

# The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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## Non-disintegration of national solidarity political solution given by history

In the history of our country, the strength of the nation was strong when there was solidarity among national races. When the national races were not united, they had to try to end their conflict even though there was no invasion from outside. In consequence, the State lagged behind in development and it usually became weak in all sectors. So political solution given by history for our country is non-disintegration of national solidarity. If we face such grave situation, sovereignty will be lost one way or another.

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

(From address delivered at the graduation parade of 3rd Intake of Defence Services Medical Academy)



Magway Division USDA holds meeting to implement seven objectives and nine future tasks and plans to be carried out in the division.—MNA



**Only when entire people are absolutely united in implementing State's seven-point Road Map, will the goal be achieved smoothly in short time**

YANGON, 1 Jan—Discussions were held at a meeting organized by Magway Division Union Solidarity and Development Association at City Hall in



Magway Division USDA Secretary U Khin Maung Swe presiding over the Magway Division USDA Meeting.—MNA

Magway, Magway Division on the morning of 27 December to implement the seven objectives and nine future work programmes adopted at the USDA Annual General Meeting (2004) and to carry out the plans in the region.

It was attended by members of USDAs of wards and villages in the Division, Myanmar War Veterans Organization, Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation, Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association,

resolutions of the seven objectives and nine future work programmes that can effectively serve the interests of the nation, respective regions and the people.

Therefore, USDA members met congenial organizations, senior citizens and new generation youths at the meeting to seek ways and means to successfully carry out the objectives, future tasks and plans in the region, he said.

(See page 6)

**USDA members met congenial organizations, senior citizens and new generation youths at the meeting to seek ways and means to successfully carry out the objectives, future tasks and plans in the region.**

Red Cross and auxiliary fire brigades, townselders and outstanding youths.

Those present saluted the State Flag in front of the City Hall.

Chairman of the meeting Secretary of the Division USDA U Khin Maung Swe said that at the AGM (2004), representatives of respective USDAs passed

**INSIDE**

*It is necessary to keep our eyes skinned and to be on full alert for the possible danger of threats in various forms.*

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YE WUNT THU

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

**PERSPECTIVES**

Sunday, 2 January, 2005

**Look after the people in all aspects**

Health is the most basic requirement for development of a human society. The healthy and fit people are the ones who are able to build and safeguard their societies.

The generation-by-generation improvement of health, fitness and education standard is a priority task, for health, fitness and education are interrelated.

Health contributes not only to enhancing the intellectual level of human beings but also to ensuring the development of human resources. Thus, priority is being given to development of health and education sectors.

It is important for the health sector to be free from relying on foreign countries. Therefore, more and more research work is to be conducted for development and effective use of traditional medicines.

Meanwhile, research on medical science is to be carried out in combination with military science to be able to discharge duties well in the sophisticated form of future wars. The graduation parade of No 6<sup>th</sup> Intake of Defence Services Medical Academy took place at the parade ground of the academy in Yangon on 31 December morning, with an address by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe.

In his address, Senior General Than Shwe said that biological weapons are being used as a secret arm of war with the intention of totally wiping out a race from the earth or intimidating the people. So, he said, the graduating cadets should keep their eyes and ears open wide, while having the farsightedness and constant vigilance. The work of taking precautionary measures constantly and making preparations for an emergency situation are permanent tasks of the health sector, he noted.

It is imperative for those, who are going to discharge the national defence duty, to be ever healthy and fit. They must not lose sight of the latest developments and are to study the latest form of future wars in which sophisticated weapons may be used.

The government opened medical universities and medical institutes to keep pace with changes and developments. Moreover, it has been making efforts for development of Myanmar medical science to ensure better health care services of the people.

At a time when Myanmar medical science is in its prime, the Tatmadaw medical officers are to strive for the emergence of a medical science of international level to provide the people with better health care services, reviewing the latest development of political, military and social sectors.



**NEW HTIDAW HOISTED:** Htidaws were hoisted atop Cintamani Pagoda and encircling zedis in Myogon Ward of Singu, Nyaung U Township on 27 December. Buddha Pujaniya 9,900 lights offering society members convey new Htidaw round the pagoda.—(H)

**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

**Sayadaws tour four places of Samvejaniya in India, Nepal**

YANGON, 1 Jan — Members of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee led by Vice-Chairman Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Bhaddanta Arcinnabhivamsa, accompanied by Director-General of the Religious Affairs Department Dr Myo Myint and officials, left Sittway Airport by air for Bihar State of the Republic of India on a pilgrimage to Samvejaniya four places on 25 December.

The Sayadaws were welcomed by staff of the Myanmar Embassy led by Myanmar Military Attaché to India Brig-Gen Kyaw Kyaw and wife Daw Thida Nyunt. The members of Sangha went to Maha Bodhi Pagoda and consecrated the Buddha images at the pagoda.

On 26 December, they visited Banares in Uttar Pradesh State. On 27 December, members of the Sangha arrived at Lumbini region in Nepal where they were wel-



Sayadaws paying homage to reclining Buddha image at the cave of Kussinaron.— MNA

comed by Myanmar Ambassador to Nepal U Myint Swe and wife Daw Myint Myint Ohn and staff.

On 28 December, they paid homage to Lokamanicula Pagoda built in the Myanmar Shwekyauung Monastery compound and visited the Lumbini Park. Myanmar Ambassador U Myint Swe and wife offered 'Soon' to the Sayadaws.

Next, the Sayadaws proceeded to Angara Pagoda in Uttar Pradesh State, and paid obeisance

to the Buddha image at Maha Parinibbana Pagoda.

On 29 December, they consecrated Maha Sukhmadada Chanthagy Pagoda and visited Valukaron region where the second Buddhist synod was held. On 30 December, the Sayadaws went to new Nalanda University in Patna and went sight-seeing of religious buildings and places in Patna.

On 31 December, they proceeded to Gaya Airport after visiting

Mount Uruvela where the Lord Buddha practised Dukaraçariya.

The Sayadaws were seen off at the airport by Myanmar Military Attaché Brig-Gen Kyaw Kyaw and wife Daw Thida Nyunt and embassy staff, the Secretary Sayadaw of India Maha Bodhi Association and officials of Aung Chan Tha Pilgrimage Service.

The Sayadaws arrived back here yesterday evening.

MNA

**USDA Secretariat member explains implementation of five rural development tasks**



USDA Secretariat Member Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thuang addresses opening of BEMS in West Tada Village of Taungtha Township.— INDUSTRY-1

YANGON, 1 Jan — Secretariat member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thuang paid homage and offered alms to Sayadaws Bhaddanta Nandiya and Bhaddanta Tejananda at YwaU Monastery in Hlingthaya Village, Kyaukpadaung Township, on 30 December.

Next, the minister met the villagers, urged them to participate in

implementation of five rural development tasks and donated K 100,000 to the monastery and K 150,000 to the village post-primary school.

Yesterday December morning, the minister attended the Seinbudaw (Diamond bud) hoisting ceremony of Aungzabu Pagoda in Monyo Village in Myingyan District.

He next donated 20 bags of rice and of-fertories to Aye Village

Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Nandavamsa. The minister also attended the ceremony to hand over the building of Tada Village (West) rural health care centre in Taungtha Township, the opening ceremony

of Tada village (west) BEMS and the Tada Village BEMS.

Later, the minister proceeded to the Welaung BEHS where he donated 68 bags of rice to the teachers and staff. — MNA

**All this needs to be known**

- \* Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
- \* Do not be bostered whenever flattered
- \* Do not be softened whenever appeased

# China Telecom to boost Internet TV in 2005

BEIJING, 31 Dec— China Telecom, one of China's major telecommunications operators, announced that it plans to launch large-scale promotion of Internet Protocol Television (IPTV) in 2005 on its broadband web site.

"We'll open IPTV in most Chinese cities in 2005," said Liu Zhiyong, an official in charge of IPTV business with China Telecom. Made possible by the growing popularity of broadband Internet connections, IPTV enables people to access TV programmes through their computers or other Internet terminals.

Earlier, China Telecom had already started IPTV service in Shanghai, with TV programmes coming mainly from existing TV stations.

Liu said China Telecom does not offer real-time TV programmes, but

only TV programmes that have already aired. It should be taken as a value-added business of broadband service providers and "is absolutely legal." The service will be available through their site at [www.vnet.cn](http://www.vnet.cn).

Another major Chinese telecommunications operator, China Netcom, is also stepping up development of IPTV.

Surveys show video materials are the most popular among Chinese broadband Internet users. But the current supply falls far short of the demand.

MNA/Xinhua



# Singapore calls for urgent ASEAN Summit on tsunami relief

SINGAPORE, 31 Dec— Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong on Thursday called for an urgent summit meeting of the Association of the South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) to coordinate relief efforts for the tsunami-hit areas.

Speaking at a news conference on the impact of the recent disasters in Indian Ocean countries, Lee said the meeting should request the United Nations to establish a special emergency fund for relief and reconstruction and a special representative to coordinate international relief efforts.

Lee proposed that the meeting also include countries outside ASEAN such as China, South Korea, Japan, the United States, Australia, New Zealand and India, as well

as international organizations such as the United Nations, the World Bank and the World Health Organization.

Lee expects the meeting to be convened next week while foreign ministers are discussing about the details. Lee also announced that the government will raise its relief contribution from 2 million Singapore dollars (about 1.2 million US dollars) to about three million US dollars as the demand changes.

He confirmed that seven Singaporeans had been found dead in the tsunami while another 18 were still missing and 227 uncontactable up to 5 pm of Thursday.

The government has set up contact centres in Singapore and Phuket to provide help and updated information to family members who are eager

to find their missing relatives.

On the same day, Education Minister Tharman Shanmugaratnam at a separate event urged schools and students to take part in the national efforts by raising funds and collecting or packing relief items when the new semester begins next week.

So far, Singapore has deployed altogether 700 personnel, eight helicopters, a C-130 in the region as part of the international relief efforts and a landing ship tank with a team of engineers will depart for Indonesia on Friday.

The deployments, which are initially expected to last for two weeks based on the logistics they brought with them, will cost about 12 million US dollars.

MNA/Xinhua

*Japanese shoppers do their last-minute New Year shopping as Tokyo experiences its first snowfall this winter, at the Ameyoko shopping district on 28 Dec 2004. —INTERNET*

# UAE witnesses rare snowfall, heavy rain

ABU DHABI, 31 Dec— The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has witnessed snowfall, heavy rain and a dropping temperature this week for the first time, the official WAM news agency reported Thursday. The snow fell on the mountainous areas of Ras Al Khaimah, one of UAE's seven emirates and the northernmost one, as the temperature in the area dropped as low as minus 5 Celsius.

After two days of heavy nighttime snowfall which ended Wednesday night, Al Jees mountain cluster in the area, which stands 5,700 feet (about 1,737 metres) above sea level, was capped with a white blanket.

Meanwhile, temperatures fell to 12 degrees Centigrade in Dubai with a heavy rain lasting until Tuesday night, quite a rare occurrence in the desert area. Rain continued to fall heavily on the east coast of the federation Wednesday, swelling underground water stores and reducing soil's salinity.

Two people were killed and nine wounded in more than 400 accidents reported in Dubai due to the rain, according to WAM.

The snow, rain and low temperatures were caused by an area of low pressure that reached the UAE this week after passing over Kuwait. —MNA/Xinhua

# US soldier died in car bomb attack in Mosul

MOSUL, 31 Dec— A US soldier died in hospital on Wednesday from wounds sustained in a car bomb attack on a patrol in the city of Mosul, the American military said on Thursday.

Troops in Mosul came under sustained attack on Wednesday afternoon, with two suicide bombers and dozens of gunmen attacking a combat outpost and patrols in the city.

The US military called in air support to fend off the attacks and says it killed about 25 guerillas.

MNA/Reuters

# 1,328 US troops killed since beginning of Iraq war

WASHINGTON, 31 Dec— As of Friday, on 31 Dec, 2004, at least 1,328 members of the US military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,042 died as a result of hostile action, the Defence Department said. The figures include three military civilians. The department did not provide an update Friday.

The British military has reported 76 deaths; Italy, 19; Poland, 16; Spain, 11; Ukraine, nine; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary and Latvia one death each.

Since 1 May, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,190 US military members have died, ac-

ording to AP's count. That includes at least 933

deaths resulting from hostile action, according to

the military's numbers as of Thursday. —Internet

# Vietnam sees slight increase in seafood export

HANOI, 1 Jan— Vietnam earned nearly 2.4 billion US dollars from exported seafood, mainly shrimps, catfish, squids and octopuses, this year, up 6 per cent over last year, according to the Ministry of Trade on Thursday.

In 2004, while exports to the United States slowed down due to impacts of the shrimp lawsuit, values of the local products going to the European Union (EU) and Japan soared 89.7 per cent and 30.9 per cent, respectively. Vietnam's seafood is now available in 80 countries and regions with its biggest markets being the United States, Japan, the EU and China.

Vietnam, home to 395 seafood-processing establishments, has invested some 1.5 trillion Vietnamese dong (95.5 million US dollars) in the last two years.

This year, the country recorded total seafood output of nearly 3.1 million tons, a year-on-year rise of 7.7 per cent. Its aquaculture acreage now stands roughly 903,000 hectares. — MNA/Xinhua



A fighter takes up position in a street in Mosul, 370 kms north of Baghdad on 30 Dec, 2004.

INTERNET

### EU Foreign Policy Chief to visit Colombia

BOGOTA, 30 Dec— European Union Foreign Policy Commissioner Javier Solana will visit Colombia in early January, during which he will hold talks with Colombian President Alvaro Uribe, officials said here Wednesday.

The meeting will focus on the statement issued two weeks ago by the 25 countries of the European bloc, pledging political and economic support for the peace process between the Colombian Government and the paramilitaries.

Nevertheless, the EU has asked Colombia to adopt as soon as possible “a global legal framework” for the peace process with the United Self-Defence Forces of Colombia (AUC) and with the other illegal armed groups.— *MNA/Xinhua*

## China, Sri Lanka vow to further traditional friendship

**BEIJING, 30 Dec — China and Sri Lanka have pledged to further their traditional friendship and develop new initiatives “to inject fresh vigor and vitality to their bilateral relations.”**

In a joint Press communique issued here on Wednesday by Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing and his Sri Lankan counterpart Lakshman Kadirgamar, the two sides agreed to keep the momentum of their high-level visits and to enhance the multi-tiered exchanges between the parliaments, political parties, non-governmental organizations, corporate sectors and youths.

They agreed that their mutually beneficial cooperation, based on the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, had advanced steadily over the 47 years since the two countries forged diplomatic relations.

Emphasizing the significance of enhanced economic cooperation, the two sides expressed their readiness to explore and develop new channels to deepen cooperation.

The two sides promised to expand their coordination and cooperation in regional and international affairs, and work closely in the United Nations, the Asia Cooperation Dialogue, the Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation and other organizations.

The two sides exchanged views on the situation in South Asia and in East Asia and expressed their shared commitment to peace, stability, cooperation and prosperity in the regions. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Three children were among the passengers, the PCG said. Passengers told the radio that the boat sailing from Bohol to Cebu was supposed to dock at 12:30 am in Cebu but ran aground near the island at 11:30 pm Tuesday. — *MNA/Xinhua*

### 46 rescued after boat runs aground in central Philippines

MANILA, 30 Dec— At least 46 passengers were rescued after a boat ran aground in central Philippines, a local radio reported Wednesday.

Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) spokesman Arman Balilo told radio dzMM that search and rescue personnel are still looking for more passengers on boat *MV Yellow Rose*, which ran aground off Nasuan Island near Cordova, Cebu.

Passengers told the radio that the boat sailing from Bohol to Cebu was supposed to dock at 12:30 am in Cebu but ran aground near the island at 11:30 pm Tuesday. — *MNA/Xinhua*

## China passes amendment to solid waste pollution prevention law

**BEIJING, 30 Dec — The 13th session of the Standing Committee of the 10th National People’s Congress (NPC) on Wednesday approved an amendment to the law on solid waste pollution prevention to resolve the serious challenges caused by mounting solid waste.**

The draft amendment was once submitted for the first deliberation to the 12th meeting of the 10th NPC Standing Committee held from October 22 to 27.

“Encouraging the cir-

ulation of solid waste and clarifying the responsibility of the polluters are the major principles of the revision,” said Mao Rubai, chairman of the Environment and Resources Protection Committee of the NPC.

The current law stipulates relatively clear responsibility clauses during the production process, but lacks clauses after sale and during disposal. These have been added in

the amendment.

The amendment also defines the responsibilities of different parts if the former waste producers were divided, transferred, combined with others. — *MNA/Xinhua*



*Year of the Chicken: Chicks for young children to pet are kept at the country’s largest amusement park in Yongin, near Seoul, as Koreans prepare the “Year of Chicken” in 2005.—INTERNET*

### GCC needs integrated industrial plan

KUWAIT CITY, 31 Dec — An official report calls for drawing up an integrated industrial plan for the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states, Kuwait’s official *KUNA* news agency reported on Wednesday. Such a plan could best serve the interests of the GCC states which engage in coordinated and integrated industrial production based on each state’s resources and capabilities, the latest report by the Kuwaiti Public Industry Authority said.

Thus an industrial plan for the region is required to distribute base industries among the states to best fit resources and in a manner that yields best results in the next two decades, the report said. It also called the just distribution of returns and benefits and establishment of institutions capable of assessing, promoting and providing what is necessary for industrial opportunities — capital, work forces, expertise, markets or technology.

The report indicated that GCC states still do not agree on a clear framework or draft for such a plan, which led to repetition of products and projects. — *MNA/Xinhua*

## Beijing airport expansion project in full swing

**BEIJING, 30 Dec — Urban construction officials said the expansion project of Beijing Capital International Airport is in full swing and 5.7 billion yuan (about 690 million US dollars) has been spent so far.**

Expansion of the pivotal airport started in March, 2004 as part of the Chinese capital’s endeavours to prepare for Beijing Olympic Games in 2008. A key state project listed by the State Council, or the Chinese Cabinet, the enlarged airport will be able to accommodate 60 million passengers and handle 1.8 million tons of cargo each year.

The expansion project includes the construction of a third runway, a new terminal building covering 420,000 square metres, 100 new aprons, a cargo zone and some auxiliary facilities. The expansion involves an input of 19 billion yuan (some 2.3 billion US dollars) and will be finished before 2008.

The airport presently

has two runways and two terminals with a combined capacity to handle 35 million passengers a year.

An official forecast shows the peak monthly passenger arrival at the airport is to hit 5.56 million during the 2008 Olympiad, which is equivalent to the normal transport volume predicted for 2015. — *MNA/Xinhua*



*A worker of LG Card talks with his mobile phone at the headquarter of LG Card in Seoul, on 29 Dec, 2004. LG Group, the former parent of LG Card Co said on Wednesday it could offer a maximum 264 billion won (US\$ 253 million) for an additional bailout of the troubled card issuer.—INTERNET*

## Hooch tragedy toll in Mumbai City rises to 26

NEW DELHI, 30 Dec— With more people dying Tuesday, the toll in the hooch tragedy at a shantytown in Mumbai City in western Indian state of Maharashtra has risen to 26, the *Indo-Asian News Service* quoted local police as saying.

While seven people had died after drinking the brew Monday, more died later in the night and in the early hours of Tuesday, police said.

Altogether 40 people have so far been admitted to hospital after they drank hooch. Police have arrested a woman for supplying the liquor.

Police said she operated from her hovel just 500 metres from the nearest police station. The Indiranagar slum where the incident took place is near Vikhroli railway station in northeast Mumbai.

Initial reports say methyl alcohol was added to fermented oranges, discarded peels and other inputs to accelerate the fermentation process.— *MNA/Xinhua*

## Draft policy adopted to curb satellite TV channels in Bangladesh

**DHAKA, 29 Dec** — The Bangladeshi Government is taking stringent measures to control satellite television channels in an effort to cut down on the "adverse impact of foreign culture" on religious and social values.

According to the *Daily Star* on Tuesday, the Cabinet Committee on Revision of the Cable Television Network Policy on Monday adopted a draft policy to this end at a meeting held in the Ministry of Information.

Information Minister M Shamsul Islam was quoted as saying the draft will be finalized as early as possible.

No cable operator will be allowed to distribute satellite channels without permission from the In-

formation Ministry, a source attending the meeting said.

Every cable operator will have to pay annual fees to obtain an operating licence, which will be vetted according to three operator types — multi-system operators, cable operators and feed operators, as well as last line service providers to end-users.

Another committee will approve prices and subscription fees for pay channels, which currently

lack regulation, according to the draft.

The draft policy emphasizes the need to set priorities for local culture and literature, and also calls for state-owned Bangladesh Television (BTV) and BTV World to be transmitted in the top ten prime bands.

The policy will also control the transmission of both foreign and local advertisements on satellite channels.

In the absence of a policy, the country has been draining out millions of hard-earned foreign currencies for foreign en-

tertainment pay channels, sources in media industry said, adding the country annually spends some 11 million dollars (700 million taka) on such foreign channels.

The Cable Operators Association of Bangladesh (COAB) has hailed the government initiative to approve the draft policy on cable television network.

"We congratulate the government as the policy is on the way to taking shape," COAB President SM Anwar Parvez was quoted as saying.—MNA/Xinhua



A personal digital assistant (PDA) being demonstrated in Tokyo, Japan will start lending to foreign visitors PDAs with travel information and translation services in a test programme on ways to promote tourism.—INTERNET

## Final six months of 2004 deadliest ever for US forces in Iraq

**BAGHDAD, 31 Dec**— The last six months of 2004 proved the deadliest period for US forces in Iraq despite the formal end of the US-led occupation in June, with a total of 503 soldiers killed, figures showed.

Rather than deflating the insurgency, the first half year of Iraqi sovereignty under the US-backed interim government saw a surge in bloodshed.

The deadliest month was November when 141 troops were killed, reflecting the heavy combat in the Sunni Muslim bastion of Fallujah where US troops battled

rebels in the street in some of the heaviest fighting ever in Iraq.

In December, a total of 75 soldiers were killed, 14 of them in last week's unprecedented suicide bombing of a US army base in the northern city of Mosul — the deadliest single strike ever on Americans in Iraq.

Internet

## Humvees linked to 1 in 5 US deaths in Iraq

**BAGHDAD, 31 Dec** — In the earliest days of the war in Iraq, an enemy grenade destroyed the Humvee carrying Army Pfc Jessica Lynch and four other soldiers caught in an ambush in Nasiriyah.

Though Lynch was spared, the others died. Last week, nearly two years later, Army 1st Lt Christopher Barnett, 32, of Baton Rouge, La, was

killed on a patrol mission in the outskirts of Baghdad when a roadside bomb eviscerated his Humvee.

Throughout the 21-month war, no other piece of military materiel has been associated with so many US fatalities. According to a Scripps Howard News Service study, at least 1 in 5 of the 1,320 fallen American troops has died in incidents involving the ubiquitous vehicles. Hundreds more have been wounded in them. No other piece of war equipment has been the focus of as much criticism, as well.

When Congress returns in January, high on its agenda will be hearings into what some lawmakers, frustrated troops and anxious families say have been the needless deaths and maimings of GIs — particularly early in the war — while traveling in vehicles unduly vulnerable to bombs and other attacks.

Based on official Pentagon casualty reports, news accounts and interviews, the Scripps Howard study found at least 275 troop deaths have been associated with Humvees.

By far, most of those fatalities came when a Humvee crossed paths with a roadside bomb planted by guerrillas and often detonated by remote control. On 3 Dec for instance, that was the fate of Army Staff Sgt Henry Irizarry, 38, of the Bronx, a father of five who was killed by an explosion that blew him out the right side of his Humvee in Taji.—Internet

## Guangdong highly alert to possible SARS, bird flu outbreak

**GUANGZHOU, 30 Dec** — Guangdong Province in south China has set up an expert emergency committee in its latest move to fight possible emergency public health crisis, such as SARS (severe acute respiratory syndrome) and bird flu in this winter and next spring.

The committee consists of 123 experts and scholars from 28 medical institutions and hospitals at the provincial level, hospitals and health institutions based in the cities of Guangzhou and Shenzhen and military hospitals. The committee has nine expert panels in charge of dealing with infectious and unidentified diseases, medical treatment, food poisoning, professional poisoning, nuclear accident and radiation, fire biological and chemical threats, health education and psychological consoling, and information collection, respectively.

Zhong Nanshan, adviser of the committee, called on people of various social circles to be vigilant, saying there is the possibility that SARS may return this winter and spring.—MNA/Xinhua

## Japanese Princess to marry childhood friend

**TOKYO, 30 Dec** — Japan's Princess Sayako, the only daughter of Emperor Akihito, will marry Yoshiki Kuroda, a friend of hers from childhood and a civil servant at the Tokyo metropolitan government, after next summer, Grand Steward Toshio Yuasa of the Imperial Household announced on Thursday.

Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko issued celebratory remarks saying, "It is encouraging that the young couple has decided to spend their life together after almost two years of friendship," according to Yuasa.

The princess, 35, popularly known as Princess Nori, and the 39-year-old Kuroda, still have some traditional ceremonies to go through before officially declaring their marriage in accordance with Imperial House Law.

The announcement of the engagement finally came after twice being delayed.

It was originally intended for November but was postponed out of consideration for the victims of the major earthquakes in northeast Japan's Niigata Prefecture in October.

In addition, a Press conference scheduled for December 18 was cancelled after Princess Takamatsu, a great aunt of Princess Sayako and aunt of Emperor Akihito, died of blood poisoning earlier in the day.

Princess Sayako, the youngest of three children of Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, will be the last to marry.

Princess Sayako and Kuroda have known each other for a long time as he is a friend from childhood of Prince Akishino, the younger of Princess Sayako's two elder brothers.

Kuroda and Prince Akishino were classmates at Gakushuin University in Tokyo.

MNA/Xinhua

## Iraq's neighbours to meet January 6 in Amman

**CAIRO, 31 Dec** — Foreign ministers of Iraq's neighbouring countries will meet in Amman on 6 January to discuss Iraq's democratization process ahead of the January 30 elections, Reuters news agency reported Thursday.

After Iraqi interim Prime Minister Iyad Allawi met Arab envoys in Amman on Wednesday, Jordan invited the foreign ministers of Iraq, Jordan, Turkey, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait but it was unclear whether Syria or Iran would attend because both are accused by Baghdad of aiding the guerrillas.

Internet



Eight-year-old Omeed Shaker holds on to his mother after they were hurt in a blast in Baghdad on 27 Dec, 2004.—INTERNET



Gangaw District USDA Secretary U Aung Myint. — MNA



Magway Division USDA Executive U Than Swe. — MNA



Magway Division USDA Executive U Kyaw Thu. — MNA



Magway Division USDA Executive U Han Maung. — MNA

### Only when entire people are absolutely ...

(from page 1)

In conclusion, he noted that only when the entire people are absolutely united in implementing the State's seven-point Road Map including successful convening of the National Convention, will the goal be achieved smoothly in a short time.

Next, Magway Division USDA Executive U Kyaw Thu tabled a motion on speedy implementation of the

and Child Welfare Association Supervisory Committee Daw Tin Tin Htwe, Member of Division Organization for Women's Affairs Daw Kyu Kyu Khaing, and Secretary of Division War Veterans Organization U Soe Tint presented gifts to the outstanding youths.

Those present approved of continued efforts to see to the seven objectives, the nine future tasks and the plans. The meeting ended, shouting the slogans. — MNA

**At the AGM (2004), representatives of respective USDAs passed resolutions of the seven objectives and nine future work programmes that can effectively serve the interests of the nation, respective regions and the people.**

seven objectives; Executive U Than Swe, on speedy implementation of the nine future tasks; and Executive U Han Maung, on the plans to be carried out by the Division USDA in the region.

The motions were seconded by Gangaw District Secretary U Aung Myint, Pakokku District USDA Executive U Saw Win, Magway District USDA Executive Daw Thida Hlaing, Minbu District USDA Executive U Aung Naing, and Thayet District USDA Executive Daw Yin Yin Hla.

Afterwards, Joint-Secretary of Division Maternal



Pakokku District USDA Executive U Saw Win. — MNA



Minbu District USDA Executive U Aung Naing. — MNA



Thayet District USDA Executive Daw Yin Yin Hla. — MNA



Magway District USDA Executive Daw Thidar Hlaing. — MNA

### 40th anniversary of CICS held

YANGON, 1 Jan — The 40th anniversary of the Central Institute of Civil Service (Phaunggyi) was held at the Institute in Hlegu Township this morning, attended by Chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board Dr Than Nyun and members, Rector Col Win Maung, officials and guests.

Dr Than Nyun and officials formally opened the ceremony and Maj-Gen Khin Ohn (Retd), who served as Principal with the institute from 1964 to 1967, formally unveiled the signboard. Next, prizes were awarded to those with over 25, 30 and 35 years of service. The guests viewed Nawarat Hall where booths were displayed to hail the anniversary. At the paper reading session, eight papers on history of the institute were submitted. To hail the anniversary, a track and field competition was held on 30 December and a dinner hosted yesterday evening at the parade ground-1. — MNA

### Not easily won

- \* Because it was  
Not easily won  
It has to be safeguarded  
With the vow that it would be long-lasting
- \* Because it was not begged for  
But exchanged with life and blood  
We fought and won, and its values  
Must be remembered and respected.
- \* Not because it was given out of pity  
Because it was not readily won  
It must always be remembered  
It must be valued highly and maintained.
- \* To be enslaved is not difficult  
But to regain it, life and blood  
Of immense value must be sacrificed  
And from its fires, must be wrested  
"Tis "once bitten, twice shy"  
Next time around, it shouldn't happen  
If twice bitten, it's one's fault  
Wiles of the tiger, sly as they are  
With great care, must be discerned  
Toward intended objective, toward a straight course  
With correct steps, in solidarity  
Unitedly shall we continue journey forward.

Yan Naing Oo ( Trs )

### Rural development tasks inspected in Budalin, KhinU, Shwebo

YANGON, 1 Jan — Deputy Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Tin Ngwe inspected Kanthit-Aungchantha rural road measuring one mile long and 12 feet wide being built with assistance of the State in Budalin Township on 29 December.

Col Tin Ngwe also inspected completion of Budalin-Maungtaung rural gravel road.

In KhinU, the deputy minister unveiled the signboard to mark the supply of drinking water programme in the whole KhinU Township. Next, the deputy minister inspected KhinU Myoma Market with 304 shops and gave instructions on preparations to be made for the opening of the market.

Similarly, Col Tin Ngwe attended the ceremony to put into use tubewell in Khuntaungnge Village of Shwebo Township. Chairman of Shwebo District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Win Naing and Executive Officer U Kyaw Thu formally opened the tubewell which can pump out 1,800 gallons of water per hour to supply it to 483 villagers. — MNA



# Development in the electric power sector in the time of the State Peace and Development Council

## Tikyit coal-fired power plant

*Tikyit coal-fired power plant being built in Pinlaung Township, Shan State (South) will generate 120 megawatt.*



## Hailing the 57<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Independence Day

Generating Capacity			
Year	Kilowatt/hour(million)	Year	Kilowatt/hour (million)
1988-89	2264.5	1996-97	3370.31
1989-90	2494.44	1997-98	4550.46
1990-91	2643.05	1998-99	4139.44
1991-92	2675.92	1999-2000	4639.11
1992-93	3006.60	2000-2001	5059.31
1993-94	3386.79	2001-2002	4988.98
1994-95	3631.84	2002-2003	5064.20
1995-96	3762.33	2003-2004	5391.48

*Mone creek hydel power plant in Sedoktara Township, Magway Division, generates 75 megawatt.*



Electric power projects implemented from 1988 to 2004			
Sr	Subject	Quantity	Capacity
1.	Hydel power station	28	162.346 megawatt
2.	Natural gas-powered power plant	6	398.6 megawatt
3.	Plant under construction	11	2000.00 megawatt

## Yeywa Hydel Power Project

*Yeywa Hydel Power Project being implemented in Kyaukse Township, Mandalay Division will generate 790 megawatt.*



# Independence was thus safeguarded

**BEWARE OF  
THE THREAT  
OF  
COLONIALISTS**

At present, there have been evidences in the world that some countries were disintegrated in the absence of national solidarity as a result of external interferences.

Based on those evidences, lessons are to be drawn from the past history of Myanmar to be able to defend and safeguard sovereignty of the State.

Out of the events that pushed the nation to the verge of losing the independence again, the 1949-50 internal insurgency, the incident in the

eighty of the State.

On 28 March 1948 soon after the independence was regained, leftist extremists and Burma Communist Party (BCP) started to launch armed insurgency, saying that the independence was a sham.

In 1949, the PVO who tried to build a peace bridge between the BCP and the government split into the yellow Yebaws and the white Yebaws. Meanwhile, the insurgents launched a series of attacks on the government, seizing towns and villages. This flared the internal conflicts.

Therefore, the national unity had deteriorated and the country was on the brink of losing the independence. In addition,

(KMT) also forced the country to be on the verge of losing the independence. At such a time like this, the Tatmadaw had to safeguard sovereignty of

events have stood witness to the national unity that is of the first and foremost importance not only in fighting for the independence but also in safeguard-

**The national brethren were in unity in fighting for the independence. However, when the independence was regained, there had been splits among the ruling party, weakening the national unity.**

*Ye Wunt Thu*

the State.

The national brethren were in unity in fighting for the independence. However, when the independence was regained, there had been splits among the ruling party,

ing it.

At a time when Myanmar had been under her own monarch, the colonialists hatched a scheme to occupy



*In fighting against internal insurgents, the entire people providing assistance to Tatmadawmen on the frontline.*

was vividly seen that there were always external interferences behind. internal insurgency in Myanmar soon after the independence was regained,

**Hence, historical events have stood witness that the national unity is of first and foremost importance not only in fighting for the independence but also in safeguarding it. At a time when Myanmar had been under her own monarch, the colonialists hatched a scheme to occupy Myanmar at every opportunity for years. Inexhaustible natural resources in Myanmar also attracted the colonialists.**

time of the AFPFL Government in 1958, that in 1962 and that in 1988 were the ones that are worthy to draw lessons in striving for perpetuation of sov-

expulsion of the BCP out of the AFPFL by the ruling AFPFL government, the armed insurgency of white Yebaws and invasion of Kuomingtan

weakening the national unity. As a result, the country had been on the brink of losing the independence.

Hence, historical



*Tatmadaw, hand in hand with people, fought against insurgents in delta regions.*

Myanmar at every opportunity for years. Inexhaustible natural resources in Myanmar also attracted the colonialists. Resorting to various means, they invaded and colonized Myanmar diplomatically and economically.

It is obvious in the Myanmar history that although they had to restore the independence to Myanmar, the colonialists instigated and abetted internal traitors, invaders and insurgents.

Whenever there arose internal conflicts, it

In the internal insurgency which was born together with the independence, Captain Vivian and Major Tulock of Colonialist Army, mercenaries Alexander Campble, Bouldwin and Seegravee flared the internal conflicts.

At the same time, the minion KMT intruded into Myanmar and interfered her internal affairs.

After intruding into Myanmar, the KMT enticed and abetted the national races to grow poppy.

At the height of the

the KMT started invading Mongyan region in January 1950. As they had taken a foothold and were active in Myanmar territory up to 1953, Myanmar Tatmadaw had to drive them out of the territory, sacrificing much blood, sweat and lots of lives.

On 2 March 1954, the Myanmar Tatmadaw launched major attacks the Bayintaung Operation on three KMT outposts.

During the period of one-and-a-half months, the KMT suffered heavy (See page 9)



*Myanma Tatmadawmen crushed insurgents at the battle of U Sekkein monastery in April, 1949.*



# Independence was thus safeguarded

(from page 8)

losses and Tatmadaw had been able to recapture those outposts. The launch of Yangyaung Operation in 1955 by the Tatmadaw had been able to reduce the strength of the KMT to about 3,000. The intrusion of KMT started to fade away in 1960.

The nationalistic fervour and patriotic spirit arose among the national people who were against the invasion and did not accept the colonialists at all. The national people provided all the necessary assistance for the Tatmadaw to drive out the invaders.

Enlisting the strength of the national people, the Tatmadaw launched a series of operations such as the Yangyaung Operation, the Kengtung Operation, the Farod, Maw and Penglong Operation, the Moegyo Special Operation, the Maha Operation, the Naganaing Operation, the Yuzana Operation and the Mekong Operation against the KMT to defend the independence and sovereignty of the State.

Similarly, the

Tatmadaw in cooperation with the people waged military command-wise major battles such as the Shwelynong Operation, the Moehein Operation and the Shwelawin Operation on the internal insurgents. With those bat-

teration in 1967 and the Teza Operation in 1968 and 1969.

From 2 March 1962 to March 2 1974, the Tatmadaw conducted more than 100 military operations, minor and major, to crush internal and

**The nationalistic fervour and patriotic spirit arose among the national people who were against the invasion and did not accept the colonialists at all. The national people provided all the necessary assistance for the Tatmadaw to drive out the invaders.**

terials, the insurgents including Burma Communist Party (BCP) and Ma-Da-Nya-Ta were driven out of the delta region. Moreover, the Tatmadaw had been able to drive out the expatriate insurgents who entered the delta region with the aim of disintegrating the Union through the Htawpaing Operation.

The Tatmadaw also fought and drove off the BCP who had taken a foothold on Bago Yoma through Mawnaing Operation and the BCP in western part of Thayawady and southern part of Pyay District through the Pyithaya Op-

eration in 1967 and the Teza Operation in 1968 and 1969.

During that period, the Tatmadaw in conjunction with national people fought the over 3000-strong enemies in Kunlon battle, which lasted 40 days from 19 November to 28 December in 1971, at the cost of their lives.

That battle was a historical one because the Tatmadaw managed to put down the BCP's threat to the stability and sovereignty of the country. Likewise, Mankha and Haikkampa battles were ones in which the enemies fled in disarray suffering



Myanma Tatmadawmen fighting against the nationalist Chinese who encroached upon Myanmar.

a heavy loss of lives and leaving behind the bodies of their men.

**These are the battles in which the Tatmadaw broke the fangs of the enemies in a bid to maintain the territorial integrity and to safeguard the independence of the country.**

What brightens up the national and racial prestige are the political and military experiences gained in the efforts made from 1974 to 1988 to defend the country with the consolidated strength of the Tatmadaw and the national people.

Mongyan and Mongyawng battles in 1980 and the second Mongyawng battle in 1988 were the battles in which the BCP's military attempts were nipped in the bud. In the second Mongyawng battle, the BCP troops ran for their lives without being able to take 202 bodies of their fellowmen. In that battle, the Tatmadaw lost 51 lives including four officers in its defence of the country, while 124 Tatmadaw members sacrificed their limbs.

The Tatmadaw protected the country's sovereignty by quelling the anarchic uprising perpetrated in August and September 1988 in sync with chaotic upheavals by the aboveground and underground leftist and rightist political forces.

In short, the sovereignty of the country had been faced with the encroachment of the colonialists in the past. Internal insurgencies erupted following the restoration of independence. A variety of destructionists attempted in various ways and means to destroy the country and crack the unity.

Up to these days, they

have continued their destructive acts at every opportune time. They also stir up dissension through propagandist media to destabilize the country and keep minions to commit misconduct on a greater scale.

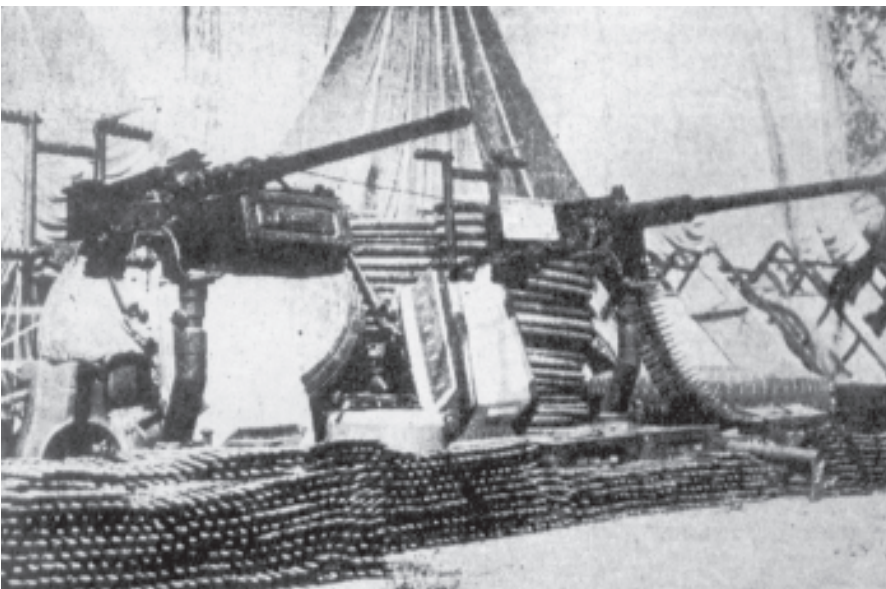
It is necessary to keep our eyes skinned and to be on full alert for the possible danger of threats in various forms. In maintaining the perpetual existence of independence, it is also necessary to figure out in advance the trick the neo-colonialist tend to use.

Preventive measures should be taken against the menace of the destructionists. It is absolutely important to believe the saying that goes 'Blood is thicker than water'.

All in all, it is incumbent upon the entire national people who adore the Union of Myanmar to join hands with the government to keep their watchful eyes open to the danger of the neo-colonialists and destructionists for maintaining the country's sovereignty.

(Translation: TS+KTY)

\* \* \*



Heavy weapons and ammunition seized during the Operation Mekhong in 1961



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe attends Mya Sein Yaung paddy harvesting ceremony. — MNA

## Commander attends harvesting of Mya Sein Yaung paddy strain in Hlegu

YANGON, 1 Jan — The harvesting of paddy at Mya Sein Yaung Farming Educative Camp of the Ministry of Commerce in conjunction with the ceremony to demonstrate operating power of small rice mills was held at the camp in Hlegu Township this morning.

Present were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, departmental heads, authorities, chairmen of Myanmar Rice Millers' Association, Myanmar Rice and Paddy Wholesalers Association, Myanmar Pulses and Beans and Sesame Merchants Association and local farmers.

Minister Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein extended

greetings. Managing Director U Min Hla Aung of Myanmar Agricultural Produce Trading reported on per-acre yield of paddy strain, transferring of technology, and explained harvesting and winnowing of Mya Sein Yaung monsoon paddy.

The commander delivered an address. Next, the commander, the minister and guests viewed rice mill of Thaug Win Industry, small rice mills of MAPT, sample paddy and rice of Mya Sein Yaung paddy strain, spare parts and rubber rollers, agricultural equipment and vehicles of Yangon East District Industrial Zones, CNG fired pump of Yangon Command, CNG saloon cars and TE assembled by MAPT and pumps displayed at the farm.

MNA

## Industrial Development Research Exhibition and Paper-reading Session commence

YANGON, 1 Jan — The Industrial Development Research Exhibition and Paper-reading Session began at Yangon Technological University in Gyogon, here, this morning.

Deputy Minister for Science and Technology Dr Chan Nyein explained the purpose of holding the research exhibition and paper-reading session. Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin, Minister for Science and Technology U Thaug and Minister for Education U Than Aung formally opened the exhibition. Minister Maj-Gen Saw Lwin unveiled the signboard of the exhibition and paper-reading session. Next, they viewed round the booths at the exhibition.

The paper-reading session was held at the meeting room-1. General Manager U Hlaing Thein of No 1 Automobile Factory of the Ministry of Industry-2, Lecturer Dr Thanda Aung and Lecturer Dr Khaing Khaing Aye of the Ministry of Science and Technology, Pro-Rector Dr Mya Mya Oo of YTU, Lecturer Daw Cho Cho Win of YTU submitted their papers,



Ministers, deputy ministers and officials views the booths. — MNA

and the session went into recess.

In the afternoon, Lecturer Dr Win Naing of the Ministry of Science and Technology, Lecturer Dr Shwe Zin Aung, Naing Naing Sein Htoon and party of Yangon University, Associate Professor Dr Cho Cho Oo of YU and Lecturer Daw Yi Yi Myint of YU presented papers to the session.

The paper-reading

session continues till 3 January.

At the Industrial Development Research Exhibition, CNG engine, CNG system lathe, DRO system lathe, DRO Milling, Sport welding machine and machinery manufactured by the Ministry of Industry-2 are displayed at the Ministry of Industry-2 booth on the ground floor, parts of train, 1200 hp and 1600

hp diesel engine cylinders and others produced by Myanmar Railways at the booth of Myanmar Railways, production of biogas, usage of U-Fglue and generating of solar power at the booth of the Ministry of Science and Technology, the Ministry of Education and companies on the first floor.

MNA

## MoU on construction of bamboo pulp factory signed

YANGON, 1 Jan — A ceremony to sign the MoU on construction of the bamboo pulp factory was held at the Ministry of Industry-1, here, this afternoon.

Managing Director

U Than Shwe of Myanmar Paper and Chemicals Industries and Vice President Mr Shen Yue Ming of China Yunnan Corporation for International Techno-Economic Cooperation (CYC) signed the

MoU related to the factory which can produce 100-ton bleached bamboo pulp per day to be built in Kaleinaung region of Dawei District. Next, they exchanged the documents. — MNA

## Mayor's Cup Floricultural Show and Contest held

YANGON, 1 Jan — As a gesture of hailing the 57th Anniversary Independence Day, the 13th Mayor's Cup Floricultural Show and Contest was held at Mindhamma Grounds at the corner of Mindhamma and Tawwin Roads in Mayangon Township this morning.

Members of the Panel of Leading Patrons of the Myanmar Floriculturists Association Daw Khin Than Nwe, wife of Lt-Gen Tin Oo, Daw Khin Lay Thet, wife of General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence, Daw Than Than Nwe, wife of Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win, Daw Khin Khin Win, wife of Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and Daw Khin Thet Htay, wife of Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe formally opened the show and contest and viewed round fruits and flowers displayed at the show.

At 10 am, Daw Khin Than Nwe, Daw Khin Lay Thet, Daw Than Than Nwe, Daw Khin Khin Win and Daw Khin Thet Htay presented prizes to the winners. Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin also awarded championship trophy to U Aung Zaw Oo and cash prize to Vice-Chairperson of the association Daw Nu Nu Yi.

MNA

## Traditional Foods Sales on 3-4 Jan

YANGON, 1 Jan — For the purpose of cementing friendly relation of national races, Yangon Division Organization for Women's Affairs will hold the Traditional Food Sales at National Races Village in Thakayta Township on 3 and 4 January.

Traditional foods of national races and various kinds of foodstuff will be sold by members of division, district and township organizations for women's affairs and private entrepreneurs. In addition, those present can enjoy music entertainment of vocalists and film and video actors. Those wishing to know facts about the Sales may dial 370507, 370508, 056-21105 and 0950-17268.

MNA

## Myanma Gems Emporium in March

YANGON, 1 Jan — The Myanma Gems Enterprise under the Ministry of Mines is making arrangements to organize the 42<sup>nd</sup> Myanma Gems Emporium in March 2005 in the interests of the nation as well as local gems entrepreneurs.

Lots of gems will be sold by auction at the emporium. The Myanma Gems Enterprise is now coordinating with related departments and organizations at home and abroad to invite local and foreign gems merchants.

Those local gems entrepreneurs interested may contact the Myanma Gems Enterprise (Head Office) to have their gems registered and fixed floor prices starting from 5 January.

MNA

## Health Communication Forum held

YANGON, 1 Jan — The Health Communication Forum organized by Department of Health Planning was held at the National Health Museum on Thiri Mingala Road yesterday afternoon.

Director (Health Education) Dr Daw Khin Than Oo of DHP gave an opening address. Deputy Director (Health Education) Dr Khin Maung Lwin explained facts about the forum with the use of audio-visual aid.

Eden group and Deputy Director (Worksite Health) Dr Than Htut recounted their experience on nurturing disabled children and International Arsenic Association.

Also present at the forum were officials of INGO, UN agencies, local NGOs and mediapersons.

MNA

## Objectives of 57<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Independence Day

- All the national people to collectively safeguard the national independence and sovereignty of the State and ensure non-disintegration of the Union and national unity
- All the national people to unitedly strive with might and main for emergence of an enduring State Constitution and for building a new modern and developed nation
- All the national people to work in concert for success of the seven-point Road Map of the State with Union Spirit and nationalist spirit
- All the national people to make concerted efforts for building of a new discipline-flourishing democratic nation

## 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Armed Forces Day Objectives

- To work in concert with the people to achieve success in implementation of the seven-point Road Map for emergence of a peaceful, modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation
- To exert energetic efforts in carrying out the five rural development tasks
- To strive hand in hand with the people for successful realization of the twelve State Objectives while upholding Our Three Main National Causes
- To build a strong, efficient and modern Tatmadaw

## Regional development undertakings inspected in Taninthayi Division

YANGON, 1 Jan—Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Coastal Region Command Commander Maj-Gen Ohn Myint held a meeting with local authorities, service personnel, members of social organizations and townseiders on 24 December in Bokpyin Township.

On the occasion, officials reported on geographical facts about the region and precautions taken for local food security. In response, the commander elaborated on regional development undertakings, and rendered assistance for the region.

In his inspection tour of Bokpyin Township People's Hospital, the commander presented K 300,000 donated by the Division PDC; and wellwisher U Maung Lay, K 200,000 to the medical superintendent.

The commander inspected progress of construction of a monastic education school building in the compound of Bokpyin Manaung Monastery. Daw Khin Soe (Annawa Soe) donated K 1 million to

the school.

Next, the commander inspected Bokpyin Basic Education High School, construction of Kawthoung-Bokpyin-Myeik Road, oil palm farms along the road, and the oil palm farm of Htoo Co Ltd.

On arrival at Taninthayi Township, the commander met local authorities and departmental officials at the BEHS. Officials reported on points about the region and work progress for regional development. District PDC Chairman Lt-Col Khin Maung Kywe gave a supplementary report. The commander gave instructions on the tasks.

The commander attended the opening of multimedia classrooms of the BEHS and opened them.

He inspected Township People's Hospital and donated K 1 million to the funds of the hospital.

In addition, he inspected construction of Mingala Kandaw Township MCWA office and the site chosen for construction of the City Hall. — MNA



Daw Khin Than Nwe, wife of Lt-Gen Tin Oo presents prize to a student who stood eighth in Matriculation Examination in the entire nation. — MNA

## Prizes awarded to students of Dagon BEHS No 1

YANGON, 1 Jan — The prize presentation ceremony for 2003-2004 academic year of Dagon Basic Education High School No 1 was held at Dagon Thiri Hall of the school yesterday morning.

Daw Khin Than Nwe, wife of Lt-Gen Tin Oo presented prizes to the winners who stood seventh and eighth positions at the Matriculation Examination in the entire nation; Daw Khin Thet Htay, wife of the Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander

of Yangon Command, prizes to the winners in the Olympic Maths Contest; and Daw Tin Tin Nyunt, wife of the Minister for Electric Power, Daw Thazin Nwe, wife of the Deputy Minister for Education, and officials gave away prizes to 23 six-distinction winners and others. — MNA

## Minister inspects hotel services in Ngapali

YANGON, 1 Jan—Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Thein Zaw inspected arrivals of tourists from abroad and travellers at home at Ngapali Airport this morning.

The minister went to Amazing Ngapali Hotel and inspected the lobby, swimming pool, restaurant and rooms.

The minister also inspected Sandoway Resort where U Aung Myat Kyaw and party reported on construction of single room, restaurant and swimming pool. He cordially met local and foreign guests at the resort.

The minister proceeded to Ngapali Amata Hotel and inspected hotel services and greeted local and foreign

guests on the beach.

The minister inspected Ngapali Beach Hotel and told officials to renovate the hotel. Director-General of Directorate of Hotels and Tourism U Htay Aung reported on Ngapali Beach Development Master Plan. The minister also inspected Ngapali Treasure Beach Hotel, Jade Marina Resort and Thande Beach Hotel projects being undertaken for development of Ngapali beach.

The minister also greeted local and foreign guests at Ngapali Bay View Hotel. Tourists and local travellers are on holiday on coastal regions such as Ngapali, Chaungtha and Ngwehsaung. — MNA



Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Thein Zaw inspects Ngapali Beach. — MNA

## Myanmar Gold Entrepreneurs Association holds annual meeting

YANGON, 1 Jan — The second annual meeting of Myanmar Gold Entrepreneurs Association was held at Summit Parkview Hotel on Ahlon Road in Dagon Township this afternoon.

Present were Patron of the association Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo, Director-General of MPF Brig-Gen Khin Yi, Director-General U Myat Ko of GAD, Director-General Col Aung Saw Win of BSI,

President of UMFCCI U Win Myint, Chairman of the MGEA U Thu Daw, executives and guests.

Minister Maj-Gen Maung Oo and UMFCCI President U Win Myint gave speeches.

Later, UMFCCI General Secretary U Sein Win Hlaing read the list of the association that U Thu Daw was elected as the chairman and U Kyaw Win as Secretary. — H

## Papers to mark School Family Day submitted

YANGON, 1 Jan—Chairman of Leading Committee for Observance of School Family Day Minister for Education U Than Aung, Deputy Minister U Myo Nyunt and officials attended paper reading session in commemoration of the School Family Day at Yangon University this afternoon.

Assistant Lecturer of Zoology Department of YU Daw Aye Aye Myint and Lecturer of Botany Department of Pyay University Daw Cho Cho submitted papers.

The minister observed the laboratory of Chemistry Department of YU. Lecturer of Chemistry Department of Sittway University Daw Nay Thwe Kyi and Deputy Director-General of the Department of Hydrology and Meteorology U Tun Lwin submitted papers. The minister and party observed research at the butterfly garden of Zoology Department. They were conducted round by Professor/Head of Department Daw Tin Nwe. — MNA

## MICT anniversary and ICT Week on 21-27 Jan

YANGON, 1 Jan—Myanma Information and Communication Technology Anniversary and ICT Week will be held at MICT Park in Hlaing Township from 21 to 27 January. Computer accessories, software, hardware and technologies will be on display at 200 booths of the ministries, local and foreign ICT firms.

Workshops such as natural language processing, capacity building and outsourcing model, information security and competitions of programming, web development and network games will also be held during ICT Week. Firms from home and abroad and contestants may contact MICT Park dialling 652272-3-4 not later than 10 January. — MNA

## China to increase aid to tsunami-hit countries

**BEIJING, 31 Dec**—China will increase by a big margin its emergency assistance to the tsunami-hit countries in both goods and spot exchange, spokesman Chong Quan of the Ministry of Commerce said here Thursday morning.

"The relief goods will mainly include medicine, generators and food, and the ministry will cooperate closely with departments concerned for airlifting the humanitarian aid to the tsunami-hit countries in the shortest possible time," he said.

Following Sunday's earthquake-powered tsunamis, the Chinese Government decided to provide 21.63 million yuan (2.62 million US dollars) worth of spot exchange and relief goods, including tents, blankets and food, to Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Maldives and Thailand.

The first batch of Chinese relief goods arrived in Sri Lanka Wednesday, and the second batch, originally scheduled to leave for Indonesia Wednesday night, will be airlifted as soon as ar-

range ment is ready in the designated airport in Indonesia, Chong said, adding that the ministry is keeping contact with the Indonesian side over the matter.

Considering the heavy casualties and property losses some South and Southeast Asian countries have sustained, the Chinese Government decided Wednesday to provide emergency aid to the tsunami-stricken countries again and increase the amount by a big margin, in order to help them in the rescue and reconstruction work.

The decision also represented China's move to answer the call of the United Nations to provide humanitarian aid to the tsunami-hit countries and fulfil its international responsibility, Chong said.—MNA/Xinhua

## Former German Chancellor Kohl narrowly escaped from tsunami

**BERLIN, 31 Dec**—Former German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, who narrowly escaped the tsunami that damaged his Sri Lanka hotel, said on Thursday the devastation reminded him of the destruction of World War II.

In a contribution for *Bild* newspaper, Kohl said he planned to stay in the Sri Lanka resort of Thalpe and not return to Germany despite fears of an epidemic because he did not want to abandon the region at a time of need.

"At first we didn't understand that the flood wave had such a destructive effect," Kohl, 74, said. "Only when we saw that the entire first and second floors of our hotel were under water did we realize the full extent of the catastrophe."

Kohl, chancellor from 1982 to 1998, is on a private holiday. He said he

was fortunate to be on the third floor of the hotel. "Everything around the hotel was destroyed and our hotel was also badly damaged," said Kohl. "The sea took everything with it. It reminded me of the images from the war that I lived through as a youth. It looked like a bomb attack."

Kohl said at first he wanted to stay in the hotel after the flood. He said none of the 50 to 60 Swiss and Germans at his hotel were among the victims.

"We were advised to move out of the area," he said. "But we decided to stay. I didn't want to run

away. I thought it was important to stay and try to organize help. But after two days there was no electricity or water and we were told to leave."

Kohl, then airlifted to another hotel near Colombo with the others from his stricken hotel, said he would stay in Sri Lanka to try to help the victims of the flood.

"We're staying in Sri Lanka because we want to help, especially to get projects for children up and running," Kohl said. "We don't want to close our eyes to the tremendous suffering here."

MNA/Reuters

## Canada puts debt moratorium for tsunami-hit Asian countries

**OTTAWA, 31 Dec**—Canadian Foreign Minister Pierre Pettigrew announced Thursday that Canada is freezing debt repayment for South and Southeast Asian countries that were hit by a deadly earthquake and subsequent tsunamis.

"In addition to helping with the urgent humanitarian need in the region," he said, "Canada will put in place with immediate effect and for the foreseeable future, a debt moratorium for the tsunami-affected countries."

"In this way we will address not only the immediate crisis, but also provide significant support in helping the rebuilding efforts of these countries," he said.

Meanwhile, Canadian Defence Minister Bill Graham told reporters the Canadian federal govern-

ment is following a "multilateral, multidisciplinary and multifaceted" approach to relief efforts.

Canada has decided to provide 40 million Canadian dollars (about 33 million US dollars) in aid, and will immediately send a 17-member reconnaissance team charged with determining the need for Canada's crack military emergency response unit.

The death toll from the massive tsunamis in South and Southeast Asian countries has risen to over 117,000.—MNA/Xinhua

## Health problems a major concern in Aceh as death toll passes 45,000

**JAKARTA, 31 Dec**—Health problems have become a major concern in Aceh where over 45,000 people are confirmed dead in an earthquake-triggered tsunami that swept through the Indonesian province on Sunday.

Most of the four-day-old bodies have not been evacuated or buried, spreading the stink of rotten flesh to the air and threatening the outbreak of diarrhoea and other deadly diseases.

To make things worse, medical workers and relief supplies failed to immediately reach survivors due to infrastructural damages and fuel shortage.

"Medicines cannot reach hospitals because there is no vehicle, no gasoline in Aceh," Minister of Health Dr Fadilah Supari said in Jakarta.

She said the plan to send more ambulances to Aceh



## Australia to send Navy ship, choppers to disaster-stricken Indonesia

**CANBERRA, 31 Dec**—Australia is to send a Navy ship and helicopters to tsunami-hit Indonesia and has offered to set up a field hospital in Aceh area, Prime Minister John Howard said on Thursday.

An *Antonov* aircraft along with three *Iriquoit* helicopters will be sent to Aceh and more air crew will be sent to Sumatra, Indonesia, to ensure the around-the-clock operation of Australia's four *Hercules* aircraft already in that country, said Howard.

The aircraft-carrier *HMAS Kanimbla* will leave Sydney on Friday, carrying helicopters and engineers to help with relief efforts, he said.

"It will go via Darwin and then on to Indonesia, and its many faceted capacities mean it will be available for any number of tasks, and that will be a deployment of course which is likely to last for a period of time," Australian Broadcasting Corporation radio quoted Howard as saying. "We will offer a light field hospital which has about 90 beds to the Indonesian Government for use in the affected area," he said.

Two medical teams are on their way to the Maldives and Sri Lanka, he said.—MNA/Xinhua

## No disease outbreak in tsunami-hit areas in India

**NEW DELHI, 31 Dec**—There are no official reports from tsunami-hit areas of any outbreak of disease, but the Indian Health Ministry is looking into unofficial reports of a possible diarrhoea outbreak, according to *Indo-Asian News Service* (IANS).

"We are on the lookout for any early warning of an outbreak of epidemic in the affected areas and are ready to cope with any situation," Director-General of Health Services S P Agarwal said in Chennai, capital of Tamil Nadu Thursday evening.

A 70-member team comprising epidemiologists and other experts are in Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Kerala and Andhra

Pradesh to assist the local health authorities. "There has been no outbreak reported by the state authorities to the health and family welfare regional offices," the Health Ministry said in a statement issued here Thursday.

"The central team of epidemiologists currently in Nagapattinam are enquiring into reports regarding outbreak of diarrhoea diseases in the district," said the statement.

Along with experts,

**TRADE MARK CAUTION**  
Fluoril International Lighting (Holding) B.V., a company incorporated in the Netherlands of Oudeweg 135, 2031 CC Haarlem, The Netherlands, is the Owner of the following Trade Mark:-

**SYLVANIA**  
Reg. No. 3877/1985

in respect of "Lighting apparatus; fluorescent light tubes; light bulbs; lamps; electric discharge tubes for lighting; luminous tubes for lighting; spot lights; floodlights".

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

Win Mu Tin  
M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L.  
for Fluoril International Lighting (Holding) B.V.  
P. O. Box 60, Yangon  
Dated: 2 January 2004.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Anbumani Ramadoss is in Chennai reviewing the medical relief activities after visiting the tsunami affected coastal areas of Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry.

The Health Ministry is taking additional measures to ensure safety of people in disaster-hit areas in consultation with international agencies like the World Health Organization (WHO).

MNA/Xinhua

## Ukraine's new administration to boost ties with Russia

**KIEV, 31 Dec**—The new Ukrainian Administration led by Victor Yushchenko will endeavour to boost ties with Russia, a representative of Yushchenko said at a Press conference here on Wednesday.

The new administration will seek to boost cooperation with Russia in such fields as energy and economy within the framework of the Ukrainian and Russian friendship and cooperation treaty, said Yushchenko's campaign manager, Oleksander Zinchenko.

Ukraine's new administration will play an active role in improving the mode of energy cooperation with Russia so as to solve the problems which emerged in the field in recent years, said Zinchenko.

He added that Ukraine will continue to hold discussions with Russia con-

cerning economic integration among Ukraine, Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan, while focusing on the impact of such integration on Ukraine's accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO) and its status as a recognized market economy.

The campaign manager also said 2007 marks the 10th anniversary of the Ukrainian-Russian friendship and cooperation treaty. Now that 10 years have past, relevant revisions should be made in the treaty to adapt to the changes, he added.

MNA/Xinhua

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### Devastation confronts aid teams in Asia's isolated tsunami-hit areas

**BANGKOK, 31 Dec** — Scenes of total devastation confronted aid teams as they arrived in Asia's isolated tsunami-hit areas on Thursday with entire towns destroyed and up to 5 million people in desperate need of food and water.

Aid groups said not only were they struggling to supply immediate medical relief for thousands of injured, many of whom have not eaten since the tsunami hit on Sunday killing nearly 80,000, but they now faced the massive task of rebuilding thousands of towns and villages from Indonesia to Sri Lanka. "Entire villages have been washed away," said Rod Volway, programme manager for CARE Canada's Emergency Response Team which was one of the first aid groups into Indonesia's northern Aceh Province, the worst-hit area. "Clean water is the most urgent need right now. But we need to make

sure that there is an immediate focus on rehabilitation. Everything from roads to schools need to be rebuilt," he said. "This isn't just a situation of giving out food and water. Entire towns and villages need to be rebuilt from the ground up. Everything has been destroyed." But as hundreds of tons of medical supplies pour into Asia from around the world, very little was reaching the most devastated areas, as aid groups raced to prevent outbreaks of diseases that could double the death toll. "We are doing very little at the moment," UN Emergency Relief Coordinator Jan Egeland acknowledged in New

York, as aid workers reached most of the stricken areas. "It will take maybe 48 to 72 hours more to be able to respond to the tens of thousands of people who would like to have assistance today — or yesterday, rather," he said. "I believe the frustration will be growing in the days and the weeks ahead." In just three days, up to 60 nations have donated or pledged more than 220 million US dollars in cash and about the same amount of in-kind contributions and extensive logistical support. Indonesia has suffered the biggest number of victims, with 45,268 known dead, although the

toll could rise to 80,000 in Aceh alone, the province closest to the quake's epicentre. The UN plans to airlift emergency shelter into Aceh for up to 100,000 people. "Much of Aceh, which was closest to the epicentre of the earthquake, has been levelled and the local population urgently needs shelter and basic living supplies," said UN High Commissioner for Refugees Ruud Lubbers. The tsunami, which travelled at up to 310 miles per hour, not only washed away tens of thousands of people and hundreds of villages and towns but also polluted vital water wells — some for years to come. — MNA/Reuters

### Philippine tourism records highest tourist arrivals in 2004

**MANILA, 1 Jan** — The Philippine tourism industry has recorded the highest number of tourist arrivals in the past six years, the Department of Tourism (DOT) said Friday.

According to the DOT statistics, the Philippines has also seen a hefty 1.61 billion US dollars in tourism revenue in 2004 although a number of travel advisories were issued against the country. Tourism Secretary Joseph Durano said that data from the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) showed a total of 2,233,921 international arrivals from January to December 27. "The figure easily surpassed the 2.22 million US dollars arrivals recorded in 1997," he said. In 2004, the United States, Japan, Australia and Britain have issued the travel advisories against the Philippines for security threat in the country. However, DOT has recorded a 32.39-per-cent growth in tourism earnings from 1.22 billion US dollars in 2003. "The growth in tourist receipts clearly reflects the tourism industry's potential of becoming a major dollar earner and a job provider for the country," he said. DOT said that the growth in tourist arrivals is expected to continue and hit 2.68 million US dollars next year and tourism receipts to increase to 4.59 billion US dollars by 2010. — MNA/Xinhua

### China makes public facilities for minors

**BEIJING, 1 Jan** — China will halt any projects that do not have plans to build play grounds, entertainment sites and other public facilities reserved for minors' recreation, said sources with the Ministry of Construction (MOC) on Thursday. Government agencies in charge of urban planning should enhance the monitoring of city planning projects, in a bid to ensure recreation centres for kids be incorporated into the future plan and meet relevant national standards, according to MOC's senior official, who refused to be named. According to a circular jointly issued by the ministries of Construction and Civil Affairs early this month, public facilities for minors should be built when part of a city is under reconstruction or a new zone is being developed. In a residential area with a population between 7,000 and 15,000, an area of 40 to 60 square metres has to be reserved to build public recreational facilities for per thousand people. — MNA/Xinhua

### Visitors arrival in HK in November sets record

**HONG KONG, 1 Jan** — The visitors arrival in November set another record for Hong Kong by topping the 1.69 million mark in the same month last year by more than 260,000 or 15.8 per cent, the Hong Kong Tourism Board said Thursday. There were some 19 million arrivals in the first 11 months of the year, a 43.5-per-cent increase on the same period in 2003 and 32.4-per-cent growth on the 2002 figure. Since then, the 20 million landmark was reached on 5 December. It looks certain that total arrivals for 2004 will surpass the board's target of 21.36 million. A number of important source markets have already passed their best ever full-year performances, including South Korea, Australia, India and South Africa. Arrivals from the United States and New Zealand are also on track to reach all-time records by the end of December, according to the board. The board's Executive Director Clara Chong said that December arrivals looked likely to be even higher than those of November. "There will understandably be some immediate postponements of vacations in the region, but it's too early to assess the longer-term implications," she added. All market regions except Taiwan showed double-digit growth over their November 2003 performance. Arrivals from Chinese Mainland grew 11.9 per cent, passing the million mark for the fourth time in five months to reach some one million. — MNA/Xinhua



Visitors promenade during Tokyo's first snowfall for winter at Japan's Imperial Palace on 29 Dec, 2004. — INTERNET



Australian Navy ship HMAS Kanimbla, an amphibious landing ship, maneuvers in Sydney harbor amongst pleasure craft waiting for New Year celebrations on 31 Dec, 2004. — INTERNET

### Prestigious Fudan University to embrace centennial year

**SHANGHAI, 1 Jan** — China's prestigious Fudan University in Shanghai is scheduled to hold a range of celebrations events in honour of its centenary from January 1, 2005, said an official with university authority on Friday.

A series of activities to mark the grand event include the celebration ceremony, academic forums, international conventions, and student society activities. Qin Shaode, a principal leader of Fudan, said that the progress and expansion of Fudan University epitomizes the development process of higher education in China. Fudan University was established personally by Father Ma Xiangbo in 1905, and it was then named "Fudan College". The two Chinese character "Fu Dan" were picked up from a famous verse in an old book named "History about Shang-Yu Xia", that implies that "The sun and the moon shine forever, alternating day and night". — MNA/Xinhua

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**Iraqi coach walks out of nat'l team**

TOKYO, 1 Jan— Iraq coach Adnan Hamd has walked out on the national team after his home was destroyed.

Hamd, who took Iraq to the Asian Cup quarterfinals and the last four of the Athens Olympics this year, quit just three weeks after being named Asian coach of the year.

"I was hoping that I could continue... but there are a lot of security problems in Iraq," Hamd was quoted by FootballAsia.com on Friday.

"I have just received a call that my home was destroyed... this situation is very hard for me."

Hamd's resignation comes a week after the end of the 2004 Gulf Cup in Doha, where Iraq suffered a first-round exit.

In Qatar, Hamd had denied he would quit but the continuing violence in war-torn Iraq meant his job was fraught with problems and danger to both coach and players.

MNA/Reuters

**WADA make great strides in fight against doping in '04**

BERLIN, 1 Jan—The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) made great strides in its fight against doping in 2004, but athletes who miss doping tests should be immediately disqualified in future, IOC president Jacques Rogge said.

In an interview in Friday's Sueddeutsche Zeitung newspaper, the International Olympic Committee head said

2004 represented a breakthrough in the battle against doping, adding there had been a complete change in the mentality

against drug cheats.

"We need stricter punishments on athletes who fail to appear for tests," he said. "They should be disqualified, period."

"Anyone not available should have at most an hour or two. But no more exceptions for those who miss three, four or five tests."

Rogge applauded an eight-year suspension recently handed to US sprinter Michelle Collins.

"That would have been impossible earlier," he said. "I welcome this change in mentality."

Rogge said the efficiency of tests had improved considerably even in the last six months and would get even better.

"What's most effective is the unannounced tests," he said. "We'll show up at seven in the morning or eight in the evening and knock on the door and say 'we want a test,'" he said.

MNA/Reuters

**French defender agrees to join Newcastle United**

NEW CASTLE (England), 1 Jan— France defender Jean-Alain Bounsong has agreed to join Newcastle United from Rangers, the Premier League club said on Friday.

"I can confirm that we have reached an agreement with Glasgow Rangers and with the player and the agreement that we have with him is a five-and-a-half-year deal," manager Graeme Souness told reporters.

Newcastle gave no details on the fee, estimated at eight million pounds (15.35 million US dollars) by the British media, in their second deal for a new defender in 24 hours. Chelsea's Nigerian left back Celestine Babayaro agreed on Thursday to join the Tynesiders on a three-and-a-half year contract when the January transfer window opens on Saturday.

Bounsong, 25, was undergoing a medical on Friday and could make his debut in an FA Cup tie against minor-league Yeading on January 9. He joined Rangers on a free transfer in July from French club Auxerre.

"I am very pleased because we see that he will be a very big influence at this club both in the short term and the

long term," Souness added.

"He's a young man who has a great desire to be the very best.

He's a communicator on the pitch and you can never have enough of players like that.

"That is an area in which we have been lacking because we don't have enough talkers in the team and he will certainly help us in that department. I think the

supporters will enjoy watching him play as well."

Souness' moves on the transfer market reflect the fact that Newcastle have the second worst defensive record in the Premier League with 38 goals conceded in 20 games.

Only bottom club West Bromwich Albion, with 42 conceded, have fared worse.

MNA/Reuters



French defender Jean-Alain Bounsong (L), who was in Newcastle and about to complete an eight-million-pound (11.3-million euro) move from Rangers to the Magpies.—INTERNET

**Canada, Russia win big at World Juniors Hockey C'ship**

GRAND FORKS (North Dakota), — Jeff Carter scored three goals three goals in the second period to lead Canada to an 8-1 victory over Finland in the World Junior Hockey Championship.

Corey Perry added a pair of goals and Jeff Glass made 19 saves for Canada (4-0) on Thursday.

The win earns Canada the top seed in Group B and a bye to the tournament semifinals, which begin Sunday. Finland finished pool play at 2-2.

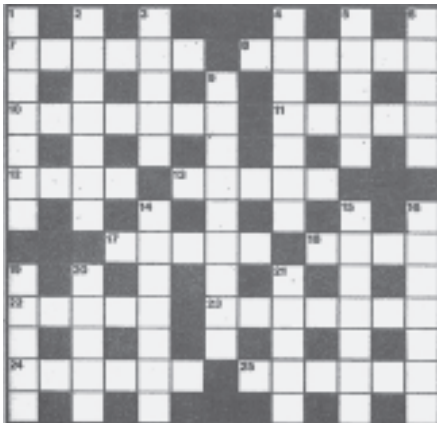
Canada has outscored four opponents 32-5 and allowed just one goal in its final eight periods.

Canada has needed just 7 seconds of power play to score the game's first goal. Perry knocked in a shot that ricocheted off the back boards to the front of the net at 4:45 of the first period.

"Today was a day where we were a very focused hockey club," Canada coach Brent Sutter said.

MNA/AP

**CROSSWORD PUZZLE**



**ACROSS**

- 7 Coins
- 8 Vulgar
- 10 Surrender
- 11 Pleasantly flavoured
- 12 Burglarious haul
- 13 Condiment stand
- 17 Native family
- 18 Daily woman
- 22 Leather strap
- 23 Crush underfoot
- 24 Time to come
- 25 Show

**DOWN**

- 1 Brawl
- 2 Old soldier
- 3 Leered
- 4 Gun pouch
- 5 Intestinal pain
- 6 Weak and thin
- 9 Quality
- 14 Calendarist pope
- 15 Racing dog
- 16 Tidy
- 19 Rigid
- 20 Voting cubicle
- 21 Black bird

**Kenyan runner strides to victory in Sao Silvestre road race**

SAO PAULO, 1 Jan— Kenya's Robert Cheruiyot strode to victory in the annual 15-km Sao Silvestre road race for the second time in three years on Friday amid unprecedented security.

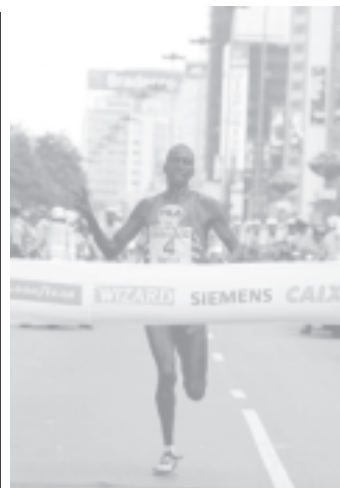
Cheruiyot broke away as the runners passed the Municipal Theatre, 2.5 kilometres from the finish, and then made light of the punishing 1,500-metre Brigadeiro hill to finish 23 seconds ahead of Ethiopia-born Australian Sisay Bezabeh. The Kenyan finished the race

flanked on both sides by an army of motorcycle and bicycle-riding police as organizers went out of their way to avoid a possible repeat of the Olympic Games marathon incident, when Brazil's Vanderlei de Lima was attacked by a former Irish priest as he led the race. De

Lima recovered to win bronze. Organizers said they had received e-mails warning of a possible revenge attack if a non-Brazilian athlete was leading.

Brazil's hopes, already diminished by de Lima's decision not to take part and an injury to defending champion Marilson Gomes dos Santos, ended when Romulo Wagner da Silva dropped away from the leaders after nine kilometres.

An estimated 13,000 runners took part in the race which has been run through the streets of Latin America's largest city every New Year's Eve since 1925.—MNA/Reuters



Kenya's Robert Cheruiyot crosses the finish line to win the 19th Sao Silvestre Marathon in Sao Paulo, Brazil, on Friday, 31 Dec, 2004.—INTERNET

**US sprinter suspended after testing positive for anabolic steroid**

RALEIGH (North Carolina), 1 Jan— US sprinter Mickey Grimes has been suspended for two years after testing positive for the anabolic steroid norandrosterone, the US Anti-Doping Agency (USADA) said on Friday.

Grimes, 28, a former Pan American Games 100 metres champion, accepted the ban after a May 25, 2004 out-of-competition sample tested positive, USADA said in a news release.

It was the second doping violation for Grimes, a training partner of former world record holder Maurice Greene.

Grimes lost his 2003 Pan American Games title after testing positive for the stimulant ephedrine. He received a public warning.

MNA/Reuters

### Advisory firm predicts high growth for Asian "IT" spending in 2005

LOS ANGELES, 1 Jan — Asian countries' investment in information and communications technology will grow by more than 10 per cent in 2005, a leading IT advisory firm predicted on Thursday.

The International Data Company (IDC) said in its latest forecast that the IT market in Asia-Pacific Region (excluding Japan) will maintain the growth momentum and will grow by 10 per cent in 2005 to 97 billion US dollars, despite prospects of a slower economic growth relative to 2004.

The total telecom services market in the region will grow by 11 per cent to 163 billion US dollars in 2005, driven primarily by growth in IP, broadband and wireless services, the report said. The IDC predicted that 2005 will be a year of convergence, consolidation, innovation and realignment across all IT market areas.

The IDC also published its other top predictions for the market in Asia and Pacific for 2005:

- Wireless services market will overtake fixed-line services in Asia and Pacific.
- Semiconductor market will correct in 2005, registering a 2-per-cent dip in worldwide revenues.
- Consolidation and commoditization of IT hardware infrastructure will accelerate industry realignment.
- Security remains on top of CIO agenda.
- Linux will expand within server operating environments.
- Offshore services and software outsourcing will accelerate.
- Enterprise Solutions Platforms will reshape the application software business.
- Digital home will establish a foothold in developed markets in the region.
- Emerging technologies will be on the verge.

MNA/Xinhua

### British house prices drop in December

LONDON, 1 Jan — British property markets fell for the second time this year as average house prices declined by 0.2 per cent in December following a 0.9 per cent gain the previous month, the Nationwide building society said Thursday.

The country's second largest mortgage lender said the price drop brought the annual housing market increase down to the lowest level in three years at 12.7 per cent, down from 15 per cent in November.

One factor that hurt prices this month was a shortage of newcomers to the housing market, Nationwide said. "The recent slowdown in monthly house price growth and the falls in housing market activity, in part, reflect the changing economic backdrop," said Alex Bannister, Nationwide's group economist.

"Indications are that following the downward shift in activity and price growth during the late 2004, the housing market may be beginning to stabilize," he added. British

housing market saw an annual average rise of around 20 per cent in the past three years and is expected to rise by 15 per cent this year even if it started to slow down since July.

Bannister noted that prices rose by 11.4 per cent in the first seven months of the year but since then have only gone up by a further 1.2 per cent.

The figures supported recent data from the government and other bodies which all pointed to a slowdown in the housing market.

Analysts said the figures provide more evidence that the long-running property boom has come to an end after five rate rises to 4.75 per cent in August from a 48-year low of 3.5 per cent in November last year which took the steam out of the market.—MNA/Xinhua

### Pentagon reportedly to offer cuts in the billions

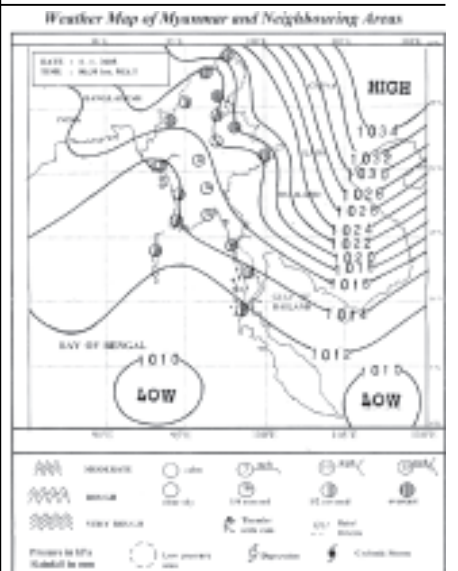
WASHINGTON, 1 Jan — The Pentagon is planning to retire one of the Navy's 12 aircraft carriers, buy fewer amphibious landing ships for the Marine Corps and delay the development of a costly Army combat system of high-tech arms as part of 60 billion US dollars in proposed cuts over the next six years, a report in Thursday's *The New York Times* said.

The proposed reductions, the details of which are still being fine-tuned and which would require Congressional approval, result from White House orders to all federal agencies to cut their spending requests for the 2006 fiscal year budgets, which will be submitted to lawmakers early next year.

The White House has been under growing pressure since the November elections to offset mounting deficits and at the same time pay for the unexpectedly high costs of military

operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, which combined now amount to more than 5 billion dollars a month.


The proposed cuts, including sharply reducing the programme for the Air Force's F/A-22 fighter and delaying the purchase of a new Navy destroyer, would for the first time since the September 11 attacks slow the growth in the Pentagon spending, which has risen 41 per cent in that period to about 420 billion dollars this year.—MNA/Xinhua



### WEATHER

**Saturday, 1 January, 2004**  
**Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:** During the past 24 hours, weather has been generally fair in the whole country. Night temperatures were (4°C) above normal in Shan State, (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Chin and Kayin States, Bago, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were (1°C) in Hakha, (2°C) in Namsam, Heho each (3°C) in Pinlaung. Maximum temperature on 31-12-2004 was 93°F. Minimum temperature on 1-1-2005 was 55°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 1-1-2005 was 82%. Total sunshine hours on 31-12-2004 was (8.1) hours approx. Rainfalls on 31-12-2004 were nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 6 mph from Northeast at (11:50) hours MST on 31-12-2004.  
**Bay inference:** Weather is generally fair in the North Bay and East Central Bay and partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.  
**Forecast valid until evening of 2-1-2005:** Weather will be partly cloudy in Taninthayi Division and generally fair in the remaining states and divisions.  
**State of the sea:** Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters.  
**Outlook for subsequent two days:** Generally fair in the whole country. **Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 2-1-2005:** Generally fair weather. **Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 2-1-2005:** Fair weather.

\* မြေလျင် ကြိတ်ခန့်မှန်းချက်ကို မည်သည့်နိုင်ငံတွင်မျှ ဆောင်ရွက်နိုင်ခြင်းမရှိပါ။  
 \* သို့ပါ၍ ပြည်သူများအနေဖြင့် ကောလာဟလများကို မယုံကြည်သင့်ပါ။



**Radio Myanmar**

**Sunday, 2 January**  
Tune in today:

<p><b>8.30 am</b> Brief news</p> <p><b>8.35 am</b> Music: I only want to be with you</p> <p><b>8.40 am</b> Perspectives</p> <p><b>8.45 am</b> Music: Take your chance</p> <p><b>8.55 am</b> National news/Slogan</p> <p><b>9.05 am</b> Music: Queen of your fantasy</p> <p><b>9.10 am</b> International news</p> <p><b>9.15 am</b> Cultural Images of Myanmar: -Love really hurts without you -Miss you finally</p> <p><b>1.30 pm</b> News/Slogan</p> <p><b>1.40 pm</b> Story for children</p> <p><b>1.50 pm</b> Songs for children</p> <p><b>9.00 pm</b> Independence Day Song Feature <b>9.10 pm</b> Music <b>9.15 pm</b> Article <b>9.25 pm</b> Music -When I look into your eyes -I swear</p> <p><b>9.45 pm</b> News/Slogan</p> <p><b>10.00 pm</b> PEL</p>	<p><b>11:10 am</b> 2. (၅၇)နှစ်မြောက် လွတ်လပ်ရေးနေ့ ဂုဏ်ပြုအခမ်းအနား</p> <p><b>11:25 am</b> 3. Round-up of the Week' International news</p> <p><b>11:40 am</b> 4. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတမ်းတွဲ "သဘာဝရံစံနံ့" (အပိုင်း-၅၇)</p> <p><b>12:25 pm</b> 5. ဂုလင်းရေလှောင်တံ</p> <p><b>12:35 pm</b> 6. Myanmar Video Feature: "ကောင်းရာကောင်းကြောင်း" ရုပ်ရှင်ပုံစံ အောင်ပိုင်း၊ ဟန်နီထွန်း၊ ရွှန်းလှိုင်၊ ဒါရိုက်တာ - ဝေဇာမင်း၊ နိုးသိမ်းထွန်း</p> <p><b>2:00 pm</b> 7. Musical programme</p> <p><b>2:15 pm</b> 8. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ</p> <p><b>2:30 pm</b> 9. ရုပ်ပြည့်ရှုယုံအရေပိုင်းနမ့်မွတ်တာ</p> <p><b>2:45 pm</b> 10. International news</p> <p><b>4:00 pm</b> 1. Martial song</p> <p><b>4:15 pm</b> 2. Songs to uphold National Spirit</p>	<p><b>4:15 pm</b> 3. အဝေးသင်တန်းသို့ လိုပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ - ဒုတိယနှစ် (ရတနာအထူးပြု) (ရတနာ)</p> <p><b>4:30 pm</b> 4. Dance of national races</p> <p><b>4:40 pm</b> 5. Agricultural Source Country's development</p> <p><b>4:50 pm</b> 6. (၅၇)နှစ်မြောက် လွတ်လပ်ရေးနေ့ ဂုဏ်ပြုအခမ်းအနား</p> <p><b>5:05 pm</b> 7. Sing and Enjoy</p> <p><b>5:50 pm</b> 8. Tiger Cup ဘောလုံးပြိုင်ပွဲ တိုက်ရိုက်ထုတ်လွှင့်မှုအခမ်းအနား (ဒုတိယအကြိမ်လိုလှပွဲ) (ဒုတိယပွဲစဉ်) (တောပု နှင့် မြန်မာ)</p> <p><b>8:00 pm</b> 9. News</p> <p><b>10. အချုပ်အခြာ အာဏာရန်ရှည်ကြာ ခိုင်းစာအဖွဲ့ နို့ချေရှု "နှစ်ဆယ်လေးမည်ရာဇ်နမ့်ပွဲစံနံ့" အလှပန်း" (အပိုင်း-၆)</b></p> <p>11. International news</p> <p>12. Weather report</p> <p>13. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတမ်းတွဲ "အချစ်သံရာ" (အပိုင်း-၆)</p> <p>14. The next day's programme</p>
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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 Maj-Gen Myint Swe inspects supply of water to farmlands between Mingaladon and Hlegu Townships.— YANGON COMMAND*

**Paddy plantations of Yangon Command inspected**

YANGON, 1 Jan — Accompanied by departmental officials, Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe visited the 83-acre plantations being undertaken by the Yangon Command near Yangon-Bago Highway at the border between Mingaladon Township and Hlegu Township this morning. There he inspected supply of water to the plantations by use of a 40-horse

power pump, thriving crops and vegetables, digging of canals, cultivation of paddy strains such as Dagon Thiri, Emahtasaw and Yesin-3.

U Kyaw Thien, Director of the Water Resources Utilization Department, reported on all-year cultivation of paddy on 1000-acre farmland in Bala Region and plans to supply water for cultivation. Next, the commander gave instructions, saying that as enough water is being provided to irrigate the

plantations, officials are to supervise the tasks to extend the cultivation of paddy and other crops.

He later urged them to systematically use the advanced cultivation methods and fertilizers.

*MNA*

**Construction Minister inspects bridges, roads in Ayeyawady Division**

YANGON, 1 Jan — Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, accompanied by Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Myint Thein and officials of Public Works, this morning arrived at Twantay Bridge construction project site and gave instructions on worksite safety.

The bridge crossing Twantay Canal is being built near Phayangokto Village in Twantay Township. On completion, better transport service can be facilitated between Hlinethaya and Dalla-Twantay.

Next, he inspected maintenance of Dedaye-Pyapon Road.

At Pyapon Bridge construction project site, the minister inspected preparations for installation of frames at the main bridge. The bridge is situated on Pyaypon River

near Pyapon Town.

On completion, local people can easily visit from Pyapon to Bogale, Kamakalu, Kyonkadun and Seikma

regions. Furthermore, the bridge will provide access to Yangon-Nyaungdon-Maubin-Kyaiklat-Pyapon-Dedaye-Kungyangon-

Dalla Road.

The minister and party made an inspection tour of maintenance tasks on Maubin-Kyaiklat-Pyapon Road.— *MNA*

*Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun inspects installation of iron frames at Pyapon Bridge. —CONSTRUCTION*



**Loss of lives, property in recent earthquakes**

YANGON, 1 Jan—The tidal waves caused by the recent earthquakes with their epicentres in the Adaman Sea hit some regions along the coast of Myanmar.

According to the data collected today, out of 21 people who were reported yesterday missing, six were confirmed dead and 12 returned their homes. Up to now, three victims are still missing. The death toll due to the earthquakes rose to 59, while 43 were injured.

As shown by the figures, 592 houses of 17 villages were destroyed, and 3,205 people of 638 households homeless.— *MNA*

