

# The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Monday, 3 January 2005

## Uphold Our Three Main National Causes Safeguard sovereignty for its perpetuity

For our country to endure, we have always upheld Our Three Main National Causes— Non-disintegration of the Union, Non-disintegration of national solidarity and Perpetuation of sovereignty. Glancing back at our history, we find there were frequent threats of disintegration of the Union. To avoid such dangers there must be unity among nationals. If the Union collapses, independence and sovereignty will be lost. That is why we have shed so much blood and sweat and sacrificed lives to protect the Union from disintegration.

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

(From address delivered at the 56th Anniversary Armed Forces Day)



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein meets Shan State Special Region-6 (PNO) Chairman U Aung Hkam Hti and party at Panglong Yeiktha in Taunggyi.—MNA

## Government striving to transform nation into modern, developed discipline-flourishing democratic one

### Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein meets leaders of national race organizations

YANGON, 2 Jan — Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, accompanied by Member of the State Peace and De-

velopment Council Lt-Gen Aung Htwe of the Ministry of Defence, Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, Minister for Progress of Border Areas and

National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt, Deputy Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Aung Tun, Deputy Minister for Education Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo, senior military officers and officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, yesterday arrived in Heho by air.

They were welcomed at the airport by Chairman of Shan State Peace and Development Council Commander of Eastern Command Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Win Myint, Commander Brig-Gen Thet Oo, senior military officers, members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association and social organizations.

Next, the Secretary-1 and party proceeded to Taunggyi by car.

At the Eastern Command, the Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and party met with the national race leaders of Pa-O National Organization, Shan State Nationalities (See page 10)



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein presents gifts to Chairman of Shan State Nationalities People's Organization U Takleh and national race leaders.—MNA

#### INSIDE

The emergence of the new State constitution is the national concern of entire citizenry.

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MYINT WAI HLAING

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

**PERSPECTIVES**

Monday, 3 January, 2005

**Ward off neo-colonialists with constant national awareness**

Throughout the course of history, Myanmar was able to preserve and promote their dignity and integrity by daringly warding off all foreign aggression and encroachment with unyielding spirit.

Although Myanmar had suffered the lost of sovereignty and independence for a certain period of time in history, the entire people were able to regain independence, based on their strong patriotism, national spirit and Union Spirit.

When the independence was regained, the neo-colonialists were meddling in Myanmar's internal affairs at every opportunity, breeding their minions.

In the message sent by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe on the occasion of the 84th Anniversary National Day, it was stated that because of the rapid advancement in scientific and technological fields, the neo-colonialists are employing new means, trying to encroach on, dominate and manipulate others through social, economic and cultural spheres and the media and information industry, instead of old and obvious methods such as expansion of their territory resorting to the use of force or hegemonism.

Hence, we must have constant national awareness to ward off their perpetration, while relying on patriotism and Union Spirit as our fundamental strength.

At present, minions of colonialists are perpetrating destructive acts on a greater scale with the effective use of media and destructive elements to jeopardize peace and stability of the State.

At such a time, those machinations are to be warded off with constant vigilance for perpetuation of the independence.

Moreover, the entire national people need to be equipped with patriotism and nationalistic spirit. Therefore, the government has laid down and is implementing the national education promotion programmes for the emergence of qualified human resources.

At a time when science and technology is in its prime, the entire national people are to ward off the neo-colonialists, who are going to intrude into Myanmar resorting to various ways and means, with patriotism and Union Spirit for perpetuation of sovereignty.

**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

**Robes and provisions donation ceremony held**

YANGON, 2 Jan— The 11th robes offering and provisions donation ceremony to 108 members of the Sangha was held at Maha Bodi Kyaungtaik in Kyaukka Village of Taungtha Township yesterday.

Present were member of the Secretariat of Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaug and wife and families, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung and guests. The congregation received the Five Precepts from Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw of Taungsalin Taikthit member of the State Central



USDA Secretariat Member U Aung Thaug and family offer alms to a Sayadaw at Maha Bodi Monastery in Kyaukka Village of Taungtha Township.—INDUSTRY-1

Working Committee of the Sangha Agga Maha Pandita Dhamma Kahtika Bahujanahitadhara Bhattanta Tikka. Next, Minister U Aung Thaug supplicated on religious

matters. Ministers U Aung Thaug, Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung and wellwishers presented robes and offertories to the members of the

Sangha and a day's meal to nuns of Maha Bodi Kyaungtaik. Sayadaw Bhattanta Tikka delivered a sermon, followed by sharing of merits.—MNA



The opening ceremony of Amaya Road and Kyansittha Road in progress in North Okkalapa Township on Saturday.—MNA

**New roads opened in North Okkalapa Township**

YANGON, 2 Jan — Hailing the 57th Anniversary Independence Day, Amaya and Kyansittha self-reliant tar roads jointly built by Yangon City Development Committee and Myanmar Distribution Group (MDG) Co Ltd were opened yesterday morning at Nga

Ward in Industrial Zone of North Okkalapa Township, attended by Yangon City Development Committee Chairman Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa.

Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Vice-Chairman Vice-Mayor

Col Maung Pa and Patron of MDG Co Ltd U Mya Thein formally opened the roads and inspected along the roads.

The new roads — Amaya Road with the length of 375 feet and width of 22 feet and Kyansittha Road with the length of 832 feet and

width of 22 feet were built at the cost of K 7.8 million from YCDC and K 22.2 million from MDG Co Ltd. The new roads can contribute towards better transport for the people living in the Industrial Zone in North Okkalapa Township.

MNA

**Industrial Development Research Exhibition and Paper-reading session continue**

YANGON, 2 Jan — The second-day programmes of the Industrial Development Research Exhibition and Paper-reading session continued at the Yangon Technological University this morning.

Pro-Rector Dr Daw Mya Mya Oo presided over the paper-reading session.

Director U Win Tint of Myanmar Machine Tool & Electrical Industries, Lecturer Dr Myat Thin Ko and Lecturer Dr Mi Mi Cho Htwe of the

Ministry of Science and Technology, Lecturer Daw Hlaing Hlaing Oo and Assistant Lecturer Daw Yin Win Aung of Chemistry Department of Yangon University, Member of the Research and Technology Development Sub-committee Dr Kyaw Htin and General Manager U Khin Zaw of No 1 Myanmar Agricultural Equipment Factory (Hsinde) submitted their papers to the session.

In the afternoon, Deputy Professor Daw

Yin Yin Tun of YTU presided over the session.

Lecturer Dr Win Sinda of the Ministry of Science and Technology, Lecturer Dr Chaw Su of the Ministry of Science and Technology, Senior Researcher Dr Khin Khin Win Aung of the Ministry of Science and Technology, Professor Dr Pancy Kyaw Hla of YU and Senior Researcher Dr Aye Aye Than of the Ministry of Science and Technology read out their papers.

At the Industrial De-

velopment Research Exhibition, Myanmar Railways, the Ministry of Science and Technology, Universities' Science Research Department of YU, Physics Department of YU, YTU, Sumtac Technology and Fame Pharmaceuticals displayed their products.

The Industrial Development Research Exhibition and Paper-reading session continue tomorrow from 9 am to 5 pm. Admission is free.

MNA

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(၂၈၊ ၁၂၊ ၂၀၀၄ မှ ၃၊ ၁၊ ၂၀၀၅)



**SCHOOL FAMILY DAY**  
(28/ 12/ 2004 to 3/ 1/ 2005)

## Malaysia PM urges people to face challenges in New Year

**KUALA LUMPUR, 1 Jan** — Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi Friday evening urged the people to be prepared to face the various challenges and opportunities that the year 2005 has in store for the country.

"We must be prepared to face any eventuality so that we will be able to handle our economy as best as we can, and reduce the impact of anything that can undermine our economy," Abdullah said in a 2005 New Year message aired over radio and television.

Abdullah said one of the New Year resolutions for Malaysia was the government's successful implementation of the proposals contained in Budget 2005.

The Prime Minister's message touched a great deal on the nation's success in strengthening the economy and its efforts to fight corruption and enhance the efficiency of the public administration in 2004.

While expressing sadness over the fate of the tsunami disaster victims in northwestern Peninsular Malaysia, Abdullah said all Malaysians were sad over the tragedy that had claimed lives and destroyed property, including houses

and fishing boats.

"I express my condolences and sadness to those who have lost members of their family in the disaster," he said.

The killer tsunami, triggered by an undersea earthquake off the northwestern coast of Indonesia's Sumatra Island, killed 66 people and injured some 200 others in Peninsular Malaysia's northwestern states.

"I express my thanks to these people — from the police, Army, Civil Defence Department, hospitals, RELA (People's Volunteer Corps), voluntary organizations — and everyone else for having worked very hard to help the tsunami victims." Abdullah also conveyed his condolences and sympathy to the governments and peoples of Indonesia, Thailand, India, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, the Maldives, Bangladesh and Somalia. All these countries were also hit by the tsunami. — *MNA/Xinhua*

## Russia to crack down on industrial polluters

**MOSCOW, 1 Jan** — Russia plans its first laws to crack down on industrial polluters next year, and will force offending companies to invest in clean technology rather than pay fines, the Natural Resources Minister said on Friday.

Yuri Trutnev said it was time to rein in Soviet-era industries. His comments were published as part of the government's plans for next year on the official web site.

Towns across Russia are poisoned by factories. At the most polluted sites, such as the Arctic town of Norilsk, plant life is dead for miles around the smokestacks and people complain of breathing problems and other symptoms. "We talk a lot about ecological problems, but the state has no real levers of influence in this area," said Trutnev in the published comments.

"Therefore the Natural Resources Ministry has

taken the decision to create the first legal initiatives in this extremely sensitive sphere with the aim of creating ... a single ecological code."

Russia's factories are at best two-and-a-half times less energy efficient than their European competitors, and the new laws would aim to reduce pollution. "The first step would have to be the creation of a system encouraging our main polluters — industrial concerns — not to pay fines but invest money in modernizing production to meet ecological demands," Trutnev said.

Environmental groups say Russia has done little since the collapse of the

Soviet Union in 1991 to clean up industry that, in Communist times, aimed only to maximize production. Trutnev confirmed that combating pollution would be difficult.

"Since this question affects all of Russian industry, we must approach it cautiously and thoroughly. I think that already in the second quarter of 2005, a series of legal initiatives will be sent for the Cabinet to examine."

Some Russian firms have pinned hopes on mechanisms spelled out in the Kyoto pact on climate change, which aim to encourage foreign firms to invest to cut pollution.

*MNA/Reuters*



*US Marines patrol Fallujah, some 50 kilometers east of Baghdad on 1 Jan, 2005.—INTERNET*

ထိုက်ထိုက်နှစ်ဆ ချီးမြှင့်ကြ



*Ships berth at the wharf of Singapore's bustling Jurong Port on 2 Jan, 2005.*

INTERNET

## China will remain economic growth engine for Asia

**SINGAPORE, 1 Jan** — Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong on Friday praised the role China has played in helping develop regional economy, saying that China will still be a strong economic growth engine for the rest of the region.

"China's economy is slowing down, reflecting the measures by its government to cool the overheating economy. But China is still expected to grow at a healthy 8 per cent next year, and will remain a powerful engine of growth for the rest of the region," Lee said in his New Year's message.

Lee said that Singapore is benefitting from the transformation of the two giant economies of China and India, and seizing many opportunities they offer.

Singapore's foreign trade expanded strongly by 22 per cent this year over last year, and exports to China and India grew by 49 per cent and 33 per cent respectively, he said.

The Premier said that the island state's economic growth this year was 8.1 per cent, and economic growth next year is projected to be between 3 and 5 per cent.

He expects the economic growth in the region next year to be moderate and is cautiously optimistic about the global economic outlook.

*MNA/Xinhua*

## Iraq attacks kill two civilians, one US Marine

**BAGHDAD, 1 Jan** — Two Iraqi civilians were killed by a suicide car bomb in Bayji, north of Baghdad, and a US Marine was killed in action on a security patrol in the western province of al-Anbar, the military said.

The Marine died yesterday while conducting security operations, the US said without providing further details. Al-Anbar is the site of Fallujah, where US and Iraqi forces in November staged an operation to kill and capture guerillas who had staged near daily attacks on the military. Iraqi interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi has said officials expect violence across Iraq to increase as the Jan. 30 elections for a national assembly approach.

Three bombs exploded in and around Baghdad today, the *Associated Press* reported. A blast hit an Iraqi National Guard patrol, near Mahmoudiya, about 25 miles (40 kilometres) south of the capital, killing one

guard and wounding six, *AP* said. In Youssifiya, just south of Baghdad, a bomb wounded two guardsmen, and in Baghdad's Dora district, another blast damaged some shops, the agency reported. In the northern city of Mosul, Iraq's third largest, police yesterday repelled an attack by guerillas on a police station, the US military said today. The attack was the fourth on the same station in southeast Mosul, and the eleventh on a station in the city since 10 Nov, the military said. US and Iraqi forces were deployed to Mosul in November after guerillas seized most of the city's police stations. — *Internet*

## 1,329 US troops killed since beginning of Iraq war

**WASHINGTON, 1 Jan** — As of Saturday, 1 Jan, 2005, at least 1,329 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 *AP* count is one higher than the Defence Department's tally, last updated at 10 am Thursday.

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, 1,191 US military members have died, according to *AP's* count. That includes at least 933 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers. — *Internet*

# HK records coldest new year's day in 43 years

HONG KONG, 2 Jan — Hong Kong recorded the lowest temperature for the New Year's Day in 43 years.

At 9 am, the Hong Kong Observatory noted that the air temperature was 7 degrees Celsius and the relative humidity 44 per cent.

The frost warning has been issued and

the cold weather warning is now in force.

Members of the public are advised to take care to keep warm.

Local media reported that the cold weather had claimed at least five lives.

Hong Kong Special Administrative Region government has opened 11 temporary cold shelters for the needy. — MNA/Xinhua

# Pakistan, India exchange lists of nuclear installations

ISLAMABAD, 2 Jan — Pakistan and India Saturday exchanged the lists of their nuclear installations under an agreement that prohibits the two countries attacking each other's nuclear installations, Foreign Office spokesman Masood Khan told a private television GEO.

The exchange of lists, covered under the agreement on the prohibition of attack against nuclear installations and facilities between Pakistan and India, carried out through diplomatic channels simultaneously in New Delhi and Islamabad, Khan said.

Khan disclosed that a

diplomat of the Indian High Commission to Pakistan was called to the Foreign Office and the list of Pakistan's nuclear installations was handed over to him.

In a similar practice, the list of India's nuclear installations was handed over to an official of the Pakistani High Commission

in New Delhi, Khan said.

According to the agreement on the exchange, which was signed on December 31, 1988 and enforced on January 27, 1991, India and Pakistan have to inform each other on January 1 every year of the nuclear installations and facilities to be covered by the agreement. — MNA/Xinhua

# Yemen, China sign implementation plan on cultural agreement

SANAA, 31 Dec — Yemen and China signed here Thursday an implementation plan to carry out a cultural cooperation agreement between the

two countries.

Under the plan, the two governments will encourage cultural organizations and enterprises of both Yemen and

China to establish contacts directly as well as to increase personnel exchanges in order to boost ties in the area of culture.

MNA/Xinhua

# Three roadside bombs target Iraq troops

BAGHDAD, 2 Jan — At least three roadside bombs targeted Iraqi security troops Saturday, a day after Prime Minister Ayad Allawi warned Iraq (news - web sites)'s neighbors to crack down on insurgents infiltrating from their territory, saying that Iraq's patience was wearing thin.

In new violence, a U.S. Marine assigned to the 1 Marine Expeditionary Force was killed in action Friday during security operations in the Al Anbar Province, the Marines said in a statement, which did not provide any other details.

A roadside bomb explosion struck an Iraqi National Guards patrol south of Mahmoudiya, a town about 25 miles south of Baghdad. It left one guard dead and six

wounded, an ING officer said Saturday.

Another bomb went off while a U.S. military convoy was driving through southern Baghdad's Dora district on Saturday, witnesses said. The blast damaged nearby shops, but apparently caused no casualties.

In the town of Youssifiya, just south of Baghdad, another bomb exploded early Saturday, wounding two guardsmen who were on patrol, police said. — Internet



US Marine with Bravo Company, conducts a house-to-house search in the Iraqi city of Fallujah on 29 Dec, 2004. — INTERNET



# Passenger volume surpasses 30 million in Changi Airport

SINGAPORE, 31 Dec — Singapore's Changi Airport on Thursday welcomed its 30 millionth passenger in its 23-year history with the landing of a Singapore Airlines' flight from San Francisco.

Addressing the celebration, Minister for Transport Yeo Cheow Tong said that increasing Changi's traffic will be key to maintain the city state's aviation hub status.

"We need to ensure that Changi maintains and even improves on its standards of service to generate more growth," said Yeo, adding that competition from regional airports has been increasing.

Yeo also hailed the contribution of the low cost carriers (LCC) to Changi's traffic growth, saying that passenger traffic on such sectors as Bangkok, Hong Kong, Jakarta, Phuket and Hatyai served by LCCs grew by about 7 per cent this

year as compared to 2002, which otherwise would have only seen a 1-per-cent increase. In response to media query, Yeo said that Singapore plans to build a low cost terminal, which is expected to be completed by the end of next year, and all the budget airlines in the region are welcomed to start operations at Changi.

Changi crossed the 10 million and 20 million passengers mark in 1986 and 1994 respectively. The increase pace of another 10 million has been slightly slower due to several setbacks in the past few years including the Asian financial crisis, September 11 attacks in the United States, the war in Iraq and SARS.

MNA/Xinhua



A Chinese woman checks out a jacket on sale at a shop in Beijing, China, on 1 Jan, 2005. — INTERNET

# Iraq deadlier as enemies get more skilled

WASHINGTON, 1 JAN — US forces in Iraq suffered 348 deaths in the last four months, the worst death toll since the invasion.

By key measures of the level of guerilla violence against the American military — numbers of dead, wounded and guerilla attacks — the situation has grown worse since summer.

The numbers suggest insurgents are growing more proficient, even as the size of the US force increases and commanders succeed in soliciting more help from ordinary Iraqis. For example:

-The US military suffered at least 348 deaths over the final four months of the year, more than in any other similar period since the invasion

in March 2003. -The number of wounded surpassed 10,000, with more than a quarter injured in the last four months as direct combat, roadside bombs and suicide attacks escalated. When President Bush declared on 1 May, 2003, that major combat operations were over, the number of wounded stood at 542.

-The number of attacks on US and allied troops grew from an estimated 1,400 attacks in September to 1,600 in October and 1,950 in November.

The prospects in Iraq are grim," Dan Goure,

an analyst at the private Lexington Institute think tank, said Thursday.

He assessed the conflict as a standoff, with no clear indication that either side will achieve victory in the coming year.

Makeshift bombs take toll US commanders constantly analyze the guerillas' tactics and make adjustments. Although US forces have found tons of hidden weaponry and ammunition, the insurgents kill almost daily with makeshift bombs known as improvised explosive devices, or IEDs AP.

Internet

**Say no to drug**

## Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein inspects agriculture, livestock breeding, education and health tasks in Nyaungshwe, Taunggyi



Secretary-1 of SPDC Lt-Gen Thein Sein meets officers, other ranks and families of regiments and units of Eastern Command in Taunggyi.— MNA

YANGON, 2 Jan — Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein inspected agriculture, livestock breeding, education and health matters in Nyaungshwe and Taunggyi Townships this morning.

Accompanied by member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Aung Htwe of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Shan State Peace and Development Council Commander of Eastern Command Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint, Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt, Deputy Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Aung Tun, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo, Deputy Minister for Education Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min, senior military officers and officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, the Secretary-1 arrived at the site for construction of the combined office of Shan State, District and

Township War Veterans Organizations in Ward 3 of Ayethaya, Taunggyi Township.

Chairman of the

were welcomed by officials of the Shan State (South) Special Region-6 (PNO), national race leaders of the special

reports, the Secretary-1 stressed the need to reclaim vacant and virgin lands for growing rubber to serve the interest of the organization

and vegetable plantations and gave instructions to extend grape, sugarcane and rubber plantations. On arrival at the

Khaing.

Lt-Gen Thein Sein gave instructions on timely completion of the tasks and inspected construction



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein inspects the construction site of the three-storey annexe to Women's and Children's Specialist Hospital in Taunggyi.—MNA .

Central Organizing Committee of Myanmar War Veterans Organization Secretary-1 Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein and party inspected the site for the combined office and gave necessary instructions to officials.

They proceeded to Nanthe Agricultural Camp of Ruby Dragon Co Ltd of Shan State (South) Special Region-6 (PNO) in Nanthe Village-tract of Inlay region, Nyaungshwe Township. They

regions, officials of the Ruby Dragon Co Ltd and Pa-O cultural troupe members.

General Manager U Khun Kyaw Lwin of the camp reported to the Secretary-1 on land reclamation, the functions of the agricultural camp, changing of fallow lands to the cultivable ones, reclamation of farmlands and construction of Nanthe Hotel. The commander gave a supplementary report.

After hearing the

as well as the State in the long term. Rubber is in high demand in the world. The growing of rubber can create job opportunities for the local people and contribute towards improvement of environmental conservation at Inlay Lake.

Next, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe signed in the visitors' book.

They inspected new gardenia net tree, local and foreign species of orchid, rose nursery, domestic strain of orange

agricultural farm of Eikhsitan Co in Nanthida Village of Tilawsakhangyi Village-tract in Nyaungshwe Township, the Secretary-1 and party inspected orange and sunkist plantations.

Farm Manager U Than Soe Aye reported on matters related to the farm and its production.

They inspected thriving grape and orange plantations. They also inspected functions of Tetchaung Feedstuff Production and Layer Farm in Shwenyaung Nankut Village in Taunggyi Township.

At the construction site of Government Technological College (Ayethaya) Project, Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and party heard reports on progress of the works and construction for the 2,500 feet long and 18 feet wide entrance road to the college presented by Edin Co Ltd Managing Director U Chit

of the three-storey main building and lecture halls.

Next, Secretary-1 Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein met with officers, other ranks and families of regiments and units of Eastern Command at Thanlwin Hall.

Lt-Gen Thein Sein instructed the officials to supply requirements of education, health, social and welfare tasks to the Tatmadaw families, to join hands with the locals in community welfare tasks and active participation in implementation of the seven-point Road Map.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Thein Sein cordially conversed with Tatmadaw members and families.

On arrival at the Women's and Children's Specialist Hospital in Taunggyi, Medical Superintendent Dr U Win Myint submitted reports on construction of the three-storey annexe to the hospital.

(See page 10)



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein inspects the agricultural farm of Eikhsitan Co in Nyaungshwe Township.— MNA.



Shan State (East) USDA Secretary Dr Sai Hsay Kaw.— MNA



Shan State (East) USDA Joint-Secretary U Myint Naing.— MNA

**USDA members, social organizations...**

(from page 16)  
levels were discussed in accord with the seven objectives laid down by the USDA Annual General Meeting (2004). And, representatives from various regions participated in the plenary discussions of respective groups and could lay down nine future tasks

successfully. Not only members of the USDA but also other social organizations, senior citizens and local people are to harmoniously implement the objectives and future tasks adopted by the AGM.

He added that today is a time when the country is being built so as to

emerge as a peaceful, modern, developed and democratic nation. Thus, the seven-point Road Map to shape the future State is also being implemented.

He noted that Patron of USDA Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe very of-

able to enhance economy of the State and the people, and harmonious efforts with Union Spirit are to be made for achieving success of the seven-point Road Map of the State.

Shan State (East) USDA Joint-Secretary U Myint Naing, Shan State (East) USDA Executive Daw Nan Ni Laing Hsaing and Shan State (East) USDA Executive U Peter Thauung Sein tabled three motions calling for making concerted efforts to implement the seven objectives of the AGM 2004; implementation of the nine future tasks; and the plans to be carried out in Shan State (East).

Kengtung District USDA Joint-Secretary U Si Lak, Tachilek District USDA Executive U Soe Myint and Monghsat District USDA Secretary Dr Kyi Soe took part in the discussions. Next, Shan State (East) USDA Joint-Secretary U Myint Naing, Chairperson of Shan State (East) Organization for Women's Affairs Daw Aye Aye Than and member of the Supervisory Committee for Shan State (East) MCWA Daw Nan Hsaing Li presented prizes



Kengtung District USDA Joint-Secretary U Si Lak.— MNA



Monghsat District USDA Secretary Dr Kyi Soe.— MNA



Tachilek District USDA Executive U Soe Myint.— MNA

**Myanmar Spirit**

- \* A flower patch, in someone's garden  
With liking plus avarice  
If not allowed, wear in the hair  
Mild fragrance, however wafted  
Won't even take a whiff of it  
That's Myanmar Spirit.
- \* If kin gather, in someone's home  
If there's discussion and sundry talk  
Let alone interfere and drive wedge  
If one's not welcomed with a smile  
Offered room to sleep under eaves  
Won't even take rest for a while  
That's Myanmar Spirit.
- \* No desire for someone else's flower patch  
Won't intrude into someone's community  
Due care is taken in course of history  
Just as we Myanmar really are  
With intent to making gains from our land  
Do not approach with wicked thoughts  
Lovable as our traditions are  
And united and alert as our races are  
To demean us and to tarnish  
Don't try to mess up our internal affairs  
No kith nor kin but from another land  
Beware of those who approach  
With own strength, will and own wisdom  
To journey on to tomorrow  
'Tis time to keep hands held firm.

Myinmu Maung Naing Moe (Trs)

to the outstanding youths.

Shan State (East) USDA Executive Daw Nan Kyauk Tip presented K 17.4 million to be spent on rural development tasks in four districts to Kengtung District USDA Secretary

U Sai Lone Hsaing. The cash donation will be shared to K 5 million for power supply of five townships, K 10 million for rural development in 10 townships, K 1.5 million for Wamsai rural dispensary in Kengtung Township, K 400,000 for cash assistance for teachers in Monghsat Township and K 500,000 for power supply in Weinleik Village of Monghsant Township.

Before concluding the meeting, those presented approved to implement the seven objectives and nine future tasks, and the plans to be carried out in Shan State (East). — MNA



Shan State (East) USDA Executive U Peter Thauung Sein.— MNA



Shan State (East) USDA Executive Daw Nan Ni Laing Hsaing.— MNA

**1949**  
Internal insurrection

**1958**  
Internal strife

**1962**  
Attempts to disintegrate the Union

**1988**  
Conspiracy of internal and external elements

ten gave guidance on progress of peace, tranquillity and security and development of the country realizing the national solidarity which plays the most important role in development of the State. In his address, the Government believes that national solidarity is foundation of the tasks for development of the nation. Furthermore, Senior General Than Shwe pointed out that the national solidarity must be safeguarded to have its continued strength to be

**Minister looks into CNG Station**

YANGON, 2 Jan — Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi this morning inspected Compressed Natural Gas — CNG station in Paleik in Mandalay and attended to the needs.

Officials of the Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise reported on sale of natural gas and condition of compressor. At the station, the minister also cordially met with vehicle owners,

drivers and travellers. The station sells natural gas from 3 am to midnight daily at reasonable prices. Thanks to the natural gas-used vehicles, bus fares are reduced by 50%. —



Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi inspects CNG Filling Station in Paleik.— ENERGY

# Development in the science and technology sector in the time of the State Peace and Development Council



*The new main building of University of Computer Studies, Yangon.*

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

*Myanmar Aerospace Engineering University in Meiktila, Mandalay Division.*

## Table showing opening of new universities, institutes and colleges

Sr	Subject	1988	2004	Sr	Subject	1988	2004
1.	University of Technology	1	4	4	Government Computer College	-	24
2.	University of Computer Studies	1	2	5	Government Technological College	-	26
3.	Myanmar Aerospace Engineering University	-	1	6	Government Technological Institute	10	11



# National objectives imperative for the march to discipline-flourishing new democracy

**TOWARDS  
DISCIPLINE-  
FLOURISHING  
DEMOCRATIC  
NEW NATION**

1. 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,
2. All the national people to unitedly strive with might and main for the emergence of an enduring State constitution and for building a new modern and developed nation,
3. 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, and

tives as national duties and to implement them without fail so that the Union of Myanmar can stand forever as a sovereign and modern state amid the global commu-

As regards this, Patron of the Union Solidarity and Development Association, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council, and Commander-in-Chief of

**people, the strength of the people is the most basic requirement for progress of the nation”.**

In other words, those who will shoulder the above-mentioned national responsibilities and ward off the threats of any form are none but the national people themselves.

fought tooth and nail against the colonialists. Being no match for the colonialists at weaponry, Myanmar had to give herself up.

Later, Myanmar national brethren instilled in themselves anti-colonialist sentiment, Union Spirit, and nation-

*Myint Wai Hlaing*



The Plenary Session of National Convention in progress at Pyidaungsu Hall of Nyaungnapin Camp in Hmawby Township.

The 57th Anniversary Independence Day falls on 4 January 2005. This year's Objectives of the Independence Day are as follows:

1. 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,

2. All the national people to unitedly strive with might and main for the emergence of an enduring State constitution and for building a new modern and developed nation,
3. 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, and
4. All the national people to make concerted efforts for building a new discipline-flourishing democratic nation.

It is necessary to take these national objec-

tives as national duties and to implement them without fail so that the Union of Myanmar can stand forever as a sovereign and modern state amid the global commu-

It is necessary to have a close connection among these objectives. Otherwise, the emergence of a discipline-flourishing democracy will be a distant reality on account of outside interferences. If so, who will take these national responsibilities? And who will prevent such interferences?

Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance to the USDA's Annual General Meeting 2004. In his guidance, Senior General Than Shwe said: **“As a matter of fact, the building of a peaceful, modern and developed nation plays a basic role in shaping the nation into a democratic one. According to the experiences of the entire**

The first point of the Independence Day objectives is based on the past events of Myanmar history.

Myanmar was once colonized by the expansionists. It was not however at ease that they occupied Myanmar. Arming themselves with unyielding spirit and patriotic spirit, the entire national people of Myanmar

alistic fervour, and tried various approaches to restore independence. In Panglong on 12 February 1947, leaders of national races stood firmly in solidarity and agreed on the importance of national consolidation crucial for the restoration of independence. It is through the national unity that national independence was

(See page 8)



Pathein Bridge, a suspension one, across Ngawun River in Pathein, Ayeyawady Division.



# National objectives imperative for the march to discipline-flourishing new democracy

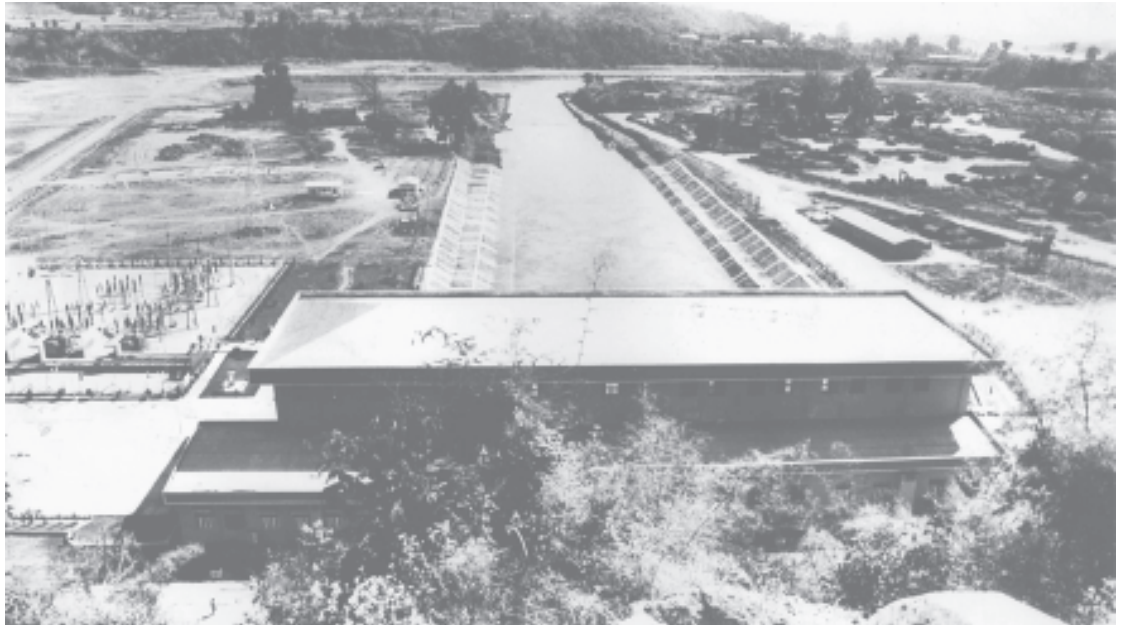
(from page 8)

restored on 4 January 1948.

As a result of the seeds of confusion and dissension the colonialists sowed, the national brethren misunderstood one another even in the post-independence period to an extent that instability erupted in the country and independence was on the verge of being lost again. Based on the past events of history, the point — ‘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’ — is included in the objectives of the Independence Day as an important objective. In fact, that point is ‘Our Three Main National Causes’ crucial for the country.

In connection with ‘Our Three Main National Causes’, Head of State Senior General Than Shwe, in his guidance given to the USDA Annual General Meeting 2004, said: “We need a strong patriotic force that keeps in the fore Our Three Main National Causes, the national policy and fully imbued with Union Spirit, to build a peaceful, modern and developed nation”.

Senior General Than Shwe stressed that ‘Our Three Main National Causes’ is the lifeblood of



*Mone Creek Hydel Power Plant Project.*

the country. Now, the second, third and fourth objectives of the Independence Day have been added to the seven-point Road Map and being implemented.

The seven-point Road Map is as follows:

1. **Reconvening of the National Convention that has been adjourned since 1996,**
2. **After the successful holding of the National Convention, step by step implementation of the process necessary for the emergence of a genuine and discipline-flourishing democratic system,**
3. **Drafting of a new constitution in accord with the basic principles and detailed basic principles laid down by the National Convention,**
4. **Adoption of the Constitution through national referendum,**
5. **Holding of free and fair elections for Pyithu Hluttaws (Legislative bodies) according to the new constitution,**
6. **Convening of**

**Hluttaws attended by Hluttaw members in accordance with the new constitution, and**

7. **Building a modern, developed and democratic nation by the state leaders elected by the Hluttaw and the government and other central organs formed by the Hluttaw.**

To establish a genuine, discipline-flourishing democratic nation, the National Convention has now been in progress with the participation of

the national brethren. They are now holding discussions through coordination to formulate a draft of State constitution consistent with the democratic system. The emergence of the new State constitution is the national concern of entire citizenry. It is with it that continued efforts are to be made to establish a discipline-flourishing democracy.

Head of State Senior General Than Shwe, in his guidance given to the USDA Annual General Meeting 2004 in connection with the laying of foundation for a peaceful,

modern, developed democratic nation, said: “**The government has laid down and practised Our Three Main National Causes in the interest of the State and the entire people. The government firmly believes that national solidarity is the foundation of the tasks for development of the nation and its people, peace and modernization and building a democratic state. The government will further strengthen the national solidarity in the interest of the State and the people**”.

He pointed out the importance of national unity among the compatriots. An analytical approach to the objectives of the 57th Anniversary Independence Day made it clear that they correlate with one another and those who will have to implement them are no other than the national brethren themselves.

This being the case, the national brethren are to march to the discipline-flourishing democratic nation without going astray but by further consolidating the strength of national unity, in other words, the power of Union Spirit, in accord with the national objectives of the 57th Anniversary Independence Day.

\*\*\*\*\*

*Translation: KTY*



*The newly-built University of Traditional Medicine in Mandalay.*



Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein meets with Chairman of Shan State NPLA U Takleh and national race leaders in Taunggyi, Shan State (South). — MNA

## Government striving to transform...

(from page 1)

People's Liberation Organization, Shan State (North) Special Region-3, SSNA in Wanyeim and Mongyun, MTA (Homein), MTA (Narra), MTA (Matkyan) and MTA (Shwe Pyi Aye) and discussed regional devel-

opment tasks.

First, Lt-Gen Thein Sein met Chairman of PNO National Organization in Shan State (South) Special Region-6 U Aung Hkam Hti and Vice Chairman U Khin Kyaw Nyo, Secretary U Kun San Lwin and members.

The Secretary-1 said he and officials were there to meet the national races organizations and to explain the government's attitude towards them and assistance to be rendered for development of the regions including Shan State.

National races groups had returned to the legal fold as they believed the policies being practised by

the government. And now they are working together with the government in the efforts for development of socio-economy of the people of the region including their respective regions.

The Secretary-1 added that the government on its part will continue to work together with the national race organizations without changing its attitude as it is ever before, and continued assistance will be provided to them.

Arrangements have been made for the national races organizations to be able to present their reports, he noted. The State's national policy 'Our Three Main National Causes' —

\* U Aung Hkam Hti said his national race people will participate in unity in the tasks for emergence of a modern, developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation under the leadership of Tatmadaw government.

\* U Takleh reported on plans for regional development, efforts for total elimination of narcotic drugs in the region under the leadership of the government and his determination to reach the goal set by the government.

\* Chairman of MTA (Shwe Pyi Aye) U Sai Khun Main said that he supports the Tatmadaw government's policy and its nation building endeavours.

\* U Khay Tai of Shan State (North) Special Region-3 said that they will cooperate with the government in accordance with the policies laid down by the State.

**The State's national policy 'Our Three Main National Causes' — Non-disintegration of the Union, Non-disintegration of national solidarity and Perpetuation of sovereignty — is most important one for the Union of Myanmar where all national races have been living together in peace and unity since yore.**

*Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein*



Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein presents souvenirs to Chairman of PNO U Aung Hkam Hti of Special Region No 6 Taunggyi. — MNA



Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein presents souvenirs to national race leaders in Taunggyi, Shan State (South) — MNA

## Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein...

(from page 5)

After fulfilling the requirements of the hospital, the Secretary-1 said that everybody wants to live long span. As the health education is the best weapon of the Ministry of Health, health personnel are at first to go right down to grassroots level including border areas so as to give health educative knowledge to the local

people.

Secondly, the preventive measures against the diseases are to be carried out. Finally, all should learn modern medical science continuously so as to provide treatments to the people.

Next, the Secretary-1 and party inspected the site for construction of the annexe of the hospital.

At Sao San Htun

Hospital, Medical Superintendent Dr Daw Aye Kyi Sein reported on health care service of the hospital, and the commander gave a supplementary report.

After giving necessary instructions, they left for Heho Airport. Later, they left Heho Airport and arrived back here in the evening.

MNA

Non-disintegration of the Union, Non-disintegration of national solidarity and Perpetuation of sovereignty — is a most important one for the Union of Myanmar where all national races have been living together in peace and unity since yore. And it is also their inborn duty, the Secretary-1 said, it is important that the people of today are to maintain and hand down this national

policy to posterity.

Now is the time when the government is striving to transform the nation into a modern and developed discipline-flourishing democratic one after it has systematically laid down the seven-point future policy programme of the State. The National Convention, the most important of the programme, is now being convened with the participation of

delegates from all social strata including national races.

The Secretary-1 went on to say that the national races organizations, hand in hand with the government, are to strive for the emergence of a modern, developed, discipline-flourishing democratic nation as they are now taking part in the successful convening of the National Convention.

(See page 11)

## Government striving to transform...

(from page 10)

Besides, the national races organizations are to give priority to agriculture by making full use of their favourable soil conditions to meet the essential basic needs of the local nationals, such as food, clothing and shelter. The Secretary-1 said emphasis is to be placed on cultivation of rubber that is in good demand.

The Secretary-1 urged national races organizations to work together with the government for total elimination of narcotic drugs, the evil legacy of

developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation under the leadership of Tatmadaw government.

He also reported on cooperation with the government in the respective sectors for success of the national convention and the seven-point Road Map under the leadership of the government.

The Secretary-1 then fulfilled the requirements and presented gifts to U Aung Hkam Hti. The Secretary-1 also greeted U Aung Hkam Hti and party.

The Secretary-1 met

shelter needs to local people and economic progress based on agriculture and livestock breeding. He spoke of the need to grow not only paddy and maize but also rubber after organizing local people.

Rubber is now in good demand with fetches high prices in the world and cultivation of rubber creates job opportunities in the region. With the development of agriculture, livestock breeding and manufacturing industries, strong and reliable economic enterprises will emerge, he said.

Takleh reported on plans for regional development, efforts for total elimination of narcotic drugs in the region under the leadership of the government and his determination to reach the goal set by the government.

Next, U Khun Htee and U Sein Shwe of Shan State Nationalities People's Liberation Organization reported on arrangements for cultivation of paddy. Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt and Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo gave supplementary reports.

## Objectives of 57th 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



Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein holds discussions on regional development affairs with national race leaders of the peace groups in Taunggyi, Shan State (South). — MNA

colonialists, and for development of education, health, human resources and transport of the regions and the people.

Chairman of Pa-O National Organization of special region-6 in southern Shan State U Aung Kham Hti expressed his pleasure for goodwill and loving-kindness of the government, the visit of high-ranking officials and fulfillment of regional requirements.

He said efforts are to be made for development of the regions in accord with the instructions of the Secretary-1.

He said his national brethren will participate in unity in the tasks for emergence of a modern,

Patrons of Shan State Nationalities People's Liberation Organization U Sein Shwe and U Saw Phar Mu and Chairman U Takleh.

In his discussions, the Secretary-1 said he had told Chairman U Takleh and national races leaders that regarding national races organizations that returned to the legal fold the government would continue to provide assistance to local people for development of their socio-economic life and the regions without any change of the policy of the government.

He urged the national races organizations to make endeavours for providing food, clothing and

Besides regional development tasks, community welfare services such as agriculture, livestock breeding, education, health, transport and small scale power consumption after building hydel electric power stations are to be launched for progress, he added.

He also spoke of the need to nurture local youths to become intellectuals and intelligentsia capable of serving the interest of the region and the country.

He called for creation of secure and peaceful social environment in order to make their living in cooperation with the government.

Next, Chairman U

The Secretary-1 fulfilled the requirements. He presented gifts to Chairman U Takleh of Shan State Nationalities People's Liberation Organization and greeted him and families.

The Secretary-1 met national race leaders of Shan State (North) Special Region-3, SSNA Wanyein and Mongyun, MTA groups (Ho Mein), (Nayaing), (Matkyan) and (Shwe Pyi Aye) and discussed regional development.

The Secretary-1 explained the attitude of the government towards national races organizations and continued efforts for success of the seven-point Road Map.

He said national races organizations are to make efforts for providing food, clothing and shelter needs to the local people making use of better foundations in the region.

He said it is necessary for the people to establish cottage industries through investments in agriculture and livestock breeding. In order to do so, human resources are to be produced.

Therefore, the government has designated special regions and has estab-

lished universities, colleges and hospitals including those in Taunggyi, Kengtung, Lashio and Panglong in Shan State. Moreover, basic education primary schools, middle schools and high schools have been opened in the State.

So, local people are to take the opportunities created by the State which paves the way for the school-age children for learning basic and higher education. Only then, will intellectuals and intelligentsia emerge from the region, Lt-Gen Thein Sein said.

Moreover, efforts are needed for the prevalence of law and order, community peace and tranquility, and elimination of drug in the region under the protection of law.

Next, Chairman of MTA (Shwe Pyi Aye) U Sai Khun Main said that he supports the Tatmadaw government's policy and its nation-building endeavours. He also believes the seven-point road map laid down by the Tatmadaw government and will also cooperate with the government for realizing it.

Next, U Khay Tai of Shan State (North) Spe-

cial Region-3 said that they will cooperate with the government in accordance with the policies laid down by the State. He also reported on the need to fulfill for the regional development. Next, Commander Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint, Minister Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Tun, Deputy Minister Dr Mya Oo and Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min also gave supplementary reports.

Afterwards, U Khun Sai and U Sai Myo Aung of MTA (Matkyan) pledged that they will also cooperate with the government in accordance with the policies laid down by the government. They also reported on the need to fulfill for the regional development.

Next, Lt-Gen Thein Sein attended to the needs and presented gifts to the national races leaders. Lt-Gen Thein Sein and party had lunch together with the national races leaders.

After the lunch, Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and Commander Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint posed for a documentary photo together with leaders of the peace organizations. — MNA



Lt-Gen Aung Htwe presents souvenirs to national race leaders of the peace groups in Taunggyi, Shan State (South). — MNA

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# Princess Anne enraged when gunman tried to kidnap her

LONDON, 1 Jan— Britain's Princess Anne was so enraged when a deranged gunman tried to kidnap her that she nearly lost her temper and hit him, secret documents revealed on Saturday.

But she decided that discretion was the better part of valour and instead showed exemplary sang froid, refusing to get out of her official limousine and telling gunman Ian Ball that there was no way his ransom demand could be met.

Dramatic details of how Queen Elizabeth's daughter risked her life on the night of March 20, 1974 were revealed when official documents were released for the first time by the National Archives.

Four men were wounded trying to foil the kidnap attempt by Ball, who screeched his car to a halt in front of the limousine carrying Anne and her then husband, Mark Phillips down the Mall, the ceremonial avenue between Buckingham Palace

and Trafalgar Square.

He pointed a gun at her and said: "I want you to come with me for a day or two because I want 2 million pounds." (3.8 million US dollars).

Anne, who refused to get out of the car, told Ball that was not "bloody likely. I haven't got two million."

Recalling her ordeal soon afterwards, she said: "It was all so infuriating. I kept saying I didn't want to get out of the car and I was not going to get out of the car."

"I nearly lost my temper with him. But I knew that if I did, I should hit him and he would shoot me."

Ball, who was carrying a ransom note addressed to the Queen, was eventually wrestled to the ground and overpowered when police

reinforcements arrived.

He later admitted attempted murder and attempted kidnap and was imprisoned indefinitely under mental health legislation.

On reading the official version of the kidnap attempt, Prime Minister Harold Wilson scribbled in the margin: "A very good story. Pity the Palace didn't let it come out."

He sent a message to Anne that was fulsome in praise, telling her: "You yourself displayed great bravery and presence of mind in facing your assailant."

Officials, who launched a major re-assessment over how the royal family should be protected in future, believed Ball had no political motives.—MNA/Reuters

## ပြည်တွင်းပြန်ကုန်အားပေးပါ

# 24 people in Rwanda get HIV/AIDS daily

KIGALI, 1 Jan—The rate of HIV infection in Rwanda is alarming with one person getting infected with the virus each hour on average, Health Minister Innocent Nyaruhirira disclosed Thursday.

"This catastrophe started in the early 1980s, but since then, the rate of infection has increased day and night. In Rwanda, at least one person is infected or is susceptible to the HIV virus every hour; this means, 24 people get AIDS daily, which is a threat to our country," the minister said.

He made the appeal during a one-day national conference for Christian and Muslim leaders.

He urged religious leaders to advise Church followers on ways of fighting HIV/AIDS in order to reverse the trend.

In Rwanda, over 13 per cent of the total population are believed to be infected with HIV/AIDS. The HIV prevalence rate is believed to be higher in urban areas with 7-12 per cent.

Meanwhile at the conference, the religious leaders called on the government to take punitive measures for people involved in sexual temptations and therefore the spread of AIDS.

MNA/Xinhua

# China uncovers 21 illegal compact disc production lines in 2004

BEIJING, 1 Jan— Chinese police uncovered a total of 21 compact disc production lines in 2004 in cooperation with Press and publishing administrative bodies across the country, all smuggled by foreign pirates to the country for illegal operations.

"The recent crackdowns have added the total number of illegal production lines of audio and visual works to 200," said an official with the State Administration of Press and Publication.

All the 200 production lines have been brought in by foreign crime gangs of pirates, which turned China into a major country victimized by intellectual property rights violation, the official said.

The most recent police anti-piracy raids were launched in December last year in south China's Shenzhen City, which netted six video disc production lines, including two "Toolex" lines made in Netherlands, along with 85,000 illegal discs already produced, government sources said.

Criminal suspects involved in the cases are under investigation by local police.

MNA/Xinhua

# Owner of Buenos Aires night club arrested

BUENOS AIRES, 1 Jan—One of the owners of the night club, where 175 people died in a fire, was arrested on Friday in Buenos Aires, and will face charges that could get him up to 20 years in prison, said local police.

Omar Chaban "did not offer resistance" to the arrest when agents arrived at his office with an arrest warrant issued by Judge Maria Crotto at noon, local media reported.

She indicted Chaban of "intentional arson leading to death", a crime expected to get eight to 20 years in prison under the Argentine law.

Night club Republica de Cromagnon, in the Once neighbourhood of Buenos Aires, became a

mortal trap when three youngsters launched flares to celebrate the opening of the rock concert "Los Callejeros", but these actions resulted in a fire that got out of control.

According to police, 175 people, mostly adolescents, were asphyxiated or trampled to death when the crowd attempted to leave the place. A total of 889 other people survived with wounds of various degrees.—MNA/Xinhua

# 255 armed robbers arrested in Nigeria's northern state in 2004

LAGOS, 1 Jan—Kaduna State Police Command in northern Nigeria arrested 255 armed robbery suspects in the outgoing year of 2004, the official News Agency of Nigeria reported Thursday.

Kaduna State Police Commissioner Alhaji Mohammed Yesufu was quoted as saying that "131 assorted rifles, 522 rounds of live ammunition, 16 magazines and three cartridges were recovered from the suspects".

Meanwhile, he added, a total of 32 car thieves were also arrested, while 46 vehicles were recovered from them and handed over to their owners in the year.

While commending officers and men of the command who had con-

tributed to ensuring peace and stability in Kaduna State, the police commissioner appealed to the public "to always give vital information to the police to enable them to track down criminals".

According to Inspector-General of Nigeria Police Tafa Balogun, Nigerian police in 2004 killed 1,694 suspected armed robbers, arrested

3,787 suspected robbers and recovered 420,281 rounds of ammunitions and 976 stolen vehicles.

Robberies by ruthless bandits during daytime are still very common in Nigeria as the national economy is worsening in recent years in the most populous African country with a population of over 130 million.

MNA/Xinhua

# Doha reveals mascot for 2006 Asian Games

DOHA, 1 Jan— The official mascot for the 2006 Asian Games in Doha was revealed here Friday evening while the organizers of the games initiated the countdown of 700 days to the 15th edition of the multi-sports event in the region.

Thousands of people, dignitaries, sports celebrities and local residents celebrated the reveal of "Orry"—a Qatari Oryx, the official mascot and the surrounding ceremonial festival held at Doha Corniche.

Qatari Oryx, the national symbol of Qatar, was chosen as the official mascot for the Asian Game "as the young animal symbolizes our young country and young government", said Abdulla Khalid Al Qahtani, Director General of Doha Asian Games Organizing

Committee (DAGOC). In this way, Orry represents the link between Qatar's heritage and heartfelt generosity, hospitality and entertainment qualities that are ingrained in the people of Qatar and the Asian Games, he added.

"To us, the Asian Games is not just a sporting event, nor is it solely about greeting our visitors and showcasing our country. The Doha 2006 Asian Games means so much more. It is about our sense of belonging and our posi-

tion in the world and it is about our community, our culture and our environment of which we are very proud. More than ever, we can see and understand the lives and struggles of people of Asia, and more than ever we can reach them with hope, possibility and change," said Al Qahtani. In the mascot launch, the Games anthem was also introduced as part of the festivities. About 250 school children performed the anthem that resounded at the Corniche.—MNA/Xinhua



Fireworks explode over the Flamingo hotel marking the arrival of the New Year in Las Vegas on 1 Jan, 2005.—INTERNET

DON'T SMOKE

မညာရေးနှင့် ဆက်သွယ်ရေးတိုးတက်ရေး နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်ခုံ

### E China province seaports handle 300 million tons of goods in 2004

JINAN, 1 Jan — Seaports in east China's Shandong Province have handled more than 300 million tons of goods in 2004, 100 million tons more than two years ago, said Zhou Qiutian, director of the provincial Communications Department, in the capital city Jinan on Thursday.

Zhou said by December 18 this year, seaports in Shandong handled a total of about 302 million tons of goods, up 18.2 per cent from the last same period. It is the first time the yearly handling capability of Shandong seaports has surpassed 300 million tons. Zhao Kezhi, vice-governor of Shandong, said that it took Shandong seaports 46 years to make its annual handling capability pass 100 million tons from the year 1949 and seven years to surpass 200 million tons. But in two years it has jumped to 300 million tons.

He also noted that by December 17, Qingdao Port had handled five million TEUs of containers, meeting the international standard of container shipping centre. — MNA/Xinhua

### Chinese TV giant reports possible huge loss

BEIJING, 2 Jan — The Sichuan Changhong Electric Co, China's leading TV producer, has reported a possible huge loss, because it may be unable to collect 310 million US dollars from its US importer.

Apex Digital Inc may not be able to pay the owed money because of the loss it suffered when the United States imposed anti-dumping measures on colour televisions made in China in April of 2004, said a bulletin the company posted to the Shanghai Stock Exchange last week.

Changhong expected to collect 150 million out of 467.5 million US dollars which Apex owed it by 25 December of 2004, the bulletin said.

Apex is losing money also because it must now pay high fees for patent use.

"It is very hard to estimate what impact the US anti-dumping mea-

sures and high patent fees will have and how much risk the company will run to collect from Apex. So the company decided to prepare a certain amount of fund to deal with non-performing receivables," the document said.

The company will release the exact amount of fund prepared in its annual report of 2004, it said.

Changhong is trying every legal way to clear and collect the money, the company said.

The bulletin also released that Changhong faces risk of collecting 182.8 million yuan (22.1 million US dollars) it entrusted the Nanfang Bonds Co to invest in

treasuries as Nanfang Bonds has been under government surveillance for illegal operation since January of 2004.

Changhong will see a huge loss in 2004 and the exact amount will be released in the annual report, the company said.

But the company still reported a debt-to-asset ratio less than 50 per cent and it runs in normal condition.

Tuesday's Beijing News quoted the company source as saying that it has received a credit line of 8.5 billion yuan (1.03 billion US dollars) for next year from four state-owned commercial banks and four billion yuan (483.67 million US dollars) from some joint-stock banks.

The four state banks also promised to loan one billion yuan to the company recently.

MNA/Xinhua

### China scraps duty rebates on aluminum, ferroalloy

BEIJING, 2 Jan — China will abolish the export rebates for electrolytic aluminum, ferroalloy and other high energy-consuming products as of 1 January, 2005, the Ministry of Finance said in a news bulletin.

China also announced last month it will levy export tariff on aluminum, copper and nickel and ban the import of aluminum oxide for processing trade.

As a major sector readjusted under the country's macrocontrol policy in the past year, electrolytic aluminum, a high energy-consuming product, consumes 15,200 kilowatts per hour for one-ton production.

Electricity consumption accounted for 35 per cent of the production cost of electrolytic aluminum before the rates of electricity are increased.

Statistics show that China produced 6.6 million tons of aluminum in 2004, up 20 per cent year-on-year, and will produce 7.2 million tons in 2005 with a growth rate of 9 per cent.

MNA/Xinhua

### NY revellers welcome 2005 with 100th New Year's celebration

NEW YORK, 2 Jan — US Secretary of State Colin Powell on Friday night launched the traditional ball drop as more than half a million revellers jammed Midtown Manhattan of New York for the 100th Times Square New Year's celebration.

Powell, a New York City native, joined Mayor Michael Bloomberg and other dignitaries as the huge crowd welcomed the new year at the Crossroads of the World. New Year's Eve celebration this year marks its 100th birthday since the first one was held in Times Square.

The midnight ball drop was accompanied by a two-minute pyrotechnic display as mounds of confetti fell from surrounding rooftops.

Authorities said they had expected more

than 750,000 people to attend the event.

An unseasonably warm night allowed celebrants to leave their winter coats behind, as the thermometer reached 7 degrees Centigrade in the midnight hour.

Police tightened security for the occasion by deploying larger contingent of forces in and around the square.

They also used video cameras to transmit images back to a central command centre, and specialized devices to monitor for a potential biological, chemical or

radiological attack.

In addition to music and fireworks, Friday night's festivities also included a moment of silence shortly after 8pm, in honour of those killed in the earthquake and tsunami in South and Southeast Asian countries.

"I think we all have to look in the mirror tonight before we go to bed and recognize just how lucky we are and that not every one else is so lucky," Mayor Michael Bloomberg said.

MNA/Xinhua



Tournament of Roses Parade Grand Marshal Mickey Mouse greets spectators during the annual parade through the streets of Pasadena, California on 1 Jan, 2005..—INTERNET

### Uganda to host Africa's annual peace conference in 2005

KAMPALA, 1 Jan— Uganda is to host a peace conference attended by at least 15 African countries next year, The New Vision newspaper reported on Friday.

The conference is to be jointly organized by Peace University Africa (PUA), a Belgian institution, and Always Be Tolerant (ABETO), a local non-governmental organization.

ABETO chairman Moses Musana was quoted as saying that Uganda was chosen to host the annual event because of the recent peace talks between the Ugandan Government and the rebel Lord's Resistance Army (LRA).

"PUA realized that Uganda had made progress in fighting the 18-year-long war. The ongoing transition to multiparty politics was also a driving force," he said.

Musana said Belgian and German professors would address the participants, adding that the participants would acquire skills in mediation, negotiation and conflict management, which were vital for fighting conflict.

MNA/Xinhua

### Snowfalls impact transportation in east, south China

SHANGHAI, 2 Jan — The heavy snowfalls that started Thursday in Shanghai and south China's Guangdong Province have caused problems in local transportation.

The most important communication hub in East China, Shanghai cancelled 183 flights and delayed 133 flights on Thursday due to the bad weather. Thousands of passengers were held up at the Pudong or Hongqiao International Airports.

The main cause of the cancellations and delays was the time-consuming work of de-icing the planes bodies, said Qiang Weizhong from the

Pudong International Airport. The current temperature in Shanghai is minus 5 degrees Celsius. A number of flights were held Friday because of Thursday's disorder, Qiang said.

According to the Shanghai Municipal Communication Directing Centre, the expressways connecting Shanghai with the nearby cities of Nanjing and Hangzhou were closed

Friday morning. Almost all the bus routes from Shanghai had stopped running. An expressway headed north from Zhuhai in Guangdong was closed Friday morning because of the heavy snow.

The temperature in the northeastern part of Guangdong will fall to minus 2 degrees Celsius during the New Year holiday, much colder than it usually gets there.

MNA/Xinhua

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**African Confederation Cup final becomes Ghana's domestic affair**

CAIRO, 2 Jan— The African Confederation Cup will see two clubs from the same country to clash for the first time in its first leg of the final on Sunday.

Ghana clubs Asante Kotoko and Hearts of Oak play in a tie postponed from last month because of the presidential elections in the West African country.

It is the first final of the competition, inaugurated last year by the Confederation of African Football (CAF), who combined the old African Cup Winners' Cup and CAF Cup into a single competition.

Hearts will host the first leg in Accra on Sunday with the return leg in Kumasi one week later on January 9.

Asante Kotoko and Hearts of Oak are both former African champions. —MNA/Xinhua

**Tokyo Verdy beat Jubilo Iwata to win Emperor's Cup**

TOKYO, 2 Jan— Ten-man Tokyo Verdy beat holders Jubilo Iwata 2-1 in a grudge final to lift the Emperor's Cup for the second time on Saturday.

Strikers Kazunori Iio and Kazuki Hiramoto were on target for once-mighty Verdy, whose midfielder Yoshiyuki Kobayashi was shown a red card for his second bookable offence just before halftime.

Norihiro Nishi pulled one back in the 78th minute but Verdy held out despite late Jubilo pressure.

The annual New Year's Day match was given added spice after Verdy's Argentine coach Osvaldo Ardiles argued that Jubilo should not represent Japan in the Asian Champions League.

Under the current rules, Jubilo will take part in this year's competition after winning last season's Emperor's Cup. Verdy must wait until 2006. While no longer the force they were in the mid-1990s, Verdy dominated in chilly Tokyo, Iio breaking the deadlock in the 36th minute, tapping in after Hiramoto's

header hit the post. Hiramoto, who had been guilty of two glaring misses before Iio's strike, added a second in the 54th minute with a fine solo effort.

Nishi pounced after confusion in the Verdy defence to give three-times J-League champions Jubilo a lifeline and midfielder Takashi Fukunishi's header shaved the post moments later.

Verdy, who won the first two J-League titles in 1993 and 1994, survived Jubilo's late onslaught to end their long trophy drought since lifting the Emperor's Cup in the 1996 season.

"It was a long, hard road just to get to the final," said Ardiles. "The players were unbelievable. We were a man down and under pressure but they battled so hard. It gives us reason to be optimistic for next season."

MNA/Reuters



Chelsea's Damien Duff (L) and Liverpool's Djimi Traore race for the ball during their Premiership football match at Anfield in Liverpool.—INTERNET

**Chelsea beat Liverpool 1-0**

LONDON, 2 Jan— Chelsea, boosted by a slice of good fortune for substitute Joe Cole's winner, continued their surge towards a first Premier League title with a battling 1-0 victory at Liverpool on Saturday.

Champions Arsenal, helped by a double from Sweden midfielder Fredrik Ljungberg, kept Chelsea's lead at five points with a 3-1 success at Charlton Athletic while Manchester United, who won 2-0 at Middlesbrough in an evening kickoff, are four points further back in third.

England midfielder Cole's low drive from distance deflected in off Jamie Carragher 10 minutes from time to hand Jose Mourinho's Chelsea

their third win in the hectic holiday programme and a perfect start to their centenary year.

"I think we had that bit of luck that normally champions need to have at crucial moments," Mourinho told Sky Sports.

Chelsea have 52 points from 21 games, clear of Arsenal on 47 and Manchester United on 43.

Fourth-placed Everton succumbed to their second successive defeat, a 5-2 drubbing at resurgent Tottenham Hotspur. All five of their league defeats this season have come against sides from the capital.

Cole, scoring for the second successive game, had also hit the winner in Chelsea's 1-0 victory over Liverpool at Stamford Bridge in October.

On as a 76th-minute replacement for Damien Duff, Cole was well positioned to latch on to Glen Johnson's cushioned header from Arjen Robben's corner.

Mourinho praised Chelsea's defensive qualities but said his side, who have lost only once

in their 21 league matches and are unbeaten in their last 12, had not been at their best at Anfield.

"It was a fantastic defensive performance, not just by the team but by some individuals. We were a bit lucky," he said.

"The way both teams fought and the way both teams tried to win, the draw would have been a fair result."

Liverpool were incensed when they were refused a clear penalty late in the first half after Portugal midfielder Tiago handled from a corner.

The former European champions suffered a further blow when it was confirmed that Spanish midfielder Xabi Alonso had sustained a broken ankle after a strong tackle from Frank Lampard and will be out for six weeks.

Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger praised his side's resilience for carving out victory against Charlton at The Valley where they were held 1-1 in their march to the title last season.

MNA/Reuters

**English Premier League matches report**

LONDON, 2 Jan— Brief match reports from English Premier League matches played on Saturday:

**Fulham 3 Crystal Palace 1**

Two goals from striker Andrew Cole eased the pressure on Fulham boss Chris Coleman as Palace extended their winless run to 11 matches.

Andy Johnson's 11th league goal of the season, from a 35th-minute penalty, cancelled out Cole's opener but goals after the break from Cole and Tomasz Radzinski condemned Palace to another defeat and left them in deep relegation trouble.

**Aston Villa 1 Blackburn Rovers 0**

Peruvian Nolberto Solano condemned Rovers to defeat with a winner two minutes from time, giving Villa their first win in six league games.

**Answers to yesterday's Crossword Puzzle**

S	W	O		H	G	W
C	H	A	N	G	E	C
U	R	L	A	L	I	E
F	O	R	F	E	I	T
F	I	D	T	T	E	Y
L	O	O	T	C	R	U
E	R	G	I	R	W	O
			T	R	I	B
S	B	E	U	R	I	D
T	H	O	N	G	T	R
I	O	O	E	V	P	R
F	U	T	U	R	E	R
F	H	Y		N	T	Y

**Bolton Wanderers 1 West Bromwich Albion 1**

Bottom side Albion were set to record their first win since Bryan Robson took charge until El Hadji Diouf saved Wanderers from a seventh straight defeat.

The Senegal international netted five minutes from time to cancel out Zoltan Gera's 13th-minute strike.

**Charlton Athletic 1 Arsenal 3**

Arsenal were held to a 1-1 draw at The Valley last season and had to battle hard again to take home the points to keep up the pressure on leaders Chelsea.

Fredrik Ljungberg's opener was cancelled out by a thunderous free kick on the stroke of halftime by Moroccan defender Talal El Karkouri. But the Sweden international finished off a slick move to put Arsenal back in front before Dutchman Robin van Persie added a third.

**Manchester City 2 Southampton 1**

City secured their first home win over Saints for more than seven years to keep Harry Redknapp still seeking his first win since taking over on the south coast.

Goals from Dutch midfielder Paul Bosvelt and England winger Shaun Wright-Phillips, with a thumping 30-metre shot, put Kevin Keegan's side in control before Kevin Phillips replied with a stoppage-time penalty.

**Newcastle 2 Birmingham City 1**

Newcastle earned their first victory since the end of November to halt Birmingham's four-win sequence. Shola Ameobi headed home Craig Bellamy's cross and Lee Bowyer made it 2-0 at the break. Emile Heskey's fine finish on 64 minutes proved only a consolation.

MNA/Reuters

**Injury forces Olsson out of European indoor c'ships**

STOCKHOLM, 2 Jan— Olympic triple jump champion Christian Olsson of Sweden was forced to pull out of the European indoor championships in Madrid in March because of an ankle injury.

"There is no reason to take risks by starting to compete indoors during winter when you're not 100 per cent prepared," Olsson said in a statement on Saturday.

Olsson, 24, said on his website that he will miss the indoor season and planned to start competing again in June, two months ahead of the world championships in Helsinki. —MNA/Xinhua

## YIE Practising High School holds prize presentation ceremony

YANGON, 2 Jan — Yangon Institute of Education Practising High School held at the school this morning.

Present were family members of Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe, member of the State Peace and Development Council Chief of Armed Forces Training Lt-Gen Kyaw



Headmistress Daw Khin Win Aung of YIE Practising High School presents Maung Thiha Shwe who won five distinctions and all subjects outstanding award in the fourth standard.— MNA



Lt-Gen Kyaw Win presents prize to an outstanding student.— MNA

Win and wife Daw San San Yi, the wife of Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin, the wife of Minister for Education U Than Aung, Chief Justice U Aung Toe, the wife of Deputy Minister for Education U Myo Nyunt, the director-general of Higher Education Department (Lower Myanmar) and wife, the rector of YIE, faculty members, the headmistress and teachers, outstanding students and guests.

They saluted the State Flag. Headmistress Daw Khin Win Aung briefed them on the academic and management matters of the school and expressed thanks.

Next, officials presented prizes to the respective outstanding students.

MNA

## Independence Day programmes to be telecast live

YANGON, 2 Jan — Myanmar Radio and Television will telecast live the programmes featuring the State Flag Hoisting and Saluting Ceremony to mark the 57th Anniversary Independence Day from 6.45 am on 4 January 2005 from People's Square, where the ceremony will be held. — MNA

## Work Committee for All-round Upgrading of Yangon City Kandawgyi Gardens and Zoological Gardens (Yangon) meets

YANGON, 2 Jan—Work Committee for All-round Upgrading of Yangon City Kandawgyi Gardens and Zoological Gardens (Yangon) held its coordination meeting at the agricultural museum of Myanmar Agriculture Service at Kandawgyi Gardens at 2 pm today, with an address by Chairman of the Work Committee Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe.

In his address, Chairman of the Work Committee Maj-Gen Myint Swe said that it has been over one year in which measures for all-round upgrading of Yangon City Kandawgyi Gardens and Zoological Gardens (Yangon) are being taken; that the respective zones need to make energetic efforts for timely completion of the tasks; that systematic steps are to be taken by the ministries concerned in the use of funds; that construction work is to be carried out according to the prescribed designs; and that officials are to coordinate matters to

collect the entrance fees according to the set rate.

Next, officials of the respective departments reported on work carried out.

Later, heads of departments and officials dealt with matters related to timely completion of the work.

This was followed by a general round of discussions.

The meeting ended with concluding remarks by Chairman of the Work Committee Maj-Gen Myint Swe.

Afterwards, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe and party inspected work being carried out for all-round upgrading of Yangon City Kandawgyi Gardens and Zoological Gardens (Yangon).

Next, Chairman of the Work Committee Maj-Gen Myint Swe gave instructions on meeting the set standard, timely completion of the work and taking measures for the gardens to become a place where knowledge on farming can be gained, and fulfilled the requirements. — MNA



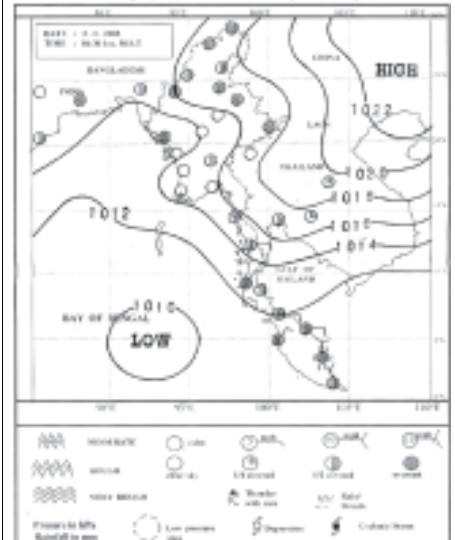
Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe inspects upgrading of Yangon Kandawgyi Gardens.— YANGON COMMAND

## Prizes presented to winners in Baby Show

YANGON, 2 Jan — Hailing the 57th Anniversary Independence Day, a ceremony to present prizes to winners in the baby show of the Yangon Command Maternal and Child Welfare Association was held at the hall of the command this morning, attended by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and wife Daw Khin Thet Htay, Chairperson of the Yangon Division Supervisory Committee for MCWA.

The commander presented prizes to winners in the baby show. Daw Khin Thet Htay also gave away prizes to the best mother award winners. Later, officials presented prizes to the other winners.— MNA

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



## WEATHER

Sunday, 2 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 Eastern Shan State, (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Chin, Kayin and Rakhine States, Magway and Bago Divisions, (6°C) below normal in Taninthayi Division and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were (1°C) each in Namsam and Loilan, (3°C) each in Kengtung, Heho and Pinlaung and (4°C) in Hakha.

Maximum temperature on 1-1-2005 was 91°F. Minimum temperature on 2-1-2005 was 56°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 2-1-2005 was 82%. Total sunshine hours on 1-1-2005 was (8.0) hours approx. Rainfalls on 2-1-2005 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 8 mph from West at (16:00) hours MST on 1-1-2005.

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

**Forecast valid until evening of 3-1-2005:** Likelihood of isolated light rain in Kachin State and upper Sagaing Division and weather will be partly cloudy to cloudy in Shan, Rakhine and Chin States and Taninthayi Division and generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

**Outlook for subsequent two days:** Likelihood of isolated light rain in the Northern Myanmar areas.

**Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 3-1-2005:** Partly cloudy.

**Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 3-1-2005:** Fair weather.

**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

**Dress rehearsal for Independence Day State Flag Hoisting and Saluting Ceremony held**



*Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe inspects dress rehearsal for State Flag Hoisting and Saluting Ceremony.— MNA*

YANGON, 2 Jan — The full-dress rehearsal for the 57th Anniversary Independence Day State Flag Hoisting and Saluting ceremony took place at the People's Square on Pyay Road here this morning.

Chairman of the subcommittee for organizing the ceremony Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Secretary Lt-Col

Myint Kyi and members, military region commanders, senior military officers and officials inspected the rehearsal.

MNA

**USDA members, social organizations and local people to harmoniously implement USDA objectives and future tasks Shan State (East) USDA holds coord meeting**



YANGON, 2 Jan — Shan State (East) Union Solidarity and Development Association held the meeting on implementation of the seven objectives and nine future tasks laid down by the USDA Annual General Meeting 2004 and the plans to be

carried out in Shan State (East), at the City Hall in Kengtung on 31 December morning.

Present on the occasion were members of USDA, members of War Veterans Organization, MWF and MCWA, members of Red Cross and

Auxiliary Fire Brigades, townselders and outstanding youths.

Those present saluted the State Flag. The students of Kengtung BEHS No 1 sang the songs titled 'Myanmar Land' and 'Eternal Union'.

Speaking on the

occasion, Shan State (East) USDA Secretary Dr Sai Hsay Kaw said that

accomplishments of the association at different *(See page 6)*



*Shan State (East) USDA holds meeting to implement seven objectives and nine future tasks and plans to be carried out in Shan State (East).— MNA*

**5,588 prisoners released to mark 57<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Independence Day**

YANGON, 2 Jan—The State Peace and Development Council, upholding Our Three Main National Causes, is building a new modern developed nation hand in hand with the people for the emergence of a discipline-flourishing democratic nation. Nowadays, the government is marching towards a discipline-flourishing democratic nation in cooperation with all national races in the Union in accord with the seven-point Road Map.

Prison terms were meted out against those who broke the existing laws for prevalence of peace and the rule of law in accord with law.

The Prisons Department is carrying out the tasks to transform prisoners who are kept in the rehabilitation centres into citizens who can serve the interest of the nation. Altogether 5,588 prisoners with records of improved character have been released from the respective prisons today to show sympathy for them and their families and in the belief that they would continue to serve the interest of their own, the nation and its people after realizing the government's loving-kindness and goodwill.

The release of the prisoners is aimed at marking the 57th Anniversary Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar upholding Our Three Main National Causes—non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty.—MNA