in Arbil killed four others plus himself and wounded 101.

Guerillas also hammered Baghdad with rocket, mortar and gunfire over Christmas. Although there were no fatalities, US forces hit back with artillery and airborne cannon fire in the capital's biggest anti-guerilla operation in weeks.

Bombs killed two US soldiers Friday in the area around Baquba, 60 kilometres (35 miles) north of Baghdad, after a Christmas night mortar attack claimed the lives of two other soldiers in their fortress-like base.

On Christmas Eve, three US soldiers died in a roadside bombing near Samarra, about 65 kilometres (40 miles) northwest of Baquba.

The anti-US insurgency has claimed the lives of 209 American soldiers since US President George W Bush declared major combat in Iraq over on 1 May, according to an AFP count.

In the northern city of Mosul on Saturday, 400 kilometres (250 miles) from Baghdad, US forces shot dead four guerillas after the later fired a rocket-propelled grenade (RPG), a US soldier from the 101st Airborne Division told AFP.

One US officer based north of the capital said Saturday that although the number of resistance fighters is declining, those who are left remain strong and prepared to fight to the end.

"We do not expect at this time that we will have a complete elimination of these attacks," the coalition's ground forces chief, Lieutenant General Ricardo Sanchez, warned shortly after Saddam's capture.

"I believe these will continue for some time." —Internet



Two US soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 22nd Regiment of the 4th Infantry Division secure the parameters during a foot-patrol along a street of former Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein's hometown Tikrit, on 27 Dec, 2003.—INTERNET

Bush says US faces "time of great challenge"

CRAWFORD (Texas), 28 Dec—President George W Bush said on Saturday the United States faced a "time of great challenge" amid efforts to quell guerilla attacks in Iraq and keep the peace in Afghanistan.

His remarks came as Iraq faced fresh violence with insurgents attacking government buildings and bases of foreign troops in the southern city of Kerbala, leaving at least six of the soldiers and seven Iraqi police and civilians dead.

Bush, who is spending the week after Christmas at his Texas ranch with his family, used his weekly radio address to offer a holiday wish for Americans facing hardships, such as poverty and unemployment. But he gave particular emphasis to those serving abroad in the military.

"We are grateful for the courage and commitment of our troops, and we are safer because of their skill and sacrifice," Bush said.

"This Christmas season comes at a time of great chal-

lenge for our country," he added.

Ahead of the November 2004 election, Bush has come under criticism from Democrats for his decision to go to war in Iraq. Although the main reason cited for the war was a charge that Iraq possessed weapons of mass destruction, none have been found in the war's aftermath.

Former Vermont Governor Howard Dean, considered the front-runner for the Democratic presidential nomination next year, has made his anti-war stance a major theme in his campaign.

While casualties stemming from guerilla attacks on US troops in Iraq eroded some of Bush's support, the capture earlier this month of former Iraqi president Saddam Hussein gave Bush a lift in the polls.

In their own radio address, Democrats criticized Bush for his economic policies, saying his tax cuts and spending on the mission in Iraq have drained money away from domestic programmes, including education.

"If we have enough money to provide a huge tax cut to the wealthiest in this country, if we have enough resources to rebuild a country far away, to put resources in their schools and their education system, surely — surely — we can find resources for our own," said Iowa Governor Tom Vilsack.

Vilsack, delivering the radio address on behalf of Democrats, also faulted Bush for not taking action to extend emergency benefits for unemployed workers.

MNA/Reuters

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Eight US soldiers killed in Iraq Christmas violence

BAGHDAD, 28 Dec—Eight US soldiers have been killed across Iraq over the Christmas period, as a series of attacks battered the capital. The latest US troop fatalities came Friday with one soldier killed defusing a roadside bomb near Baquba, northeast of Baghdad, and another when his convoy hit a booby-trap explosive between Baquba and Samarra, said Captain Jefferson Wolfe.

"There was an IED (improvised explosive device) attack on a convoy, two soldiers were injured, one of whom later died," Wolfe said.

Their deaths took to eight the number of US soldiers killed in action in Iraq since Christmas Eve.

On Thursday night, two US soldiers died during a mortar attack on a US army base near Baquba, military spokeswoman Josslyn Aberle said Friday.

Four other soldiers were wounded in the attack, she said, while an officer in Baquba put the wounded toll at six.

Internet

UN warns new US agricultural law could harm Latin America

SANTIAGO, 28 Dec—The new US agricultural policy is a protectionist system that will reduce even further the exports of Latin America and affect the international prices, the United Nations warned Friday.

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (CEPAL) of the United Nations said this policy increases the number of protectionist mechanisms and raises the level of subsidies and other subventions for the US farm sector.

The US Agricultural Law of 2002 defines a protectionist position far from the official policy for trade liberalization, said the organization in an article in the latest issue of the CEPAL Magazine.

The article, on the implications of the change in the US agricultural policy, warned that Latin American products such as sugar, citrus fruits, orange juice, apples, vegetables, peanuts, cotton and tobacco have now less chance to get into the US market.

The US legislation seeks, according to the article, to

"strengthen the production capacity of the US agricultural sector and respond to pressure from the traditional lobby of agricultural producers." On the other hand, the article said, it "seeks to change the rules of the game of international agricultural exchange." The United States will increase the competitiveness of its wheat over Argentina and Canada while the US subsidies for corn and sorghum will affect the small producers in Latin America, who will "have difficulties to survive."

The big producers in the region will see their income from exports reduced, even though local consumers will benefit from the lower prices, the article said, indicating that US subsidies to soybean farmers will mainly affect Brazil and Argentina.

MNA/Xinhua

Ukraine suspends US beef imports due to BSE

KIEV, 28 Dec—Ukraine has suspended US beef imports after the discovery of the first case of mad cow disease, Ukrainian veterinarian authorities said on Friday.

"Today we have suspended imports of beef and beef products from the United States," a senior official told Reuters. A government telegram sent to Ukrainian Customs early on Friday said: "Imports of cattle, raw beef and beef products are suspended." The government also said the suspension would be replaced by a ban if international organizations confirmed the diagnosis.

The official said Ukraine does not import beef from the United States but the suspension had to be introduced to prevent the country from possible beef imports in the future. The suspension follows the first suspected case of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), or mad cow disease, in a single cow in the US Pacific state of Washington.—MNA/Reuters



An Iraqi passes US soldiers securing a checkpoint in Samarra, on 27 Dec, 2003.—INTERNET

Annan resists calls to send UN staff back to Baghdad

UNITED NATIONS, 28 Dec—It is the quick-fix remedy prescribed by many critics of the American-led effort in Iraq — send in the United Nations.

For Europeans, the United Nations' presence would provide a global-law seal of approval and a counterweight to American influence.

For the American-appointed Iraqi Governing Council, it would introduce a notion of outside acceptance.

Public opinion surveys of Americans showing 60 percent approving of President Bush's conduct of the Iraq operation also show nearly 70 percent of those polled calling for greater United Nations activity there. Even the United Nations-wary Bush administration has joined in the calls for the world body to get more involved right away.

Yet, with these urgent summonses coming into its New York headquarters from all sides, the United Nations itself is resisting. It is doing so despite being a champion of joint international endeavours, an experienced hand at helping restore post-conflict societies and an institution hounded by detractors' charges that its performance in Iraq is proving its irrelevance.

The issue for Kofi Annan, the Secretary General, is what the United Nations' precise role would be and whether its people would be safe.

He pulled out all non-Iraqi staff members in October after a surge of attacks on relief workers and diplomats and the bombing of the organization's Baghdad headquarters in

which 22 people, including the mission chief, Sergio Vieira de Mello, were killed.

In a chilling comment later to foreign ministers meeting in Geneva, Mr. Annan underlined how gravely he viewed the responsibility of having clear orders for his people. "Bad resolutions," he said, "kill people."

He is now committed to running the Iraq mission from offices in Cyprus and Jordan and only beginning to relocate staff members to Baghdad next summer when the transfer to Iraqi authorities is to begin.

But he is facing pressure to move back into the country sooner than that, and as in many other instances concerning Iraq, the debate has cast the United Nations and the United States in opposition to one another.

Mr. Annan's suspicions of the United States are palpable. In a year-end news conference, he betrayed his irritation at the absence of any mention of the United Nations in the November agreement on the political timetable in Iraq.

"There have been some questions about whether this was an omission or a message," he commented.

Mr. Annan says he will not send his people back until their function is more clearly spelled out. American diplomats counter that Security Council resolutions to which they agreed this fall provide that clarity.—Internet

Bulgarian soldiers among 13 killed in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 28 Dec—At least 13 people, including four Bulgarian soldiers, were killed and 172 people injured in almost simultaneous bomb attacks on a military base, city hall and other facilities in Karbala in central Iraq on Saturday.

Among the dead were four Bulgarian soldiers, who were deployed in the area as part of Polish-led multinational forces, according to media reports.

Insurgents detonated four suicide car bombs and fired mortar shells and grenades, US Army Brig Gen Mark

Kimmitt told reporters in Baghdad.

Seven Iraqi police and civilians were killed and 135 others injured in the attacks.

Karbala is a holy Shiite city located some 50 kilometres south of Baghdad.

Internet

Iraqi promises level playing field for contracts

CAIRO, 28 Dec—A member of Iraq's Governing Council assured Egyptians on Saturday that the council would not follow the United States in discriminating against companies from countries that opposed the US invasion.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshiyar Zebari told reporters after talks with Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Maher that the US decision to discriminate in giving reconstruction contracts applied only to contracts financed by the United States.

"This is an American decision and the money is American money and comes from the grant offered to Iraq, which is 18 billion US dollars. They are free to dispose of this money," he said.

"But as for us as Iraqis, we do not discriminate... The Governing Council will have a major influence in preparing the budget for 2004 and in this budget, and in future contracts, Iraq will take into account all the interests of countries in the reconstruction process," he added.

The United States decided earlier this month to make US-funded reconstruction contracts available to companies from countries which supported the invasion of Iraq, but not to those which opposed the war, such as Egypt.

The decision was a blow to Egyptian companies, some of which could be well placed to operate in Iraq. One Egyptian mobile phone company, Orascom Telecom, has a contract to operate in Iraq but it is not funded by US taxpayers. The measure for awarding contracts would be "the best and the most appropriate price, without discrimination", Zebari said.

Apart from a US grant of 18 billion US dollars, Iraq also has access to revenue from the export of Iraqi oil.

MNA/Reuters

Yearbook of PRC published

BEIJING, 28 Dec—Both the Chinese and English-language versions of the 2003 Yearbook of the People's Republic of China (PRC) have been published by the Xinhua news agency.

The yearbook will be distributed at home and abroad, according to official sources. The yearbook, the 23rd since 1981, contains over three million Chinese characters, and all its figures have been

checked by experts from different central and local government departments.

It is a handy reference work for both Chinese and overseas readers.

MNA/Xinhua

Pertamina to restart oil exploration in Iraq

JAKARTA, 28 Dec—Indonesia's state-run oil and gas company Pertamina will resume oil exploration in Iraq, *Bisnis Indonesia* newspaper reported Saturday.

The company will send a team to conduct a seismic test in Iraq's western desert next year as part of the exploration activities, said the report.

Pertamina reportedly planned to invest 24 million US dollars in the western desert bloc after the Iraqi Government last year awarded the company three large oil fields with a combined reserve of three million barrels of crude oil.

But the legality of the contract is in question as it was signed under former Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein's regime without being preceded by a competitive bidding process.

"Pertamina signed the contract with the Iraqi legitimate government of Saddam Hussein at that time. We rely on this," Pertamina spokesman Ridwan Nyak Baik was quoted as saying.

He said the new Iraqi Government should not arbitrarily annul the contract signed by a legitimate government.

Meanwhile, oil and gas

director-general Iin Arifin Takhyian said that Pertamina has opened a branch office in Iraq to follow on the contract. His remarks came after a report saying that Iraqi officials refused Pertamina to start oil exploration activities in the country.

MNA/Xinhua

ဝက်မွန်အား ခေတ်ကျော်လွှား



A little girl clings to her father's legs as a US Army soldier frisks him at a checkpoint in Baghdad on 27 Dec, 2003.—INTERNET

Latvia bans US beef imports

RIGA, 28 Dec—Latvia announced Friday it had banned beef imports from the United States, following the discovery of one case of mad cow disease in the US state of Washington.

Ilze Vilne, an expert from the country's food and quarantine bureau, said Latvia made the decision as the case had been confirmed by a British laboratory as mad cow disease.

The US Government announced on Tuesday that a Holstein cow in a Washington State farm had tested positive for mad cow disease.

More than 20 countries, including top importers like Japan and Mexico, suspended imports of beef and related products from the United States after detection of the disease.

Mad cow disease, also known as bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), is a brain-wasting disease thought to be transmitted from animal feed containing animal parts. The disease is also linked to a fatal brain-wasting disease in humans. The disease, first found in Britain in 1986, was then spread to other European and Asian countries. This is the first time the disease has been reported in the United States.

MNA/Xinhua



US soldiers secure the area in Karbala, about 110 kms south of Baghdad, Iraq, where rebels unleashed a massive and coordinated assault on a pair of military bases and the governor's office on 27 Dec, 2003, killing four coalition soldiers.

INTERNET

Guerilla bombs injure six US troops in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 28 Dec — Guerillas detonated three homemade bombs in separate incidents Saturday that set aflame a fuel depot and injured six American soldiers, the military said. Four US troops were killed in bomb blasts and a mortar attack Thursday and Friday, and another died in a traffic accident, bringing the death toll for US troops in Iraq this week to 11.

The violence serves as a reminder that guerillas remain defiant despite the capture of Saddam Hussein.

In the northern city of Mosul on Saturday, witnesses said guerillas fired from a car on a US convoy.

The soldiers pursued the attackers, and shot and killed four of them. The military, which usually only reports deaths of coalition soldiers, did not confirm that report.

Also in Mosul, rebel gunmen on Friday assassinated a tribal leader who backed the coalition. Anti-US guerillas have targeted Iraqi police and other officials who cooperate with the US-led occupation authorities.

Air Force Capt. Patricia Teran-Matthews,

a US military spokeswoman, said five soldiers were injured when a US convoy hit a "daisy chain" of two homemade roadside bombs in Baghdad, and another soldier was hurt in a similar roadside blast at Habaniyah, west of the capital.

Another bomb exploded at a fuel depot near Latifiyah, south of Baghdad, causing no injuries but igniting a big fire, she said.

Angry witnesses in Baghdad's al-Qalani district charged US troops fired indiscriminately after their convoy was attacked, and pointed to bullet holes in the windshields and windows of three cars in a line of vehicles in which owners had spent the night in hopes of getting rationed fuel.

Internet

China to adopt direct management system for land officials

BEIJING, 28 Dec — The Chinese Government has decided to put land officials below the provincial level under the direct management of superior land departments in a bid to tighten its control over land resources, according to sources at the Ministry of Land and Resources.

This is an important decision of the central government for improving the land management system, said Sun Wensheng, Minister of Land and Resources, at the National Conference of Land Officials here Saturday.

At present, local land officials are managed by local governments, which has set up barriers to the smooth implementation of orders from the superior land departments.

The direct management system will ensure the implementation of orders in local regions, and tighten central government's control over land resources, said Sun.

In recent years, many local governments have

abused land-use rights on the excuse of economic development, which has seriously affected the security of agriculture and grain production. In 2003, the central government reinforced its efforts to regulate the rules governing the land market, and has put a halt to the trend of abuse of land requisition in economic development zones.

To date, 2,426 out of the 6,015 economic development zones or industrial parks have been abolished, and 294 have been merged with others. Meanwhile, about 168,000 land fraud cases have been dealt with.

Sun said there are still barriers to land protection and proper land use. It is hard to conduct strict super-

vision over the enforcement of land-related laws and regulations, he noted. Land management is very lax in some areas, and the abuse of land use is still serious, he warned.

He stressed that land resources departments should take the implementation of the policy on arable land protection as a major task, and improve land market management.

Sun urged the departments concerned to improve legislation concerning fixed assets registration and land use and requisition. In addition, he asked local land departments to start investigations into how to amend the present laws on land management and mineral resources. —MNA/Xinhua

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Study urges UAE banks to embark on transactions with Iraq

ABU DHABI, 28 Dec — The UAE banks should open branches in Iraq and seek to increase investment and trade with that country, according to a recent study by the Abu Dhabi Planning Department.

The increase of trade and investment volumes with Iraq will give an impetus to the service sector in the UAE, said the study prepared by Dr Ahmed Qassim Al Ahmed. It said that with the economic activity in the region back to normal and oil prices in global markets stable, the state's financial revenues would surge and so would its ability to fulfil its

obligations towards the national economy.

The study indicates that the merger of national banks will enhance the potentialities of national banks, enable them to compete with foreign banks and allow them the opportunity to expand their investment policies in order to benefit from global capital markets and bourses.

Dr Ahmed, in his study, has

stressed the need to support the tourism sector.

"In 2002, the UAE received as many as three million tourists from around the world and its share in the international tourism is not that little, thanks to amenities available," he said, adding that the number of hotels in the country has reached 364 by the end of 2002.

Internet



Iraqis gather around the rubble of a house in Karbala, about 110 kms south of Baghdad, Iraq, on 27 Dec, 2003 after guerillas unleashed a massive and coordinated assault on a pair of military bases and the governor's office. —INTERNET

British policeman shot dead by gunman in stolen car

LONDON, 28 Dec — A married police traffic officer was shot dead Friday when trying to arrest a man in a stolen car in northern England, a Sky News report said.

He and his male colleague stopped a BMW in a routine check in Leeds as the gunman, who was thought to be white and in his 30s or 40s, pulled out a handgun and opened fire. His colleague, who was seriously injured, has been undergoing surgery but were not thought to be in life-threatening condition. The gunmen shot the two police officers both "several times", Detec-

tive Superintendent Chris Gregg with West Yorkshire Police was quoted as saying.

After the shooting the gunman threatened a couple at gunpoint before taking their car to escape.

More than 50 police officers have been killed since 1980 in the battle against the increasing violence on Britain's streets.

MNA/Xinhua

Over one million Thais to pay tax via Internet

BANGKOK, 28 Dec — Some one million Thais were expected to pay their tax via Internet, the Finance Ministry said on Friday.

People would be able to make their tax payments via the Internet on a 24-hour basis, said the Revenue Department's deputy director-general Jantima Sirisaengtaksin.

There were figures showing that 240,000 Thais had paid their income tax over the Internet in 2003 and the

number was expected to rise over one million in 2004, Jantima was quoted by the state-run Thai News Agency (TNA) as saying.

But she warned that the department would make random inspections to ensure that documents on tax payment were complete and correct.

The official said the government believed the use of Internet-based payment would save at least 53 baht (about 1.26 US dollars) per person in costs for the department, which would be 53 million baht (1.26 million dollars) for one million people.

MNA/Xinhua

Indonesia bans US cattle products import

JAKARTA, 28 Dec — Indonesia temporarily bans the import of cattle products from the United States for fear of mad cow disease outbreak, a local newspaper reported Friday.

Kompas newspaper quoted a senior official at the Agriculture Ministry as saying that the decision to temporarily ban US cattle product imports has been taken since December 24 in an emergency meeting.

"A decree concerning this matter will be signed very soon. But we have ordered officials in charge to temporarily ban the imports," said Bactiar Moerad.

Indonesia's cattle products from the

United States include beef meat, animals, milk, cheese and leather. The imports amounted to 62.3 million US dollars in 2002.

The newspaper also said the US Embassy has sent a letter to the Indonesian Agriculture Ministry to provide further details about the reported discovery of mad cow disease in the United States and crucial steps the US Government has been making to deal with the problem. —MNA/Xinhua



An Iraqi woman looks out of her gate as US soldiers patrol her street in Saddam Hussein's home town of Tikrit, Iraq, on 27 Dec, 2003. —INTERNET

Hailing the 56th Anniversary Independence Day:

Emerging roads and bridges like blossoming flowers throughout the Union

Tekkatho Maung Thu Hline

Enormous Progress has now been made in the transportation sector. All over the country, the number of motor roads, railroads, airways and waterways, and bridges are on the increase amazingly. Why so at this time? My answer to that question will be given based on my personal experience.

It was an incident that happened to me on my way back to my native town Ye from Yangon some 40 years ago.

At that time, there was a railroad linking Yangon and Mawlamyine. But, it was not a safe journey because there

was armed insurgency which broke out after independence was regained. Worst areas were those around Bilin and Thaton.

People could not pay any heed to those dangers as they had their reasons to travel. As there were few motor roads, only trains were used. The trains were escorted by members of the Tatmadaw. When the train we were travelling on pulled up at Kyaikto station, I noticed that it was stopping there too long. We learnt that a train that had gone before ours came under attack at Hninpalet station near Bilin.

There was no doubt it was the hallmark of armed insurgents. Having stopped for a long time at Kyaikto station, our train continued. Passengers were in a state of panic. Luckily we reached Mottama station safely.

Passengers had to wait Z-craft ferry to go to Mawlamyine. As the number of Z-craft was little, we had to wait for long. Therefore, passengers relied on sampans plying Mottama and Mawlamyine. The sampans at that time were not motorized. The Gulf of Mottama was at the confluence of the Gyaing river and the Thanlwin river and its current was very rapid. To cross the river by boat was a matter of life and death.

We had to rely on train



Tatmadawmen actively taking part in building of Aunglan-Hsathwa railroad.

to continue to Ye from Mawlamyine. The nearby areas of Anin station and Lamaing station were where insurgents were active most on Mawlamyine-Ye railroad. The insurgents coming from Mawkanin often blew up bombs around Lamaing station and committed robberies.

We arrived at Ye from Mawlamyine safe and sound. The railroad ended there. Although there was a motor road linking Ye and Asin village, the road was very rough and notorious for lootings committed by insurgents. Therefore, passengers had to stream down Ye river. But, sometimes the insurgents opened fire from the other bank of the river.

At last, we saw our native town. Peace did not prevail even there. Our family had to hide in a cell under the house as the insurgents entered the village and sprayed bullets. To this day, the memory is still with me.

Although independence was regained in the country at that time, the national races had no chance of enjoying the taste of independence to the full. The national people were living in constant fear because of the splits within parties and sects and the lootings and robberies committed by insurgents. It was also the time when internal stability, the rule of law and the economy of the people were all on the decline. Therefore, the development of national races was a distant reality. The insurgents creating chaotic conditions were in fact the national brethren living in the same land drinking water from the same source. On account of the sectarian and ideological differences, they went underground. If efforts were made to develop the country with the combined strength of all national brethren, a modern nation would have taken shape.

Therefore, after 1988, the Tatmadaw government laid down the twelve political, economic and social objectives and gave top priority to the tasks for stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity and prevalence of law and order. It could make peace with the armed groups. The national race leaders who had exchanged arms for peace have been taking part in development projects in the respective regions at their full capacity hand in hand with the Tatmadaw and the people. As a result, with the development of the political sector, peace has been restored successfully the length and breadth of the nation. And Myanmar nationals can freely run their businesses and travel wherever they like across the country.

Thanks to the combined and united efforts made day in, day out by the government and the people in nation-building tasks, the nation has developed unprecedentedly.

There has emerged a network of roads, bridges and railroads stretching the whole nation. So, now one can travel from Yangon to Mawlamyine and then to Ye without crossing any rivers and creeks by boat. And one can directly travel between Yangon and Mawlamyine by car passing Thanlwin Bridge (Hpa-an), Gyaing (Zarthabyin) Bridge and Attaran River-crossing Bridge through Hpa-an in Kayin State. Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine) is in the course of construction to enable the people to travel to Mawlamyine by crossing the river from Mottama bank to Mawlamyine bank. In the past, construction of Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine) was just a dream because of powerful current in the gulf, vast water surface of the river and lack of peace and stability. (See page 7)

No	Name of Bridge and location	Length (feet)
1.	Pathwe Bridge (Pantanaw)	420
2.	Kyaunggon Bridge (Kyaunggon)	600
3.	Thongwa Town Bridge (Thongwa)	224
4.	Kyonkanaung Bridge (Pantanaw)	240
5.	Thayu Creek Bridge (An)	320
6.	Bon Creek Bridge (Kale)	300
7.	An Creek Bridge (An)	540
8.	Bodhi Bridge (Pantanaw)	180
9.	Mezali Bridge (Nyaungdon)	240
10.	Kyauk Creek Bridge (Yekyi)	246
11.	Ngwon River Bridge (Yekyi)	1164
12.	Thongwa Exit Bridge (5/48) (Thongwa)	224
13.	Dagon Myothit Bridge (North Okkalapa)	600
14.	Natho Creek Bridge (Kyaukhtu)	180
15.	Ma Mya Creek Bridge (Myanaung)	328
16.	Kanyin Creek Bridge (Ingapu)	328
17.	Thebyu Creek Bridge (Ingapu)	246
18.	Zawgyi River Bridge (3/402) (Kyaukse)	210
19.	Thebyu Creek Bridge (Kyaikto)	180
20.	Thakhut River Bridge (Kawhm)	495
21.	Dayebo Bridge (Hlegu)	220
22.	Thanlyin Bridge (Yangon Division)	5977
23.	Shwehlay Bridge (Thandwe)	600
24.	Teinyo Bridge (MraukU)	300
25.	Nyaungbinwun Bridge (Sagaing Division)	600
26.	Bago River Bridge (Bago)	290
27.	Einme Bridge (Einme)	276
28.	Thanatpinyoe Bridge (Yekyi)	180
29.	Apinhnitse Bridge (Pathein)	220
30.	Lilu Bridge (Namhsan)	300
31.	Bayintnaung Bridge (Yangon)	1640
32.	Watpote Bridge (Thegon Township)	180
33.	Tapain Bridge (Moma)	320
34.	Thaik Creek Bridge (Paukkaung)	198
35.	Ba Maung Bridge (Paukkaung)	226
36.	Kyeintali River Bridge (Gwa)	700
37.	Two Miles Bridge (Mongpyin)	220
38.	Hlaing River Bridge (Uto) (Taikkyi)	780
39.	Myitha River Bridge (Gangaw)	600
40.	Gabani Bridge (Kale)	595
41.	Kiddapana (Kyauktan)	188
42.	Khanaung Creek Bridge (Kyauktan)	180
43.	Tabat Creek Bridge (Waingmaw)	500
44.	Tawpale Bridge (Kungyangon)	186
45.	Yu Creek Bridge (Tamu)	320
46.	Fillin Bridge (Tamu)	250
47.	Hlaingwa Bridge (Kawkaik)	240
48.	Thamayoe Bridge (Ayadaw)	748
49.	Myaungmya Bridge (Myaungmya)	1270
50.	Pazunphay Bridge (Thandwe)	300
51.	Yaw Creek Bridge (Seikphyu)	530
52.	Nat Creek Bridge (Bogale)	300
53.	Thanlwin Bridge (Tarkawet) (Tangyan)	600
54.	Dedalu Bridge (Pyapon)	400
55.	Mann Creek Bridge (Minbu)	900

56.	Nwetame Bridge (Salin)	1200
57.	Seikma Creek Bridge (Bogale)	280
58.	Ooyin Creek Bridge (Kyaiklat)	300
59.	Khattiya Bridge (Mabun)	420
60.	Thanlwin Bridge (Hpa-an Town)	2252
61.	Ohnte Creek Bridge (An)	270
62.	Ngamoyeik Bridge (Parami) (Yangon)	664
63.	Nawaday Bridge (Pyay)	4183
64.	Myaungbwe Bridge (MraukU)	740
65.	Pyayyesin Bridge (Pyay)	183
66.	Labutta (Pinlelay) Bridge (Myaungmya)	1300
67.	Mabun Bridge (Mabun)	2362
68.	Var Bridge (Falam)	340
69.	Yoe Creek Bridge (Kyauktaw)	420
70.	Attaran Bridge (Mawlamyine)	1420
71.	Winwa Bridge (Thayetchaung)	500
72.	Linlonbin Bridge (Nyaungdon)	180
73.	Mone Creek Bridge (Pwintbyu)	1300
74.	Kin Creek Bridge (Ponnagyun)	440
75.	Auksu Bridge (Nyaungdon)	180
76.	Dwayawady MyoU Bridge (Thandwe)	540
77.	Pon Creek Bridge (Hsihseng)	220
78.	Bala Min Htin Bridge (Myitkyina)	2688
79.	Palauk Bridge (Palaw)	500
80.	Palaw Bridge (Palaw)	600
81.	Mekane Bridge (Myawady)	182
82.	Dotawady Bridge (TadaU)	700
83.	Thanlwin Bridge (Tarhsan) (Mongpan)	900
84.	Ngamoyeik (Thingangyun)	700
85.	Gyaing (Zarthabyin) Bridge (Hpa-an)	2900
86.	Tonghong Bridge (Nyaungshwe)	240
87.	Bridge No 2/83 (Waw)	180
88.	Myitmakha Bridge (Letpadan)	1520
89.	Beza-in Bridge (Yekyi)	360
90.	Gyaing (Kawkaik) Bridge (Kawkaik)	1200
91.	Nammyitkha Bridge (Waingmaw)	260
92.	Dalat Creek Bridge (An)	990
93.	Pikauk Bridge (Kyauktaw)	360
94.	Yaw Creek Bridge (Myebon)	1100
95.	Maliyan Bridge (Waingmaw)	320
96.	Chaungdwin Bridge (Pyapon)	236
97.	Panlaung Six-lane Bridge (TadaU)	300
98.	Inlan Bridge (Taikkyi)	205
99.	Donbyaikin Bridge (Taikkyi)	200
100.	Hsinbyushin Bridge (ChaungU)	4957
101.	Bo Myat Tun Bridge (Nyaungdon)	8544
102.	Yamaung Bridge (Minbya)	1300
103.	Kissapanadi Bridge (Kyauktaw)	2513
104.	Uto Creek Bridge (Pathein)	900
105.	Min Creek Bridge (Sittway)	2003
106.	Pantanaw Bridge (Pantanaw)	420
107.	Hlaing River Bridge (Myochaung) (Hmawby)	1940
108.	Kaingshe Bridge (Taungup)	540
109.	Nansanyan Bridge (Moma)	400

(from page 6)

The 11,575-foot-long Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine) Construction Project will be completed soon. On completion, it will be the longest bridge in the nation. The Ye River-crossing bridge was inaugurated on 25 November 2003. And there has emerged the railroad leading to Dawei. Mawlamyine-Ye-Dawei Road has been extended reaching up to Kawthoung directly. With the emergence of this road, people can directly travel by car to and fro between Kachin State, northernmost part, and Taninthayi Division, southernmost part of Myanmar. That road is a main Union Highway of the

road and Nawaday Bridge or through An Pass and Ayeyawady Bridge (Magway).

Ayeyawady Division is endowed with rivers and creeks. However, as the consequence of the construction of roads and bridges wherever necessary, local residents can go anywhere in the area. And, agricultural produce and other goods from Ayeyawady Division, Myanmar granary, can be conveniently transported to other parts of the country in a short time.

Indeed, roads and bridges are the strength of a nation. In the past, the transport link of Myanmar lies between south and north of

toung, Sittway-An-Minbu, Kawthoung-Bokpyin-Dawei-Mawlamyine, Taungup-Ma-ei-Kyaukpyu, Monywa-Hkamti, Minbu-Seikpyu-Pakokku-Monywa, Minhla-Thayet-Pyay, Monywa-Kalewa, Pyinmana-Taungdwingyi, Pyawbwe-Natmauk-Magway and Toungoo-Pyay roads.

Among the roads constructed in States and Divisions are Pyay-Aunglan-Taungdwingyi, Pakokku-Chauk, Shwenyaung-Taunggyi-Saikkhaung, Pakokku-Chaung U, Budalin-Ye U-Khin U, Yangon-Bagan, Namhsan-Mongnai, Nyaungshwe-Yaksawk, Aungpan-Loikaw, Ye-Dawei and Yaypokni-



Yangon-Pyay road was upgraded into a modern highway for smooth transportation.

nation.

There are also several roads directly linking eastern part and northern part of the country. In the past, the people had to rely mainly on only waterway and airway

the nation on the east of Ayeyawady River. Now, new roads, bridges and railroads have been constructed after laying down strategies for ensuring a transportation network cov-

erage, peace and stability.

The Ministry of Construction has constructed 165 bridges of 180 feet and above from 1988 to date. In 1988, there were only 461 roads stretching 13,600 miles. A



Kitsapanady Bridge in Kyauktaw Township, Rakhine State.

in travelling from Rakhine State to Yangon. But, now one can travel Rakhine State-Yangon journey by car through Gwa. Furthermore, one can journey from Rakhine State to all parts of the nation through Taungup Pass, Oakshitpin-Padaung

ering the whole nation leading to all directions.

Among the new roads are Mandalay-Myitkyina, Mandalay-Bhamo, Myitkyina-Putao, Hpa-an-Zarthaabin-Mawlamyine, Taunggyi-Ywangan-Hanmyinmo, Pyinmana-Sit-

total of 55 new roads stretching around 2,000 miles have emerged.

With regard to the railroad sector, the length of railroads has increased to nearly 3,000 miles, compared with 1,976 miles in 1988.



New building of Tachilek airport was opened on 19-2-1999. With 300x300 feet apron, the airport has 7050 feet long and 100 feet wide runway.

Besides, the transportation sector has been upgraded and so international air and water transport sectors and local air and water transport sectors have developed in harmony.

The number of airfields has also increased to 27, up from 21 in 1988. In the past, there were only six airfields that can be used by jets and now there are 18. Regarding the inland water transport sector, the number of jetties has grown to 27, up from 13 in 1988. Six container yards have been established. And there were 22 Five Star vessels in 1988, in comparison with 26 vessels now.

Myanmar Shipyard has been building and repairing local vessels and constructing vessels under the orders of foreign nations. During the period from 1988 to 2003, it is learnt that it has built 149 and repaired 347 vessels.

I would like to answer the question regarding the significant progress made in the nation.

In reality, it is the result of the might of the unity among the national brethren implementing the development projects through inde-

No	Name of Bridge and location	Length (feet)
110.	Mole Bridge (Momaug)	325
111.	Samonpauk (Myitha)	300
112.	Maha Bandoola Bridge (Pazundaung)	3643
113.	Aung Zeya Bridge (Insein)	3786
114.	Kabaung Bridge (Toungoo)	600
115.	Kadote Creek Bridge (DaikU)	196
116.	Bawle River Bridge (Yebawthaung) (Htantabin)	1940
117.	Taninthayi Birdge (Taninthayi)	1360
118.	Namtain Creek Bridge (North) (Kunlon)	432
119.	Ywale Yoegy Bridge (Yekyi)	300
120.	Hlaing River Bridge (Shwepyitha)	3415
121.	Kawliya Bridge (DaikU)	196
122.	Gonhnyintan Bridge (Kyaiklat)	1940
123.	Thaleikgyi Bridge (Pyapon)	180
124.	Tamanyoe Bridge (Hlegu)	180
125.	Barla Creek Bridge (Mingaladon)	211
126.	Hsethwa Bridge (Gwa)	660
127.	Anarawhta Bridge (Chauk)	5192
128.	Konminyoe Bridge (Yekyi)	240
129.	Yoenyinaung-2 Bridge (Yekyi)	180
130.	Meza Bridge (Indaw)	465
131.	Lamu Bridge (Taungup)	500
132.	Thegon Bridge (Kyaunggon)	300
133.	Pyay Creek Bridge (Thandwe)	440
134.	Tanlwe Creek Bridge (Taungup)	600
135.	Ma-ei Creek Bridge (Taungup)	940
136.	Laungat (Gangaw)	300
137.	Pyu Creek Bridge (Pyu)	468
138.	Tanai Bridge (Tanai)	942
139.	Matlan Bridge (Langkho)	240
140.	Shwelaung Bridge (Shwelaung)	1900
141.	Zawgyi Bridge (Kyaukse)	210
142.	Kattel Bridge (Tidden)	480
143.	Mann Creek Bridge (Saku)	420
144.	Kyaukkyipauk Bridge (An)	300
145.	Tangga Bridge (Madaya)	360
146.	Phaunggyi Bridge (Hlegu)	240
147.	Ayeyawady River Bridge (Magway) (Magway)	8989
148.	Lanthamaing Bridge (Wakema)	220
149.	Wakema Bridge (Wakema)	3020
150.	Sittaung Bridge (Shwekyin-Madauk) (Shwekyin)	1500
151.	Yenwe Bridge (Pyuntanza)	360
152.	Chindwin Bridge (Monywa)	4730
153.	Shweli Bridge (Katha)	2330
154.	Ayeyawady Bridge (Dedaye)	4088
155.	Paungtoke Bridge (MraukU)	240
156.	Hoping Bridge (Hoping)	200
157.	Dakha Bridge (Kangyidaunt)	1400
158.	Langkho Bridge (Langkho)	300
159.	Nanmwe Bridge (Nammwe)	300
160.	Kwin Creek Bridge (Pyu)	300
161.	Baingda Bridge (DaikU)	300
162.	Laynya-Mandaing Bridge (Bokpyin)	860
163.	Kyweku-Kyaukphya Bridge (Myeik)	3600
164.	Sanepauk Bridge (An)	789
165.	Ye River Bridge (Ye)	857

tion at all. Such a nation can achieve great success in carrying out nation-building tasks and development projects.

In other words, the tasks for ensuring smooth and secure

transport will be carried out in the Union of Myanmar for ever.

Translation:
KTY + MWT + MS

Cash donated to renovation of Myatsaw Nyinaung Pagoda

YANGON, 28 Dec—The second cash donation ceremony for all-round renovation of Myatsaw Nyinaung Pagoda in Toungoo was held at the Dhammayon at the pagoda on 26 December morning.

Present were Yangon Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Silavamsa of Toungoo and members of the Sangha, Chairman of Bago Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Southern Command Brig-Gen Ko Ko and wife, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Thura Maung Ni, Brig-Gen Thura Myint Thein of Toungoo Station, local authorities, departmental officials and wellwishers. Chairman of the All-round Renovation of the pagoda Chairman of Toungoo District Peace and Develop-

ment Council Lt-Col Tun Aye supplicated on progress of work.

Commanding Officer of the local battalion Lt-Col Win Myint handed over K 300,000 donated by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe to the commander. Then, the commander and officials accepted K 26,065,720 donated by wellwishers including K 5.5 million by Vice-Chairman of City Bank U Khin Maung Aye-Daw Wutyi Aye; K 3 million by U Kyaw Win-Daw Tin Moe Moe Lwin; K

2.2 million by U Win Myint-Daw Nwe Nwe Win; and K 1 million by Kanbawza Bank Ltd Chairman U Aung Ko Win-Daw Nan Than Htwe.

Next, the commander inspected renovation tasks at the pagoda and fulfilled the requirements.

On 27 December morning, the commander attended the mass sports activities for the last week of December on Shwemawdaw Pagoda Road in Bago. Over 50,000 local people participated in it. Similar activities were held in the townships in Bago Division.—MNA

Tatmadaw and departmental vehicles checked on dry day

YANGON, 28 Dec—At the main points in Yangon City from 7 am to 5 pm today, the dry day inspection teams checked Tatmadaw and departmental cars and drivers on observance of the dry day disciplines—bearing of dry day passes, driver's licences and wheel taxes, wearing of departmental uniforms by drivers and breaking of traffic rules.

Vice-Chairman of Dry Day Supervisory Committee Minister at the Prime Minister's Office Maj-Gen Thein Swe and members Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint

Kyu, Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay, Provost Marshal Maj-Gen Saw Hla and Director-General Brig-Gen Khin Yi of Myanma Police Force, senior military officers, directors-general, Secretary Deputy Director-General U Sein Hla of the Government's Office and Acting Commander of Yangon Division Wireless and Traffic Police Force Police Maj Nyunt Aung divided into two groups supervised dry day inspection teams which were checking Tatmadaw and departmental vehicles this morning and afternoon.—MNA



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe presents prizes to winners in Defence Services Commander-in-Chief's Shield and Trophy Sports Competitions.—YANGON COMMAND

Victorious athletes of Yangon Command honoured

YANGON, 28 Dec—A ceremony to honour athletes of Yangon Command who emerged champion in the Defence Services Commander-in-Chief's Shield and Trophy Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) sports meets was held at the Yangon Command at 6.30 pm today, attended by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and wife Daw Khin Thet Htay.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Commander of Yangon Com-

mand Col Way Lwin and wife, commanders of military regions and their wives, senior military officers of Yangon Command and their wives, members of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council and their wives, local authorities and their wives, managers and athletes of victorious sports teams and others.

Sports teams representing Yangon Command—Youth Football Team, Men's Football Team, Acrobatic Team, Judo Team, Track & Field Team, Cycling Team, Water Polo Team and Rowing Team

presented their shields and trophies. Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe accepted the shields and trophies and presented prizes to the sports teams.

Next, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe made a speech.

Afterwards, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe and wife Daw Khin Thet Htay hosted a dinner in honour of the victorious athletes of Youth Football Team, Men's Football Team, Acrobatic Team, Judo Team, Track & Field Team, Cycling Team, Water Polo Team and Rowing Team.—MNA



Minister at the Prime Minister's Office Maj-Gen Thein Swe and party supervise tasks of dry day inspection teams.—MNA

Tipitakadhara ...

(from page 16)

under the supervision of the Sayadaws of Pariyatti Sarthintalks.

He said Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination is the highest one. Only candidates who can recite Pitaka in Pali by heart and know its meaning well can pass the examination. There are only nine members of the Sangha who received Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida titles in 56 years. He said altogether 262 candidates—155 in oral and 107 in written examinations are enrolled to sit for the examination.

Next, Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung supplicated on religious matters. He said Pariyatti examinations are held for propagation of the Sasana.

The examination will last 33 days. Wellwisher U Kyin Hok-Daw Phwa Kyi offered 'soon' to the members of the Sangha and the candidates.—MNA

Minister of Culture and Information of Laos arrives

YANGON, 28 Dec — A six-member delegation headed by Mr Phandouangchit Vongsa, Minister of Culture and Information of Lao People's Democratic

Republic, arrived here on a goodwill visit by air this evening.

The delegation was welcomed at Yangon International Airport by Deputy

Minister for Culture Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung, Ambassador of LPDR to Myanmar Mr Chanthavy Bodhisane and officials.

MNA



Minister of Culture and Information Mr Phandouangchit Vongsa and party being welcomed at the airport.—MNA

Drug traffickers sentenced

YANGON, 28 Dec—A combined team comprising members of local intelligence unit, Yangon Special Anti-Drug Squad and Mingaladon Police Force, acting on a tip-off, on 4 January 2003 searched Maung Su (a) Ahnyatha (a) Mya Win on Aungmingalar Street in Kyusanmyoma, Mingaladon Township and arrested him together with 102.0561 grams of marijuana hidden under his shirt. Action was taken against Maung Su, son of U Nyo Yin, of Kyusankwetthit Village, Mingaladon Township under Section 15/19 (A) of Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law. He was sentenced to 20 years' imprisonment under Section 19 (A) and 5 years' imprisonment under Section 15 to serve separately by Yangon North District Court on 19 November.

Likewise, a combined team comprising members of local intelligence unit, Yangon Special Anti-Drug Squad and the District Police Force, acting on information, on 1 February 2003 searched Ma Myint Myint Kyi, on 120th Street, Yedwington Ward, Mingalar Taungnyunt Township and arrested her together with 1,260 stimulant tablets hidden in her handbag. Action was taken against Ma Myint Myint Kyi (a) Shanabi, daughter of U Soe Myint, of No 52, 54th Street, Ward 2, Pazundaung Township under Section 19 (A) of Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law. Ma Myint Myint Kyi (a) Shanabi was sentenced to 20 years' imprisonment under Section 19 (A) by Yangon East District Court on 11 November.—MNA

Industry-1 Minister inspects ...

(from page 1)

Next, the minister inspected construction of the oil storage & pump house, the water purification station and clarifier water tanks No 1 and No 2, the chipper house, the screening and washing house and raft jetties on the bank of Ngawun River, installation of cranes and land preparation for building raw materials house.

Afterwards, he saw over the place for building 60-ton newsprint factory and 7,000 acres of tree plantations Kyaukchaunggyi reserve forest of Thabaung Township Forest Department.

While in Patheingyi, the minister inspected production process of Patheingyi Glass Factory.

MNA

Six resolutions of Bagan mass meeting on 1-1-2000 ushering in the 21st century

- We continue to regard Our Three Main National Causes as a national duty
- We shall steadfastly implement objectives laid down for political, economic and social development
- We shall safeguard our nation and citizens
- We shall build a peaceful and stable nation having high standard of living
- We shall strive for development of human resources of the State
- We shall strive for the flourishing and propagation of Union Spirit in the State.



Myanmar Education Committee Chairman Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects the computer skill of students on the third floor of Diamond Jubilee Hall on 27-12-2003. (News reported) — MNA



Myanmar Education Committee Chairman Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attends the opening ceremony of School Family Day on 27-12-2003. (News reported) — MNA

Hockey coach arrives

YANGON, 28 Dec — A training course for hockey coaches will be conducted soon under the joint sponsorship of the International Olympic Committee, the Myanmar Olympic Committee, the Federation of International Hockey and the Myanmar Hockey Federation.

World's No 1 hockey coach of Pakistan Mr Sultan Sikandar Ghuman arrived here by air this afternoon.

President of the Myanmar Hockey Federation Brig-Gen Myo Myint and Executive Committee members welcomed him at Yangon International Airport. The training course will be conducted from 29 December 2003 to 5 January 2004. Altogether 45 trainees from States and Divisions are attending the course.

World's No 1 Hockey referee Mr Ky Koow Alia of India will also arrive here on 8 January 2004 and the referees training course will be conducted.

MNA

Fence to be set up against wild elephants in Bangladesh

DHAKA, 28 Dec — The local authorities in southeast Bangladesh planned to erect barriers to fence off ravaging wild elephants, reported the *Daily Star* on Saturday.

According to the Forest Ministry, wild elephants have killed 12 people and injured scores of others in 2003 in Rangamati, the hilly frontier district in southeast Bangladesh.

The frequent attacks by the wild tuskers also damaged villagers' property including houses and crops,

leading to financial losses of some 113,333 US dollars. Many panic-stricken villagers had to flee home to safety elsewhere.

The wild elephants stormed into human habitats in search of food, and the attacks have now reached an alarming level.

MNA/Xinhua

Sri Lanka sees more accident victims during Christmas season

COLOMBIA, 28 Dec — The number of accident victims in Sri Lanka has risen during the Christmas festive season compared to the corresponding period last year with road traffic accidents taking the heaviest toll, the official *Daily News* reported on Saturday. The total number of accidents reported to the Colombo National Hospital on December 24-25 increased from 508 to 553, up by 9 per cent compared to the corresponding period during the previous year.

The number of admissions to hospital due to accidents grew from 140 to 187 during the two days with 127 road accident victims. Most accidents were blamed on liquor while the majority of cases were reported in the night, a hospital official said. Drunk and reckless driving as well as careless setting off of firecrackers are the major causes of accidents in the small Indian Ocean island. — MNA/Xinhua



Hockey coach of Pakistan Mr Sultan Sikandar Ghuman being welcomed at the airport by Myanmar Hockey Federation President Brig-Gen Myo Myint and officials — MHF



TATMAW WUSHU COMPETITIONS: The opening ceremony of the Tenth Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air Force) Wushu Competitions for the Defence Services Commander-in-Chief's trophy was held at the Shan State Gymnasium in Taunggyi of southern Shan State on 24-12-2003. New generation athletes seen presenting Wushu demonstrations at the opening ceremony. — NLM



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt unveils the signboard of multimedia teaching centre at Bago BEHS No 6 on 27-12-2003. (News reported)—MNA

Colombian drug kingpin surrenders to justice

BOGOTA, 28 Dec — Colombian drug kingpin Daniel Serrano surrendered himself to justice, police said on Saturday.

He went to the police department in the northern city of Bucaramanga to give himself up on Friday afternoon, according to police.

Serrano, whose extradition is sought by the United States, was immediately taken to Colombia's capital Bogota. Serrano was known as accountant of brothers Miguel and Gilberto Rodriguez Orejuela, the founders of the so-called Cali cartel, who are currently imprisoned in Colombia.

The United States has urged Colombia to extradite

Serrano, the Rodriguez brothers and William Rodriguez Abadia, Miguel's son, as well as three other individuals, who were involved in cocaine trafficking.

The US authorities said that while the brothers were in prison, William was in charge of the operations of the Cali cartel, which is still involved in drug trafficking and other criminal activity.

The United States accused the seven Colombians of drug trafficking, money laundering, bribing and the murder of witnesses in Co-

lombia.

In another victory against drug trafficking in Colombia, one of the largest drug producers in the world, the Colombian Navy said they had seized 67 tons of cocaine in the open sea and coastal areas this year.

Navy Commander Admiral Mauricio Soto said a total of 90 tons of chemicals, used in drug processing, were also seized by the Navy.

Colombia, situated in the well-known "Silver Triangle" of drug production in South America, reportedly produces three-fourths of the world's illicit cocaine, most of which goes to Europe and the United States. —MNA/Xinhua

Zambia arrests 15 suspected poachers

LUSAKA, 28 Dec — The Zambia Wildlife Authority (ZAWA) has arrested 15 suspected poachers, recovering 30 muzzle loaders and 82 kilos of assorted game meat, the official *Times of Zambia* newspaper reported Saturday.

ZAWA public relations officer Maureen Mwape was quoted as saying that the 15 poachers were arrested in a joint operation with the police in Rufunsa and other areas surrounding the lower Zambezi national park.

"The team recovered 30 locally made muzzle loaders and 82 kilos of assorted game meat from the suspects who are currently in custody and will appear in court soon," she said.

Mwape said ZAWA will continue with the clean-up operation in order to combat poaching in the lower Zambezi national parks, and the Rufunsa and Luano game management areas. —MNA/Xinhua

Four injured in light aircraft's forced landing in Chile

SANTIAGO, 28 Dec — Four people were injured when a light airplane force-landed on a Santiago street on Saturday.

The airplane caught fire after landing, but the fire did not spread to the nearby houses in La Florida neighbourhood, one of the densely populated areas in the capital.

Firemen rescued those on board before the airplane caught fire and sent them to the Santiago Central Hospital for treatment. On November 28, a Cessna Centurion light-airplane crashed at Penaleon, injuring four people, including two people on board and a woman whose house was rammed by the aircraft. —MNA/Xinhua



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt presents teaching aids to Headmistress Daw Khin Sein of BEHS No 6 in Bago on 27-12-2003. (News reported)—MNA

China seals off source of deadly gas leak

BEIJING, 28 Dec — Chinese emergency workers sealed off a natural gas well on Saturday, capping the source of a toxic gas cloud that killed nearly 200 people and poisoned thousands in southwestern Chongqing municipality.

Dressed in special breathing gear, a crew of 80 technicians began pouring hundreds of cubic metres of

mud into the well, plugging a deadly flow of natural gas and sulphurated hydrogen that turned surrounding farmland into a death zone late on Tuesday.

"The capping of the Chuandongbei well has been completed successfully," the official *Xinhua* news agency said soon after the operation began. In separate reports, *Xinhua* said air pressure around the cap had begun to drop 10 minutes after the capping procedure began. After the well was filled with mud, layers of cement would be added.

At least 198 people,

mostly villagers, and large numbers of livestock were killed after the blow-out, which spewed a poisonous gas cloud into the night sky. *Xinhua* said the toll had risen from the earlier reported 191 but gave no explanation.

More than 40,000 people were evacuated from villages within a radius of three miles from the remote site of the gas field, operated by state-run China National Petroleum Corp, parent of listed oil major Petrochina.

More than 9,000 people poisoned to varying degrees filled local hospitals. Rescue teams scoured surrounding villages, finding corpses strewn on roadsides. Others died as they slept.

State media have been full of photographs of children in hospital, their eyes sealed shut by the gas, and of dead livestock lying on village streets.

Rescue operations, delayed by a lack of protective equipment, ended on Saturday morning ahead of the capping operation.

The successful capping of the 400-metre deep gas well meant a recurrence of the blow-out was unlikely, *Xinhua* said. Dangerous substances lingering in the air would be cleared in an anti-chemical operation, the agency said but gave no details. —MNA/Reuters



Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe attends dinner hosted by Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs' Association for All China Women's Federation-ACWF Vice-President Mme Chen Xiurong and party on 27-12-2003. (News reported)—MNA

Hailing the 56th Anniversary Independence Day:**Increased production of the Ministry of Mines in the time of the State Peace and Development Council****Minerals exploited in the country from 1988 to 2003**

No	Subject	Unit	1988	2003
1.	Iron and steel	metric ton	7840	8626
2.	Coal	ton	29780	550278
3.	Cathode copper	metric ton	-	27173
4.	Jade	Kilogram in thousand	132	10849
5.	Gems	Carat in thousand	170	54460
6.	Pearl	quantity (momme)	15275 (7335)	117852 (39318)
7.	Limestone	ton	65862	128150
8.	Common quartz	ton	30143	90002

The Ministry of Mines is making earnest efforts for fulfilling the needs in nation-building tasks and establishing various industries by providing minerals of the country. Moreover, under the Private Investment Law, the ministry is allowing the private firms from home and abroad and joint ventures to expand export.

To be able to exploit and use the minerals in the country in the long run, the ministry is supervising the tasks under Myanmar Mines Law and Myanmar Gemstone Law.

No-1 Copper Mine

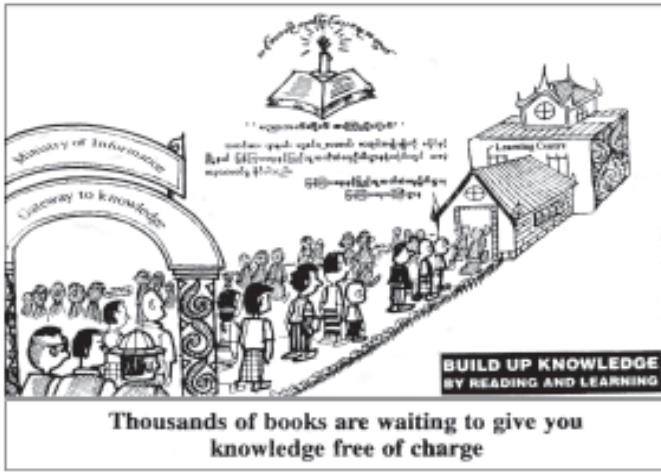
An aerial view of raw minerals collected in No-1 Mining Enterprise of the Ministry of Mines in Salingyi Township.

At No-1 Mining Enterprise, raw materials for producing copper are being collected and processed.

**Coal Deposits**

Coal deposits found in Manpanponmar region in Tangyan Township, Shan State (North). Coal produced in the coal mines in Shan State (North) is of high quality.





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Quality is Our Business

Chinese media pay tribute to Mao on his 110th birth anniversary

BEIJING, 28 Dec—Mao Zedong, the late Chinese leader and founding father of the People's Republic of China, was born 110 years ago. All major Chinese newspapers on Friday dedicated special reports to Mao.

The *People's Daily*, the organ of the state and the Communist Party of China, carried articles and stories about Mao, including reports of commemorative activities across the nation, recollections of the elderly in Mao's era, and theoretical explorations into Mao's thoughts.

"His outstanding achievements, glorious ideas and great charisma influence people generation after generation far beyond his own days," said the *People's Forum*, a column of the *People's Daily*.

Meanwhile, the paper's overseas edition carried reports on biographies and books in memory of Mao,

which are now best sellers on the Chinese Mainland.

The *Xinhua Daily Telegraph* filed a story about a couple's legendary romantic marriage, matchmade by Mao Zedong. The paper also reported Chinese young people's views on Mao and his thoughts.

"It is amazing to witness Mao creatively applying Marxism introduced from the Western world in the Chinese revolution and achieving great success," Guo Zhiqiang, a junior at Nanjing University, was quoted as saying.

The Shanghai-based *Wen Hui Bao* published its special edition in commemoration of Mao, which was high-

lighted by Mao's calligraphy and rare photos of the late leader. It also dedicated a full page to the memoirs of Mao's daughter, grandson and granddaughter.

The *China Daily*, an English language newspaper, said in a front page report that Mao's military, philosophical and literary teachings still influence China and many foreigners have learned through their personal experience of the influence of Mao on modern China's economic and social development.

China Central Television (CCTV) has released a TV serial "Mao Zedong the Poet" and a documentary serial "Mao Zedong—A Charismatic Leader" to commemorate the late leader.

A "Mao Zedong Memorial" on the Internet has been set up by 110 web sites to recall Mao.

"We miss you forever, Chairman Mao," postings said.

MNA/Xinhua

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French thieves drive victim home for Christmas Eve

PARIS, 28 Dec—A pair of thieves who seized a van loaded with pricey designer goods on Wednesday took a two-hour detour so they could drive the owner home for his Christmas Eve dinner, before fleeing with the loot.

Posing as police, the two men tricked the van driver into pulling over at a motorway intersection on the edge of Paris by chasing him in a

car fitted with a flashing blue light, a siren and a "police" sign, local media reported on Friday.

Despite being armed with guns and wearing balaclavas, the thieves showed some seasonal goodwill when they asked their victim where he lived, explaining "we don't want you to have too far to walk", according to police sources.

They then drove the man

around 185 miles to his home in Saint Souplets in eastern France, so he could arrive in time for the traditional Christmas meal which in France is eaten on the evening of December 24. Showing that Christmas spirit only goes so far, the man, whose van was loaded with clothes from labels like Gucci and Yves Saint Laurent, has filed a complaint with police.—MNA/Reuters

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Chinese Premier marks working for balanced growth next year

BEIJING, 28 Dec—Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao has marked the government's fiscal priorities for next year, stressing balanced growth.

The government will work to realize a balanced growth between urban and rural areas, between economic and social progress, and among different regions, Wen said.

More effort will be made to improve the living standards and environment for needy people and less developed regions, he added.

The country will better apply the proactive fiscal

policy and further economic restructuring, Wen said.

Wen said taxation should be carried out in line with laws to guarantee a stable and affluent state treasury.

Taxation reform will continue next year while government funds will be better managed to reduce risk, he

said. China's fiscal revenue is estimated to exceed two trillion yuan (about 244 billion US dollars) this year thanks to fast economic growth and improved corporate returns, said the State Administration of Taxation on December 18.

MNA/Xinhua

China, S Korea sign agreement on development loans

BEIJING, 28 Dec—South Korea will offer to China 25 million US dollars in development loans, according to an agreement between the two governments signed here Friday.

China will use the loans to promote the mechanization of rice growing in Hubei, Hunan, Anhui and Yunnan provinces. The term of the loans will be 30 years, including a 10-year grace period. The annual interest rate

of the loans is 2.5 per cent.

Most of the money will be used to purchase farming equipment for use in the four provinces.

The agreement was signed by Chinese Vice-Minister of Finance Li Yong and South Korean Ambassador to China Kim Ha Joong. The loans were part of the sixth batch of South Korean Economic Development and Cooperation Fund (EDCF).—MNA/Xinhua

Minor quake jolts southern Peru

LIMA, 28 Dec—An earthquake measuring 4.6 degrees on the Richter Scale alarmed in the early hours of Friday the population of the southern Peruvian state of Ica, 320 kilometres south of Lima, causing no injuries or damage.

The quake had its epicentre 33 kilometres southeast of the capital of Ica, at a depth of 52 kilometres, said the Geophysical Institute of

Peru. On Thursday night, another 4.4-degree quake hit the southern states of Arequipa, Moquega, Tacna and Puno, and no injuries or material damage were reported.

In June, 2001, a 6.8-degree earthquake jolted Arequipa, Moquega and Tacna, with a death toll of 200 and over 250 million US dollars in losses.

MNA/Xinhua

Storm leaves two dead, 15 injured in Argentina

Buenos Aires, 28 Dec—At least two people died and 15 others were injured on Friday after a storm hit the northern Argentine province of Cordoba, officials said.

The storm, accompanied by haze, left houses, billboards, electricity posts collapsed, and trees uprooted. Some 100 individuals were forced to evacuate.

Power supply and telephone service were dis-

rupted in parts of the province. At Cordoba, the capital with the same name, Mayor Luis Juez said that gusts were running at 90 kilometres per hour.

He said that a 60-year-old man and a 45-year-old woman were killed when their houses collapsed. The injured suffered from blows to the head as well as burns due to fires caused by short circuit.

MNA/Xinhua

Second herd quarantined in mad cow scare in Washington State

WASHINGTON, 28 Dec—The US Agriculture Department on Friday quarantined a second herd of cattle in Washington State in connection with the first US case of mad cow disease, as cattle producers scrambled to minimize damage to the 27-billion-US-dollar industry.

The cattle industry, reeling from the discovery of the

deadly, brain-wasting disease, on Friday withdrew objections to tighter controls that would prevent sick animals from entering the food supply.

The second Washington State herd placed under quarantine brings to 4,400 the number of animals under observation.

MNA/Reuters

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US, Canada at odds over mad cow origin

WASHINGTON, 28 Dec — The US Agriculture Department said on Saturday the Washington State dairy cow infected with mad cow disease had probably been imported from Canada but Canadian authorities called the statement premature.

Ron DeHaven, the USDA's chief veterinarian, told reporters the animal was likely imported into Idaho from Alberta, Canada, in August 2001.

"The positive animal likely entered the United States as part of a group of 74 dairy cattle that were imported through the border crossing at Eastport (in Idaho)," DeHaven said.

But in Ottawa, chief Canadian veterinarian Dr Brian Evans told a news conference: "It would be premature to draw such a conclusion at this time ... As yet, there is no definitive evidence that confirms that the BSE-infected cow originated in Canada."

In May this year, Canadian officials reported a single case of mad cow disease in a black Angus cow in Alberta, but the USDA said it was too early to speculate on whether the two cases were related.

This week's discovery of the first US case of mad cow disease in a 6-1/2 year-old Holstein dairy cow has halted most US exports of beef, sent food company stocks tumbling and shaken consumer confidence.

Some two dozen countries including Japan have banned US beef, seriously threatening the 27 billion-US-dollar US cattle industry.

DeHaven said the 74 imported cows were sent to a dairy farm in Mattawa, Washington and the infected cow was later sold to another dairy operation in Mabton, Washington. The USDA is still unsure where the cow was born.

The USDA, which has already quarantined two Washington herds, is investigating where the other 73 dairy cows went.

"We feel confident that we are going to be able to determine the whereabouts of most, if not all, of these animals within the next several days," DeHaven said. — MNA/Reuters

China's steel giant set to enter world's top 500

SHANGHAI, 28 Dec — The Shanghai Baosteel Group Corporation says it hopes to enter the world's top 500 enterprises this year, with sales revenue forecast to top 13.25 billion US dollars.

The figure far exceeds the 10.173 billion US dollars reported by the lowest ranked on Fortune's list in 2002, said Baosteel's President and General Manager Xie Qihua.

Xie said Baosteel aims to enter the top 500 by 2005 and become a world-leading multinational firm by 2010.

The steel giant has been rated BBB this year by Standard & Poor's, the prestigious international rating organization, for its successful reforms in management and production, as well as the massive potential for further expansion.

Baosteel annexed two

smaller state-owned, loss-making steel companies in 1998, which led Standard & Poor's to downgrade its rating.

But the annexed companies performed well, with substantial drops in debt burden, marked improvement in capital structure and cash flow, strong production capacity and optimized product structure.

The company recorded net profit of 3.803 billion yuan (458 million US dollars) in the first half of 2003, a jump of 183 per cent year on year, earlier reports said.

Fortune magazine began in 1990 to publish a ranking of the top 500 industrial enterprises worldwide.

The ranking is based mainly on operational revenues. Factors taken into consideration also include assets, net income, sales volume, number of employees, investment and dividends.

Most Chinese firms that have made the list so far are either from monopolistic sectors such as telecommunications, power, gas and petroleum or state-owned commercial banks.

MNA/Xinhua

Cold wave in north India brings toll to 34

NEW DELHI, 28 Dec — North India reeled under intense cold wave Friday with temperature plummeting by a few degrees claiming a woman's life and taking the countrywide toll to 34, according to the Press Trust of India (PTI).

While sub-zero temperatures in the mountains kept people indoors, the thick fog in the plains and hills disrupted normal life.

In Delhi, a dense fog throughout the night reduced visibility to around 100 metres making operation of flights and running of trains virtually impossible. Several flights and trains were cancelled or rescheduled.

MNA/Xinhua

China reports one suspected SARS case

BEIJING, 28 Dec — A 32-year-old man who has been receiving treatment in quarantine in south China's Guangdong Province was confirmed to be a suspected case of severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), said a spokesman of China's Ministry of Health Saturday afternoon.

The man, a freelance TV station worker, lives in Panyu District of Guangzhou, capital of Guangdong Province. He began to have a fever and headache in the evening of 16 December and went to see a doctor at No 1 Hospital affiliated to Zhongshan University on 20 December.

He was diagnosed as pneumonia with the right lower lung and was quarantined for treatment.

The patient was transferred to the quarantine ward of Guangzhou No 8 People's Hospital on 24 December.

The Health Ministry and a panel of medical specialists confirmed this case of suspected SARS on 26 December.

Wang Zhiqiong, deputy head of the provincial health department, said that the patient claimed he has stayed in Guangzhou City and eaten no wild animals for one month before hospitalization.

The provincial health department was not sure about his claim and is organizing further epidemic investigation and lab examinations.

This is the first suspected SARS case ever found since 23 May when the World Health Organization (WHO) lifted

the SARS-related travel advisory against Guangdong Province.

The first SARS case was found in Foshan City of the province in November, 2002.

Chinese Mainland's last two SARS patients were discharged from hospital on 16 August in Beijing after more than 100 days of medical treatment.

As of 10 am on 16 August, a total of 5,327 SARS cases were reported on the Chinese Mainland, 4,959 patients were cured and discharged from hospital.

Death toll from the disease stood at 349. Of the total figure, 2,521 SARS cases and 193 deaths from the disease were reported in Beijing.

MNA/Xinhua

Israel launches second commercial satellite

JERUSALEM, 28 Dec — Israel launched its second commercial communications satellite from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan on Saturday.

Live television pictures broadcast on Israeli television showed the lift-off at 2130 GMT of the Russian Soyuz-Fregat launch vehicle which carried the AMOS-2 satellite into space.

The operation was conducted by Starsem, a European-Russian space launching venture set up in 1996.

AMOS-1, launched in 1996 by Ariane space in French Guiana, was Israel's first communications satellite.

It provides broadcasting services for Israeli and for-

eign customers in the Middle East and Europe, serving Israeli satellite television company YES as well as US broadcaster HBO in Hungary, Poland, Slovakia, Romania and the Czech Republic.

AMOS-2 will expand capacity and coverage, providing access to the east coast of the United States and offering broadband services in addition to direct-to-home television distribution.

MNA/Reuters

Cambodia bans US beef imports due to mad cow disease

PHNOM PENH, 28 Dec — Cambodia has decided to temporarily ban the imports of US beef due to the mad cow disease reported in the country, the Cambodia Daily reported Saturday.

The border checkpoints authorities was informed Friday by the Commerce Ministry of the temporary ban, said the newspaper.

"The ministry hopes all vendors, importers and authorities will follow the order," Commerce Minister Cham Prasidh was quoted as saying. Commerce Ministry statistics showed that the country imported about

5,800 US dollars of US meat in 2002. Japan, South Korea, China and Thailand have halted US beef imports due to the outbreak of mad cow disease. Some supermarkets around Phnom Penh said they would stop buying US beef, which is mostly eaten as steaks in expensive restaurants or at the hamburgers that have popped up around town. — MNA/Xinhua



KONOS satellite image of historic Bam in southeastern Iran, taken from 423 miles in space on 27 Dec, 2003, just one day after the earthquake struck there. Whole blocks of homes that had collapsed onto their square lots may be discerned in the satellite imagery. Some smaller roads appear to be cluttered with debris and cars. — INTERNET

Egyptian human trafficker sentenced to seven years

CAIRO, 28 Dec — A Cairo court sentenced an Egyptian man to seven years in prison on Saturday for his role in the drowning of some 353 migrants on an overcrowded vessel trying to reach Australia in 2001.

The court in the Cairo district of Abdeen found Mootaz Muhammad Hasan guilty of manslaughter on the grounds that the vessel was not seaworthy.

Hasan, also known as Abu Quassey, was deported to Egypt from Indonesia this year after serving a six-month sentence there for visa violations. Indonesia turned down an Australia extradition request, citing "technical reasons".

Prosecutors told the court that Hasan and a colleague received 10,000 US dollars

from each family which boarded the vessel on the journey from Indonesia to Australia, where they intended to seek political asylum.

The 353 migrants, mostly Iraqis and Afghans, drowned when the vessel sank in the Indian Ocean off the Indonesian island of Sumatra in October 2001. Only 44 people survived.

Indonesia did not charge Hasan for arranging the journey because it has no law dealing with trafficking in humans. — MNA/Reuters

Para Games concludes in Vietnam

HANOI, 28 Dec— The 2nd ASEAN Para Games, the biggest sporting event for the disabled in South-East Asia, concluded here on Saturday with Thailand topping the medal tally.

"The Para Games is a regional major event. Besides its sports meaning, the Games shows the care and encouragement of the whole society towards disabled people," said Nguyen Danh Thai, chairman of Vietnam's Committee of Sports and Physical Culture, at the closing ceremony.

"Its success is not only manifested in sports achievements and medals, but also in steel will of those who have overcome their disability," he added.

After four days of competition, Thailand topped the medals table with 101 gold, 61 silver and 31 bronze, followed by hosts Vietnam on 81-80-86 and Malaysia 54-40-46.

Notably, all 11 participating nations, in-

cluding 10 members of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the region's youngest country East Timor, won medals at the Games which featured five sports, namely athletics, swimming, badminton, table tennis and weightlifting, with a total of 287 gold on offer.

At the closing ceremony, the Games' organizing committee presented the Best Athlete Award to Vietnamese Nhu Thi Khoa and Thai Prawat Vahorum, both of whom won as many as five gold in track and field events.

The 3rd ASEAN Para Games will be held in the Philippines in 2005. The host country is supposed to increase the programme to at least 10 sports.—MNA/Xinhua



Chelsea's Frank Lampard (C) looks on as his teammate Claude Makelele (R) challenges Louis Saha. Fulham manager Chris Coleman said his in-form striker Saha would stay with the club until the end of the season.—INTERNET

Wanchope out for up to ten weeks with knee injury

LONDON, 28 Dec— Manchester City striker Paulo Wanchope could be out of action for up to ten weeks for a knee surgery.

The Costa Rican international sustained the cartilage injury during a league match against Leeds on Monday.

City manager Kevin Keegan said: "You can't help but feel sorry for the lad because he has had no luck with injuries."

"It's two years now since he's had an injury-free period."

"But he is a good professional and we are hoping he will get over this in time to still play a big part in the latter part of the season."

MNA/Xinhua

Answers for yesterday's Cross Puzzle



FA sees positives in Ferdinand drugs case

LONDON, 28 Dec— One positive to come out of the Rio Ferdinand drugs case was that no player would miss taking a dope test again, Football Association (FA) chief executive Mark Palios said on Sunday.

"After this case, I don't think any club will allow a player to miss a drugs test again," Palios told the News of the World newspaper in an interview.

England international Ferdinand was given an eight-month ban by an independent disciplinary commission earlier this month for missing a drugs test.

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

"I didn't feel pleased or vindicated (about the decision). I actually felt quite sad because I know, up until now, football has been the loser," Palios said.

"But if there has been a positive in what has been a difficult year it is that we are at last on the right road."

Ferdinand passed the test 36 hours after he should have taken the original one.

The FA, which was

Celtic crush Hibernian to go 11 points clear

GLASGOW, 28 Dec— Celtic crushed Hibernian 6-0 to extend their lead over Rangers at the top of the Scottish Premier League to 11 points on Saturday.

It was Celtic's 17th straight league win and swift revenge for Martin O'Neill's side who suffered a shock 2-1 defeat by the same opponents in a League Cup quarterfinal this month.

Two goals each from Chris Sutton and John Hartson put Celtic 4-0 up after an hour before Henrik Larsson and Stilian Petrov completed the rout. Hibs were reduced to 10 men just before halftime after Derek Riordan was dismissed.

Celtic have 52 points from 18 games and Rangers, who play away at Dundee on Sunday, have 41 from 17 matches. The top two meet in the Old Firm derby next weekend.

"It closes off 2003 very nicely for us and we're absolutely delighted with the run. We're scoring goals, playing very strongly at the moment and are keeping the fans happy but,

of course, we must start again next week," O'Neill told reporters.

Sutton opened the scoring after four minutes and Hibs crumbled after Riordan was red-carded for flying into a late challenge on Jackie McNamara.

Hartson headed home the second while Sutton netted the third from the penalty spot. Hartson made it four with a fizzing low strike and Larsson got in on the act with number five after some hapless defending.

Petrov completed the rout with 13 minutes left to leave a 59,609 home crowd, Celtic's biggest of the season, in a buoyant mood. Third-placed Hearts, 11 points behind Rangers, were held to a 0-0 draw at home by Motherwell. Bottom club Partick Thistle thrashed Dunfermline Athletic 4-1.

MNA/Reuters

Opinion poll shows Barcelona unsatisfactory

MADRID, 28 Dec— It is not a surprise to see the members of under performed FC Barcelona far from happy with their team.

This is the result of an opinion poll conducted among 500 members from different section, which was published on Friday by Catalan sports daily Mundo Deportivo.

About 57.2 per cent of the members consulted believe that the club should sign new players during the mid-winter transfer period despite new president Joan Laporta has made it clear that the club's economic situation will not allow this.

In particular, 59.7 per cent want Laporta to sign a new striker, with 42.6 per cent desperate for the club to sell off the unpopular Patrick Kluivert. The only player to emerge from the poll with some credit, predictably, is

Brazilian play maker Ronaldinho, whom 86.4 per cent consider to be "the best player of the season so far".

Coach Frank Rijkaard received little credit. 43.6 per cent of the members asked consider him to be responsible for the poor results, and 37.4 per cent think that Laporta should look for another coach immediately.

Barca are ninth in the table, no less than fifteen points behind leaders and hated rivals Real Madrid.

The opinion poll also demonstrates impatience with Laporta. Whilst 58.8 per cent praise him for "having generated new enthusiasm" at the club, and whilst 76.7 per cent praise him for raising the number of club mem-

bers to a record 108,000, 46.4 per cent criticize Laporta for having raised the price of season tickets by around one-third.

About 27.7 per cent, in addition, believe that Laporta needs to "begin to translate his good intentions into achievements"... mainly by constructing a new football team capable of challenging Real.

Paper concludes with the observation that "the members are anxious for the club to start to improve, but do not see the signs of that improvement at the moment... and are running out of patience".—MNA/Xinhua



Liverpool's Michael Owen (foreground) jubilates with teammate El-Hadji Diouf after he scored a Liverpool goal. Liverpool and England striker Michael Owen could make his first step back from an injury layoff in next weekend's FA Cup third round.

INTERNET



Austria's Hermann Maier is airborne on his way to clock the ninth fastest time in the training session of a men's ski World Cup downhill race in Bormio, Italy, on 27 Dec, 2003.—INTERNET

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MRTV-3**29-12-2003 (Monday)
Morning Transmission
(9:00 - 10:00)**

- 9:00 Signature Tune
Greeting
9:02 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights
"Myanmar Panorama &
Myanmar Sentiment"
9:06 From Independence
Towards a Modern
Developed Nation (Industries & Electricity)
9:10 National News
9:12 Easily Cooked Tasty
Dishes
9:15 National News
9:20 Cover Poster and Creative
Painting
9:25 Culture Stage
"Dance of the Oil
lamps"
9:30 National News
9:35 Mogok (or) The
Ruby Land of
Myanmar
9:40 Song on Screen
"Flourishing"
9:42 Mingun Bell
9:45 National News
9:50 Unique Biodiversity of
Indawgyi Lake(VI)
9:58 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and
See Myanmar"

**29-12-2003 (Monday)
Regular Programmes for
Viewers from Abroad
Evening Transmission
(15:30 - 17:30)**

- 15:30 Signature Tune
Greeting
15:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanmar Panorama &
Myanmar Sentiment"
15:36 From Independence
Towards a Modern
Developed Nation (Industries & Electricity)
15:40 National News
15:42 Easily Cooked Tasty
Dishes
15:45 National News

- 15:50 Cover Poster and Creative
Painting
15:55 Dance of the Oil
Lamps
16:00 National News
16:05 Mogok (or) The
Ruby Land of
Myanmar
16:10 Song on Screen
"Flourishing"
16:12 Mingun Bell
16:15 National News
16:20 Unique Biodiversity of
Indawgyi Lake(VI)
16:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights
"Myanmar Panorama &
Myanmar Sentiment"
16:30 National News
16:35 A Journey To Research
Taron Race
16:40 Myanmar Cuisine
"Fish Soup"
16:45 National News
16:50 Art in Glass Bottles
16:55 National Dance
"Kayah Dance"
16:58 Stone Inscription
17:00 National News
17:05 Adept Sons of Inlay
Lake
17:10 Myanmar Modern
Song "Have Sweet
Dreams"
17:15 National News
17:20 Welcome To Ngwe
Hsaung
17:28 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 Thihathana Throne
19:40 National News
19:42 Easily Cooked Tasty
Dishes "Saute Prawn
with Asparagus"
19:45 National News
19:50 Central Glass Pavilion
19:55 From Independence
Towards a Modern
Developed Nation (Agriculture &
Forestry)
20:00 National News
20:05 Pet Show & Contest
in Myanmar (2003)
(Part-2)

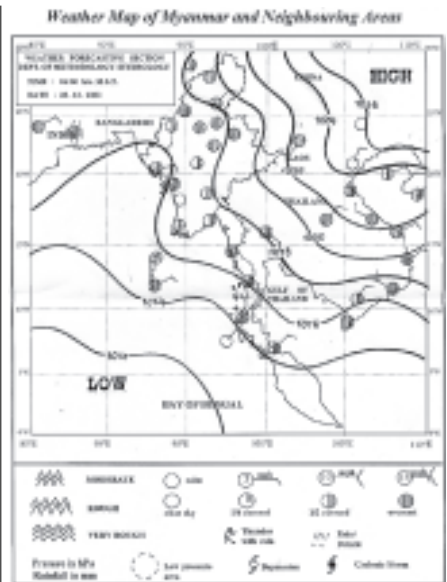
- 20:10 Song "Blessed
Myanmar"
20:15 National News
20:20 Unique Biodiversity of
Indawgyi Lake(VI)
20:25 Song "Let my first
love know"
20:30 National News
20:35 Off-shore Fishing
Boat Construction
20:40 Myanmar Cuisine
"Traditional
Shwedaung Noodle"
20:45 National News
20:50 Novitiation Ceremony
20:55 Myanmar National
Races Cultural
Dances (U Shwe
Yoe & Daw Moe)
21:00 National News
21:05 Photo Exhibitions of
Shwedagon Pagoda
21:10 Song "Pleasant and
Greenish Lake"
21:15 National News
21:20 Precious Myanmar
Lacquerware
21:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
21:35 From Independence
Towards a Modern
Developed Nation (Industries & Electricity)
21:40 National News
21:42 Easily Cooked Tasty
Dishes
21:45 National News
21:50 Cover Poster and Creative
Painting
21:55 Dance of the Oil
Lamps
22:00 National News
22:05 Mogok (or) The
Ruby Land of
Myanmar
22:10 Song "Flourishing"
22:12 Mingun Bell
22:15 National News
22:20 Unique Biodiversity of
Indawgyi Lake(VI)
22:25 Songs on Screen
"Flowers Lover"
22:30 National News
22:35 A Journey To Research
Taron Race
22:40 Myanmar Cuisine
"Fish Soup"
22:45 National News
22:50 Art in Glass Bottles
22:55 Kayah Dance
22:58 Stone Inscription
23:00 National News
23:05 Adept Sons of Inlay
Lake
23:10 Myanmar Modern

Song "Have Sweet
Dreams"

- 23:15 National News**
23:20 Welcome To Ngwe
Hsaung
23:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and
See Myanmar"

**29-12-2003 (Monday & 30-
12-2003 (Tuesday)
Evening & Morning
Transmission
(23:30 - 1:30)**

- 23:30 Signature Tune
Greeting
23:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
23:36 From Independence
Towards a Modern
Developed Nation (Industries & Electricity)
23:40 National News
23:42 Easily Cooked Tasty
Dishes
23:45 National News
23:50 Cover Poster and Creative
Painting
23:55 Dance of the Oil
Lamps
24:00 National News
00:05 Mogok (or) The
Ruby Land of
Myanmar
00:10 Song "Flourishing"
00:12 Mingun Bell
00:15 National News
00:20 Unique Biodiversity of
Indawgyi Lake(VI)
00:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanmar Panorama &
Myanmar Sentiment"
00:30 National News
00:35 A Journey To Research
Taron Race
00:40 Myanmar Cuisine
"Fish Soup"
00:45 National News
00:50 Art in Glass Bottles
00:55 Kayah Dance
00:58 Stone Inscription
01:00 National News
01:05 Adept Sons of Inlay
Lake
01:10 Myanmar Modern
Song "Have Sweet
Dreams"
01:15 National News
01:20 Welcome To Ngwe
Hsaung
01:28 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and

**WEATHER**

Sunday, 28 December, 2003

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, except for the isolated light rain in Kachin and Chin States, upper Sagaing Division, weather have been generally fair in the whole country. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Rakhine, Chin, Kayah, Kayin and Shan States, Bago, Mandalay, Ayeyawady and Yangon Divisions, (7°C) above normal in Kachin State and about normal in the remaining areas.

Maximum temperature on 27-12-2003 was 33.0°C (91°F). Minimum temperature on 28-12-2003 was 16.0°C (61°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 28-12-2003 was 74%. Total sunshine hours on 27-12-2003 was (8.6) hours approx. Rainfall on 28-12-2003 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2003 was 2211 mm (87.05 inches) at Yangon Airport, 2315 mm (91.14 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 2394 mm (94.25 inches) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 13 mph from Northeast at (10:30) hours MST on 28-12-2003.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 29-12-2003: Isolated rain are possible in Kachin, Chin and Shan States, upper Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (40%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Possibility of isolated rain in the Northern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 29-12-2003: Partly cloudy to cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 29-12-2003: Partly cloudy.



Monday, December 29

View today:

- 7:00 am**
1. ငွေချစ်မင်းကုန်းဆရာတော်
ဘုရားကြီးနိုင်ငံတော်သံဃမဟာရာသက
အဂ္ဂိအကျိုးတော်စောင့်ရှောက်၊ အဘိဓမ္မာ
မဟာရာဇဂူအဘိဓမ္မာအဂ္ဂမဟာသဒ္ဓ
ဓာတ်ကတိဝိသုဒ္ဓိကဓမ္မဗျာဓိရာဂါရုံ၊
ဆရာတော်ဘုရားစိတ္တသာရာဘိဝံသ၏
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. Song of national races
8:05 am
6. Cute little dancers
8:15 am
7. ရွှေလိပ်တေး
8:30 am
8. International news

- 8:45 am**
9. Let's Go
4:00 pm
1. Martial song
4:15 pm
2. Songs to uphold
National Spirit
4:30 pm
3. Practice In Reading
4:45 pm
4. Musical programme
5:00 pm
5. အဝေးသံတော်သီချင်းပညာရေး
ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ
-ပထမနှစ်(သတ္တဝါအထူးပြု)
(သတ္တဝါ)
5:15 pm
6. (၅၆)နှစ်မြောက် လွတ်လပ်ရေးနေ့
ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားအစဉ်
5:25 am
7. Dance variety
5:40 pm
8. မြန်မာ့ရိုးရာ တေးဂီတ
ကျေးလက်ရိုးရာတေးသံများ
5:50 pm
9. သာဓကမြို့ ပြည်အကျိုး
6:00 pm
10. Musical programme
(The Radio Myanmar

- Modern Music Troupe)
6:15 pm
11. Discovery
6:30 pm
12. Evening news
7:00 pm
13. Weather report
7:05 pm
14. Milo success in
soccer
7:10 pm
15. Strong and healthy
Myanmar
7:20 pm
16. Musical programme
7:35 pm
17. အချစ်အကြွေအာဏာမရှိရည်ကြံ
နိုင်ငံရေးမှ နိုင်ငံရေး
"တိုးတက်ရေးပြုပြင်ရေး"
ဗဟိုကော်မတီ ငါးပုဒ်ကဏ္ဍ
8:00 pm
18. "News"
19. International news
20. Weather report
21. နိုင်ငံကြီးစားတစ်နိုင်ငံ
"တုံ့ပြန်" (အပိုင်း-၇)
22. The next day's
programme



Monday, December 29

- 8:30 am** Brief news
8:35 am Music
8:40 am Perspectives
8:45 am Music
8:50 am National news/
Slogan
9:00 am Music
9:05 am International news
9:10 am Music
1:30 pm News/Slogan
1:40 pm Lunch time music
- Come see about
me (Shakin
Stevens)
9:00 pm Spotlight on the
star (Backstreet
Boys)
9:15 pm Article
9:25 pm Women's affairs:
-Dear little sister,
they're so
admirable
9:35 pm Golden Land's
Melody
-The world's most
beautiful Myanmar
9:45 pm News/Slogan
10:00 pm PEL

Asleep in Jesus

Sister Florence Nehemiah

Retd Sister EENT Hospital

(SDA Hospital)

Age (84) years

Sister Florence Nehemiah, daughter of Mr and Mrs K Nehemiah of Mawlamyine, beloved sister of (Mrs Dorothy Johns), (Major AE Nehemiah), (Mrs Esther Johns), Mrs Daisy C Roy, Mrs Mary Reuben (Alfred Nehemiah - Daw Hla Kyi (Evelyn), (Ruby Nehemiah), (Arthur Nehemiah), Dr Maria Kyaw Nyunt - Col Kyaw Nyunt, beloved aunt of Rev Dr Paul F Johns (Immanuel Church), beloved aunt of 23, grand aunt of 32. Died peacefully at 5 am on 28th Dec 2003.

Funeral service will be held at Yeway Cemetery on the 29th Dec 2003 at 9 am. Friends, relatives please accept this the only intimation.

Memorial service will be held on the 31st Dec 2003 Wednesday at 5:00 pm at Immanuel Baptist Church.

Bereaved family

Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination begins

YANGON, 28 Dec— The opening ceremony of the 56th Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination sponsored by Religious Affairs Department of the Ministry of Religious Affairs was held at Wizaya Mingala Dhamma Thabin on Kaba Aye Hill this morning.

Present were member Sayadaws of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee led by Vice-Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Aungmyebonsan Kyaung Sayadaw Bhaddanta Panindabhivamsa, Tipitakadhara Selection Ovadacariya Sayadaws led by Chairman of Tipitakadhara Selection Examination Ovadacariya Committee Sayadaw Sasana Manauang Webyan Sathintaik in Mawlamyine Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Bhaddanta Vijayabhivamsa and candidate members of the Sangha.

Also present were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Commander of No 1 Military Region Col Tun Kyi, Adviser to the State Peace and Development Council Office U Arnt Maung, Director-General of Religious Affairs Department Dr Myo Myint, Director-General of Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana U Sann Lwin, Secretary of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Kyaw Tint, chairmen of District and Township Peace and Development Councils, officials and wellwishers.

At the opening ceremony, the congregation received the Five Precepts from Webyan Sathintaik Sayadaw Bhaddanta Vijayabhivamsa.

Next, members of the Sangha recited the *Parittas*. Vice-Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Abhidhaja Maha



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe supplicates on religious affairs at 56th Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination.—MNA

Rattha Guru Aungmyebonsan Kyaung Sayadaw Bhaddanta Panindabhivamsa, Tipitakadhara Selection Ovadacariya Sayadaws led by Chairman of Tipitakadhara Selection Examination Ovadacariya Committee Sayadaw Sasana Manauang Webyan Sathintaik in Mawlamyine Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Bhaddanta Vijayabhivamsa and candidate members of the Sangha.

In the Saraniya Ovadakatha the Sayadaw explained the purposes of the Tipitakadhara examination. He said Pariyatti is vital for perpetuation of the Sasana and urged the candidates to learn Pitakat thoroughly. The Sayadaw also urged the members of the Sangha to make efforts for perpetuation of the Sasana.

Next, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe supplicated on religious affairs. In his supplication, he said Pariyatti Sasana is Five Nikaya Tri-Pitaka formed with methods of practices and meditation. If the Sasana becomes extinct, the right practices become weak.

Therefore, members of the Sangha are making efforts for propagation of the Sasana.

He said teaching of Pariyatti literature at the Pariyatti Sathintaiks in Pakokku and other cities and State Pariyatti Sasana Universities in Yangon and Mandalay is very good. Besides State-sponsored Pariyatti examinations, local Pariyatti examinations are being held (See page 8)

16-bed Hospital opened under Yaungkha Village Project of Myanmar-Thai narcotic drugs eradication and all-round development of border areas

YANGON, 28 Dec— Under the arrangement of Myanmar-Thai narcotic drugs eradication and all-round development of border areas, the ceremony to open 16-bed hospital which was one of the Yaungkha Village Project in Monghsat District, Shan State (East), was held at the venue on 26 December morning.

Chairman of Shan State (East) Peace and Development Council Commander of Triangle Region Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw and Commanding General of 3rd Army Area of Thailand Lt-Gen Picharnmeth Muangmanee formally opened the hospital.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Minis-

ter for Agriculture and Irrigation Brig-Gen Khin Maung, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Phone Swe, Deputy Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Brig-Gen Than Tun, Deputy Minister for Livestock and Fisheries U Aung Thein, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo, departmental officials of Tachilek and Monghsat Districts, local national race leader U Pau Yu Chan, officials of departments of Thailand and local people totalling over 2,000.

Speaking on the occasion, In-charge of Yaungkha Village Project Col San Pwint said that the project is being implemented accord-

Yaungkha Village-tract formed with 13 villages and its environs. The project started in January 2003. In implementing the education sector of the all-round development project, Basic Education Primary School that can accommodate 500 students was built in May 2003. Starting from June 2003, 10 teachers appointed by the Ministry of Education are teaching 222 students at the school. In the health sector, construction of the 16-bed hospital was completed in September 2003. At present, one doctor and four nurses appointed by the Ministry of Health are providing health care service to local national races.

With regard to the agri-

bamboo shoot, macadamia, etc were distributed to the local farmers and arrangements are being made to export poppy-substitute crops produced from the project area to Thailand. Before conclusion, Col San Pwint said that fish, poultry and pig are being bred in the region in the livestock breeding sector for distributing them to households of the villages.

Afterwards, Chenmai District Lwetong Project Chief Executive Officer Mr Disnadda Diskul, in-charge of the Thai side in Yaungkha Village Project, reported on arrangements for cooperation in education, health, agriculture and livestock breeding sectors related to the project.

Next, local national race leader U Pau Yu Chan presented fruit baskets to Commander Maj-Gen Khin Zaw and Lt-Gen Picharnmeth Muangmanee of Thailand. Then, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Khin Maung handed over seeds of crops for local people to U Pau Yu Chan.

Commander Maj-Gen Khin Zaw and guests viewed agriculture and livestock breeding tasks in the compound of the school and the display of fruits produced from the area.

Then, Commander Maj-Gen Khin Zaw and Lt-Gen Picharnmeth Muangmanee of Thailand formally opened the stone inscriptions to mark the opening of the hospital.

Next, the commander and party viewed round the hospital.—MNA



Commander Maj-Gen Khin Zaw attends opening of 16-bed hospital in Yaungkha Village, Monghsat District, on 26-12-2003.—MNA

ing to the agreement of Myanmar-Thai narcotic drugs eradication and all-round development of border areas after the meeting between the prime ministers of the two countries in 2001. The Prime Minister of Thailand provided 20 million Baht to implement the project.

According to the agreement between officials of the two countries, Yaungkha Village-tract, 30 miles west of Tachilek, was chosen as the project area in 2001-2002. So, the project will benefit not only Yaungkha Village but also local people who are residing in

cultural sector, the plan has been drawn to cultivate opium-substitute crops. Nowadays, 1,300 acres of highland area and 900 acres of farmland, totalling over 2,200 have been put under paddy, and arrangements were made for building small-scale dams with a view to ensuring cultivation of double cropping. Now, six small-scale dams together with a 20-metre-long canal were built in cooperation with local people for supplying water to over 840 acres of farmland all the year round. So, over 2,000 tons of rice surplus achieved this year. Maize, soya beans,



16-bed station hospital and staff quarters of Yaungkha Village Project in Monghsat District on 26-12-2003.—MNA

INSIDE

Perspectives

Towards development of advanced industries

Page 2

Article

Emerging roads and bridges like blossoming flowers throughout the Union

Page 6

Circulation

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