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Foreign Heads of State send felicitations to Senior General Than Shwe

YANGON, 6 Jan — *The following are messages of felicitations from Foreign Heads of State sent to Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council on the occasion of the 57th Anniversary Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar.*

From Dr Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, President of the Republic of Italy

On the occasion of the Independence Day, I wish to express, in the name of the Italian people and on my own, sincere wishes for the future of the people of Myanmar.

From Mr Leonid Kuchma, President of Ukraine Your Excellency,

On behalf of people of Ukraine and on my personal behalf I sincerely congratulate you on the

occasion of the National Holiday of the Union of Myanmar— the Independence Day.

I am confident that the relations of friendship and mutually beneficial cooperation between Ukraine and the Union of Myanmar will be further developing for the welfare of our peoples.

I wish you, Your Excellency, happiness, good health, success in your responsible State activity as well as peace, harmony and prosperity for people of the Union of Myanmar.

From Mr Vicente Fox Quesada, President of the United Mexican States

I am glad to congratulate you on the occasion of the National Day of the Union of Myanmar.

Receive my best wishes of good health and prosperity.

MNA

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

Agricultural and regional development tasks supervised in Yangon North District

YANGON, 6 Jan— Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, accompanied by departmental heads, made an inspection tour of Htantabin Township, Yangon North District, this afternoon.

The commander inspected the 25-acre paddy field of farmer U Chit Sein on Yangon-Pathein Highway near Hnggethaik Village, Htantabin Township. Of-



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe inspects Kyunngu river water pumping station in Htantabin Township. — YANGON COMMAND

officials reported on efforts to hit the target of 250,000 acres of summer paddy in the district, water supply, and progress of cultivation of 12,005 out of scheduled acres in Htantabin Township. The commander (See page 8)

Industry-1 Minister receives Vice President of CMEC-IEC



Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung receives Vice President Mr Ding and party of China National Machinery & Equipment Import & Export Corporation-International Engineering Co Ltd (CMEC-IEC).—INDUSTRY-1

YANGON, 6 Jan — Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung received Mr Ding, Vice President of China National Machinery & Equipment Import & Export Corporation - International Engineering Co Ltd (CMEC-IEC) and party at the ministry this morning.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thein Tun, the director-general and managing directors of the departments and industries. — MNA

INSIDE

About 500 Arahats with Ashin Maha Kassapa at the helm convened the First Buddhist Synod in Yazagyo three months after the demise of the Lord Buddha. About 100 years later, Ashin Maha Yasa led the over 700 eminent monks in convening the Second Buddhist Synod.

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SITAGU SAYADAW

Sovereignty comes from the people, and covers every part of the nation. A country whose population is more or less than 100,000 exercised the direct democracy system, in which, all the grown-ups reaching the specified age, made collective decisions for governance.

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TEKKATHO MYAT THU

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

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 7 January, 2005

Always keep national unity and Union Spirit alive and dynamic

From time immemorial, various national races of the Union of Myanmar have been living together in unity through thick and thin, sharing joys and sorrows. After annexing the entire Myanmar, the colonialists used various ways and means to weaken and jeopardize national unity. Their sole intention in doing so was to prolong their rule. However, thanks to patriotism and far-sightedness of the leaders of various national races, national unity was rebuilt and independence regained.

The colonialists ruled our nation for more than one hundred years, driving a wedge between our national brethren. As a result, various national races distrusted one another even after independence was regained and this led to the internal strife of more than forty years and left the country behind other nations. It was the lesson history taught us and we have a lot to learn from it in building a new democratic state. It is only if we build our new nation on the foundation of national unity that it will last longer.

A coordination meeting on the observance of the 58th anniversary of the Union Day was held in Yangon on 5 December and it was attended by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein. In his address at the ceremony, the Secretary-1 said, "Adhering to the concept that only when the national consolidation is built up firmly will the nation be able to turn itself into a peaceful, modern and developed one, the government has achieved success in a bid to ensure national reconsolidation based on mutual understanding and forbearance among the national brethren."

All the national people in each and every region of the Union are now in a position to be able to fully enjoy the fruits of peace and development. The government is systematically building development infrastructures in various sectors for enhancing the living standard of national brethren. The government is able to execute these development tasks smoothly because national spirit and Union Spirit are flourishing in the hearts of national brethren.

Therefore, we would like to call on the entire national people to always keep their national unity and Union Spirit alive and dynamic for lasting peace and long-term development of their Union.

နိုင်ငံတော်အစိုးရဌာနပိုင် မော်တော်ယာဉ်များမသုံးစွဲရနေ့

လစဉ်လ၏ ဒုတိယပတ် (တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့) နှင့် နောက်ဆုံးပတ် (တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့) တို့သည် ရုံးလုပ်ငန်းအတွက် မဖြစ်မနေ သွားလာရန်လိုအပ်သည့် ကိစ္စရပ်များမှအပ မော်တော်ယာဉ်များ မသုံးစွဲရနေ့ဖြစ်သည်။

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နှင့်
(၃၀-၁-၂၀၀၅) ရက်နေ့

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



The 9,900 oil lights offering ceremony in progress at Shwezigon Pagoda in NyaungU.— MNA

9,900 lights for Shwezigon

YANGON, 6 Jan — A religious association of Insein offered 9,900 lights, water and joss sticks to the Buddha images of the Shwezigon Pagoda in NyaungU, Mandalay Division, on 29 December evening.

From 28 December evening till the daybreak, the pagoda precinct was crowded with pilgrims making preparations to offer lights, water, incense and 'soon' at the pagoda.

The arrival of dawn was greeted by nine monks consecrating the images and delivering sermons and also sharing the merits with the congregation.

The evening of the day saw the monks, tourists, officials, pagoda board of trustees, local people and the association members offering lights, water and joss sticks to the Buddha images.

It was the ninth ceremony of the association to make annual offerings to the pagoda, with the help of Township Union Solidarity and Development Association, Maternal and Child Welfare Association, women's affairs committees, fire brigades and local wellwishers. — MNA

MPGA & MGF President's Trophy Golf Tournery 12-15 Jan



YANGON, 6 Jan — MPGA and MGF President's Trophy Golf Tournery, organized by Myanmar Professional Golfers Association and Myanmar Golfers Federation, will be held at Hanthawady Golf Course in Bago from 12 to 15 January.

Three will be three classes as the professional golfers division, the men's handicap 0-12 amateur division and the women's handicap 0-18 division. Golfers are to enlist at the office of the golf course not

later than 4 pm on 10 January.

The main sponsor will be Rothmans of Pall Mall Myanmar Pte Ltd and co-sponsors — Air Mandalay, Myanmar Brewery Ltd, Alpine Purified Drinking Water, KM Golf Centre, Maruman, Tour Stage, Wilson, Srixon, Grand Slam (Musingwear), Accel Internation Co Ltd (Canon), Sunfar Travel Tours, Proshops and Hanthawady Golf and Country club.

The tournament will be organized by Han Event Management. For further information dial 542989, 706788 and 0999-72554.

MNA

Mental Health Unit holds second seminar

YANGON, 6 Jan — The Mental Health Society of the Myanmar Medical Association (Central) held the second seminar at the MMA building yesterday morning, attended by Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Minister Dr Mya Oo, directors-general, medical superintendents and doctors totalling about 200. A total of 25 research papers will be read at the seminar which continues tomorrow. — MNA

POEM

Independence Day Vow

- * It's fully fifty and seven years
A verse is written on that account
Myanmar's cause, the Future Path
Let's go straight down on it
The entire citizenry's
Unanimous call
- * The Seven Point programme
Is a noble National Cause
Vigilant thoughts say
To see culmination of great event
Let's do it to shake the world
The ever united citizenry's
Strength put together
- * If one looks back
In eras of Bagan, Toungoo, Konbaung
Unity that was strengthened
Truly abreast of world nations
Our strength made us proud
- * Let's hoist the Victory Flag high
For everyone will be getting equal rights
Motherland to reach a new era of peace
Without veering from the correct path
Full discipline-flourishing democracy
We shall enjoy systematically.

Kaytu Nilar (Trs)

(Honouring 57th Anniversary Independence Day)

Water supply of Gyobu Reservoir inspected

YANGON, 6 Jan — Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, accompanied by YCDC member Col Tin Soe and officials, inspected Gyobu Reservoir in Taikkyi Township this morning.

Taikkyi Station Commander Brig-Gen Htein Win, Head of Engineering Department (Water and Sanitation) U Thauang Yin, Head of Assessment Department Dr Tun Than Tun and officials welcomed the mayor and party and explained facts about the reservoir, watershed area, the power intake structure, control of water quality and water supply functions.

The mayor gave instructions to officials of the reservoir on security of the reservoir, cleaning of water surface, inspection of water supply, greening of watershed area and maintenance of 56 inches diameter steel pipelines. Next, the mayor and officials inspected maintenance of the steel pipelines between Gyobu Reservoir and Kanthaya Village. — MNA

Respect-paying ceremony of YTU(Civil) to be held

YANGON, 6 Jan — The respect-paying ceremony in conjunction with the get-together of the old students of Yangon Technological University majoring in civil from 1974 to 1980 will be held at M-3 Food Centre near Bahan Sports Grounds at 4 pm on 15th January.

Anyone may contact U Soe Win (Tel-09-50-00886, Tel- 241925 and Tel-371556), U Win Naing (Tel-641321 and Tel- 09-99-23848), U Aung Kyaw Win (Tel-663840 and Tel-703800, Daw Mi Mi Tun (Tel-201633), Daw Yin Yin Shwe (Tel-249651 and Tel-282521). — 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

Indo-Pakistani trade can touch \$10b mark by 2010

NEW DELHI, 5 Jan— Industry body Assocham estimates that trade between India and Pakistan can touch the 10 billion dollar mark by 2010 from 345 million dollar in 2003-04, provided the execution of South Asian Free Trade Agreement is not thwarted and the trade basket is diversified.

Trade between the two countries during April-July 2004 increased to 186 million dollar as against 64 million in the year-ago period, the study said, adding there was huge potential for the bilateral trade to grow.

"India's export to Pakistan in April-July 2004 has shown a record 328 per cent increase, having gone up to 167 million from 39 million in the year-ago period," Assocham President MK Sanghi said in a statement.

"The study recommends extensive diversification of the existing trade basket of India and Pakistan to achieve the projected 10 billion mark by 2010,"

he added. In the last five years, the imports from Pakistan mainly constituted of fruits, spices, leather, textiles, yarn, wool, raw and made-up articles.

Assocham also said India's exports to Pakistan accounted for 8.3 per cent of its total exports to the SAARC region, while 24.1 per cent of its total imports from SAARC region were from Pakistan.

In 2003-04, while Indo-Pakistani trade stood at 345 million US dollar, India's exports to Bangladesh and Sri Lanka alone were 1,650 million and 1,324 million dollar respectively.

MNA/PTI



Vice-Premier calls for better developed western China

NANNING, 5 Jan— Chinese Vice-Premier Huang Ju has asked China's western region to speed up coordinated social and economic development so as to facilitate the country's major western development strategy.

"Development of the western area has entered an ascension period with very good opportunities," Huang said during an inspection tour of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region from January 1 to 4.

He asked the people in Guangxi to use the opportunities of a free trade zone being built between China and the Association of South-East Asian Nations and strive to become an important distribution centre for the zone.

"Guangxi should expand the handling capacity of its ports and improve their connections with railway and high-way transport," said Huang.

China started the drive, targeting 12 underdeveloped western areas, in the beginning of 2000 to narrow the gap between these areas and the fast-growing east.

Major tasks of the drive include improving infrastructure, beefing up ecological and environmental protection, and promoting all-round economic and social progress in these areas.—MNA/Xinhua

Chinese, Singaporean FM's talk over phone

BEIJING, 5 Jan— Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing on Tuesday exchanged views with his Singaporean counterpart George Yong-Boon Yeo over telephone on issues concerning tsunami relief in the Indian Ocean areas.

Yeo spoke highly of the large amount of aid provided by the Chinese Government for the earthquake and tsunami-hit countries, saying the ASEAN (Association of South-East Asian Nations) countries will for ever remember China's unselfish assistance.

Singapore is willing to enhance cooperation with China in relief work and reconstruction in disaster-stricken areas, and provide convenience for the Chinese relief staff and materials' accession to disaster-hit areas, he said.

MNA/Xinhua



A China Southern Airlines (CSA) plane. China's top domestic carrier, could be set to place a 2.4 billion dollar order for 20 of Boeing's new 7E7 jets.
INTERNET

China's film industry reshuffle slated for June

BEIJING, 6 Jan — A massive reshuffle in China's film distribution sector is slated to begin in June, creating more favourable market conditions for home-grown movies, according to *China Daily*.

Tong Gang, head of the Film Bureau, which is part of the State General Administration of Radio, Film and Television, said at a Press conference Wednesday, "Although the Chinese film industry achieved historic breakthroughs last year, much still remains to be done to revitalize the local industry that plays only a minor role in the national economy. Top on the question list is further reforms in the cinema circuits business."

China's feature film production output scored a historical high last year, totalling 212, of which 202 were in traditional format and 10 in digital format, he said. In contrast, the production volume in 2002 and 2003 turned out to be 100 and 140. He admitted that only about a third of home-grown movies were given the chance to show up in cinemas across the country each year.

Many others were sold to film channels on television stations such as the Film Channel (CCTV-6) of China Central Television and the Eastern Movie Channel of Shanghai Media Group.

Some films went directly to viewers by online screening, or in DVD format, the low copyright fees of which make it impossible for investors to recoup their money.—MNA/Xinhua

1,338 US troops killed since beginning of Iraq war

WASHINGTON, 6 Jan—As of Wednesday, 5 Jan, 2005, at least 1,338 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 1,053 died as a result of hostile action, the Defence Department said. The figures include three military civilians. The *AP* count is one lower than the Defence Department's tally; it's not unusual for the figures to differ slightly from day to day. 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, 1,200 US military members have died, according to *AP*'s count.

That includes at least 944 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers. The latest deaths reported by the military:

Internet

Marine declared Iraq deserter again

RALEIGH, 6 Jan—The Marine charged with desertion after he claimed to have been kidnapped last year in Iraq was again declared a deserter Wednesday after he failed to return from a holiday leave.

Cpl Wassef Ali Hassoun was required to return to Camp Lejeune by noon Tuesday, but did not report for duty in a motor pool, said Maj Matt Morgan, a spokesman for the 4th Marine Expeditionary Brigade.

Hassoun was still missing at 3 pm Wednesday, Morgan said.

Hassoun's command "officially declared him a deserter and issued authorization for civil authorities to apprehend Hassoun and return him to military control," Morgan said.

Cpl Hassoun was listed as missing in Iraq after he failed to report for duty on 20 June. A week later, the Arabic news network Al-Jazeera broadcast a photo of Hassoun looking as if he were a hostage, blindfolded and with a sword behind his head.

Hassoun contacted American officials in Beirut, Lebanon, on July 8, and was taken to the American Embassy there.

He has made one statement since returning to the United States, saying he was captured and held against his will by anti-coalition forces. He has declined interview requests.

Hassoun was charged last month with desertion, theft, loss of government property and wrongful appropriation of a government vehicle. The desertion count carries a five-year maximum prison sentence and the other counts carry 10-year maximums.—Internet



US Marine from Lima Company passes by Iraqis as he patrols the devastated city of Fallujah recently. — INTERNET



A Vietnamese woman counts money while buying coffee in Hanoi on 4 Jan, 2005. Coffee sellers in Vietnam, the world's top robusta exporter, were reluctant to offer prices on Tuesday, waiting for the London market to reopen after the year-end holidays in order to assess trends, traders said.—INTERNET

စက်မှုပိုင်းအား ခေတ်ကျော်လွှား

German unemployment rises to seven-year high in December

BERLIN, 6 Jan— The number of people out of work in Germany rose to nearly 4.5 million in December, the highest level since 1997, the government said Tuesday.

There were 206,000 more unemployed people in December than the previous month bringing the jobless total to 10.8 per cent of the workforce compared with 10.3 per cent in November, the Nuremberg-based Federal Labour Office said.

The increase was primarily due to bad weather and slack economic growth, the office said.

"The rise of unemployment was

largely a result of the start of the winter break," said labour office president Frank-Juergen Weise, noting that "the economic upturn is still not strong enough to bring about a fundamental improvement on the labour market."

The German Government estimates the country's economy will grow at the rate of 1.8 per cent in 2004 and 1.7 per cent in 2005.

MNA/Xinhua

15 Chinese provincial TV stations open children channels

BEIJING, 6 Jan— Fifteen Chinese provincial-level TV stations, one-third of the total, have dedicated channels to children's programming, the State Administration of Radio, Film and Television (SARFT) said on Tuesday.

China Central Television Station, the country's largest state broadcaster, launched a special channel for young people on 28 December, 2003.

The channel's programmes have been broadcast in at least 300 city-level TV stations

across the country, said the SARFT.

According to a national plan to enrich the cultural life of young people, all the provincial-level TV stations in China will launch a special channel for children by the end of 2006.

MNA/Xinhua

Narayanan assigned duties of National Security Adviser

NEW DELHI, 5 Jan— M K Narayanan, Special Adviser to Indian Prime Minister and former Intelligence Bureau chief, was today given additional duties of National Security Adviser following the sudden death of J N Dixit, till further orders.

A 1958-batch IPS officer, 70-year old Naryananan, a trusted aide of Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, headed the Intelligence Bureau in 1989-90 before being made head of Joint Intelligence Committee. He was again brought back as IB chief in 1991 and retired the next year.

"The Prime Minister has assigned the duties of National Security Adviser to M K Narayanan, Special Adviser to PM," an announcement by the PMO said. Singh had made him Special Adviser for Internal Security in May soon after the coalition United Progressive Alliance assumed office in India.

It said Narayanan will discharge the duties of NSA in addition to his existing duties until further orders. Narayanan is an expert in security matters and is a specialist on Sri Lankan affairs.

The names doing the rounds for the key post are former Foreign Secretaries S K Singh and Muchkund Dubey, seasoned diplomat S K Lambah, Ambassador to US Ronen Sen and former Ambassador Naresh Chandra and deputy to NSA Satish Chandra.

Dixit died on Monday following a massive heart attack.

MNA/PTI

India developing more light combat aircraft prototypes

NEW DELHI, 5 Jan— India is developing more prototypes of a home-grown jet fighter, the test programme for which has entered its second phase, the *Indo-Asian News Service* quoted a top defence scientist as saying in Ahmedabad in Gujarat State in west India on Tuesday.

Addressing a session of the Indian Science Congress, Rajeev Srivastava of the Bangalore-based Aeronautical Development Agency said three prototypes of the *Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas* were being developed for the second phase of test flights.

"The first phase concentrated on two models of *Tejas*, *TD1* and *TD2*, and on

building their prototypes, *PV1* and *PV2*," he said. "In the ongoing second phase, we will develop three more prototypes, *PV3*, *PV4* and *PV5*."

The *LCA*, designed to replace the Air Force's *MiG-21*, *MiG-23* and *MiG-27* jets, weighs less than 10 tons and is among the lightest and smallest aircraft in its category, Srivastava said.—MNA/Xinhua

Security contractor sued over Iraq deaths

RALEIGH, 6 Jan— Families of four slain security contractors whose bodies were burned and dragged through the streets of Fallujah, Iraq sued the workers' former company Wednesday.

The families contend that the company, Blackwater Security Consulting, cut corners that led to the men's deaths last year. The lawsuit seeks unspecified damages.

The workers were sent into Fallujah without proper equipment and personnel to defend the supply convoy they were

guarding, according to the civil lawsuit.

"The fact that these four Americans found themselves located in the high-risk, war-torn city of Fallujah without armoured vehicles, automatic weapons and fewer than the minimum number of team members was no accident," the lawsuit said.

The lawsuit alleges that one week before the deaths, Blackwater fired a project manager who had insisted that the contractors use armoured vehicles.—*Interent*

Lightning claims 15 lives in north India

NEW DELHI, 6 Jan— At least 15 people were killed when lightning struck different parts of northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh, the *Press Trust of India* quoted local official sources as saying Tuesday.

Six persons were killed in Unnao, three in Sitapur, two each in Kanpur Dehat and Hardoi and one each in Mahoba and Barabanki Monday, they said.

A report from Etawah said several people were injured due to hailstorm that lashed the district Monday.

MNA/Xinhua

Foreign tourist arrivals in Indonesia up in November

JAKARTA, 5 Jan— The number of foreign tourists visiting Indonesia in November reached 329,041 or 7.7 per cent higher than the same period in 2003, said the Central Bureau of Statistic (BPS) here on Monday.

The cumulative figure by November 2004 reached 4.12 million, up 24.04 per cent as against the same period in 2003, said head of the BPS Choiril Maksum. However, he said the figure in November 2004 was lower than the previous month, due to a low season for the tourists visiting Indonesia.

The number of foreign tourists coming to the beautiful resort of Bali Island in November decreased to 116,900, 13 per cent lower than the previous month, he said.

MNA/Xinhua



US Marine takes cover during a patrol of the devastated city of Fallujah, 50 kms west of Baghdad on 5 Jan, 2005.—INTERNET

18 million African children to lose parents to "AIDS" in five years

ADDIS ABABA, 6 Jan — Around 18 million African children are to lose one or both parents to the spreading HIV/AIDS epidemic in the continent in the coming five years, a UN report disclosed on Wednesday.

The United Nations Children's Fund's report launched here on the "state of the World's children 2005" revealed the majority of the 18 million children will be in sub-Saharan African countries, including Ethiopia.

"The loss of a parent implies more than just the disappearance of a caregiver. It pervades every aspect of a child's life. Their emotional well-being, physical security, mental development and overall health," the UN said.

As HIV/AIDS often exacerbates poverty, said the report, it places children at an increased risk of engaging in hazardous labour and exploitation.

The report also indicated that around 15 million children under the age of 18 had been orphaned by the pandemic by the end of 2003.

"Eight out of 10 of these children live in Sub-Saharan Africa. Unless action is taken, swiftly and decisively, to stem the tidal wave of infection and loss, it is estimated that by 2010 over 18 million African children will have lost one or both parents to HIV/AIDS," the UN said.

"Respecting the rights of children orphaned or made vulnerable by HIV/AIDS must be an international priority for the next two decades. In order to do this, action must be taken on several fronts," the report added.

Every day, the report said, about 1,700 children become infected with HIV/AIDS while there are an estimated 2.1 million children worldwide under 15 currently live with HIV.

MNA/Xinhua

Laos receives more foreign visitors in 2004

HANOI, 5 Jan — Laos received 800,000 foreign visitors last year, regidtering a year-on-year increase of 25.8 per cent according to Laos' news agency KPL on Tuesday.

The surge is partly attributed to the country's successful hosting of the 2004-ASEAN (the Association of South-East Asian Nations) Tourism Forum and upgraded tourism sites and transport network, said the report.

Laos will establish a tourism promotion council and map out a master plan on developing tourism, cultural and eco-tourism in particular, in a move to annually receive some 1.5 million foreign arrivals in the next years.

Laos, which hosts 132 hotels, 755 guesthouses, 518 restaurants and 62 tour companies, gained tourism revenues of 87.3 million US dollars last year.

MNA/Xinhua

China to expedite nat'l uniform weather warning signal

BEIJING, 6 Jan — China will expand its weather warning information release channels and to expedite the institution of its national weather warning signal system in 2005, said a top official with the China Meteorological Administration on Wednesday.

"Since the launching of the weather warning signals last year, great improvements have been made in disaster prevention and damages reduction," said Wang Bangzhong, deputy director of the Department of Forecasting Services and Disaster Mitigation of the CMA.

But there are still problems, such as less efficient information

release channels and different weather warning signals adopted in different regions, said Wang.

Some regions such as China's southern Guangdong Province, eastern Fujian Province, northwestern Qinghai Province, Shanghai Municipality and Shenzhen City have their own set of warning signals, which differ from

the standard one issued last year, acknowledged Wang.

"As a public warning service, weather warning signals should use the same standard to avoid confusion and misleading information," he said. "Through negotiating with the local government, we will try our best to make these localities adopt one standard this year."

MNA/Xinhua



A worker cleans a neon-sign at a commercial centre in Beijing on 2 Jan, 2005. China's central bank governor pledged to speed up financial reforms and promote fast and sustainable economic growth in the New Year.—INTERNET

3 killed in Nepal helicopter crash

KATHMANDU, 6 Jan — At least three people died Tuesday morning when a helicopter crashed in central Nepal, an airport official told Xinhua.

The helicopter belonging to Air Dynasty Heli Service Private Limited, which was on a flight from Kathmandu to Lukla, crashed eight kilometres southwest of Jiri in Dolakha District,

about 90 kilometres northeast of Kathmandu, the official at the Rescue Coordination Committee of Tribhuvan International Airport said.

The dead have been identified as Pemba Gelu Sherpa, the captain of the helicopter, and two passengers named P.T. Sherpa and nine-year-old P. Sherpa.

MNA/Xinhua

Chinese Academy of Engineering to add up to 60 academicians

BEIJING, 5 Jan — The Chinese Academy of Engineering (CAE) announced here on Tuesday it will vote up to 60 technologists and engineers, both Chinese and foreign, as additional CAE academicians for 2005.

Shen Guofang, vice CAE President, said at a news briefing on Tuesday that the selection procedure has been under way since the beginning of this year.

The CAE will add every two years a new batch of CAE academicians, highest honorary-

titles for Chinese engineers and foreign experts who are acknowledged by the Chinese engineering community.

Almost all candidates will be selected among the people born after June 30, 1935, Shen said, adding that those who are older than that age limit have to

be recommended by at least six incumbent academicians who know very well the work performance of the candidates they recommend.

The former candidates in 1999, 2001 and 2003 have to be suspended for candidature 2005, Shen said.

The CAE will publicize all related backgrounds on all eligible candidates on its official web site after the application deadline, or April 30.

Established in 1994, the CAE now has all together 658 academicians, covering eight special areas.—MNA/Xinhua

US sergeant on trial in death of drowned Iraqi civilian

FORT HOOD (Texas), 5 Jan — Defence lawyers for a US Army sergeant accused of killing an Iraqi civilian by pushing him off a bridge into the Tigris River argued on Tuesday there was no death, no body and no crime.

Sergeant 1st Class Tracy Perkins faces up to 29 years of confinement on charges of involuntary manslaughter, aggravated assault and obstruction of justice.

His lawyer, Captain Thomas Hurley, said prosecutors cannot even prove a homicide, much less a criminal case.

"There was no death," Hurley said in opening statements at the start of the trial, expected to run

for three days.

Prosecutors said that a four-person patrol led by Perkins forced 19-year-old Zaidoun Hassoun and another man off a bridge and that Hassoun drowned.

"Zaidoun was found, face-down, dead," said prosecutor Captain Tom Schiffer.

The two Iraqis were suspected of violating a curfew on 3 January, 2004, near Samarra, 60 miles

north of Baghdad.

While prosecutors and defence lawyers differ on whether Hassoun drowned, both sides agree that the other Iraqi man survived the encounter with the patrol.

Schiffer's first witness, Army crime scene investigator Irene Cintron, said the surviving Iraqi told her the two men were pushed and fell 10 to 12 feet into the river.

MNA/Reuters



A US military convoy arrives at the scene of a car bomb in Baghdad on 6 Jan, 2005.—INTERNET



Ford Motor Co on 4 Jan, 2005 capped 2004 with its seventh straight month of weaker sales, despite a crop of new vehicles and hefty incentives while Japan's Nissan Motor Co Ltd posted another sales gain. Ford, which proclaimed 2004 the 'year of the car' when it hoped new models like the Mustang sports car would boost results, reported a 3.6 percent drop in sale for December.—INTERNET

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Qinghai oilfield produces 4 million tons of oil and gas

XINING, 5 Jan — Qinghai Oilfield, in charge of oil and gas development in northwest China's Qaidam Basin, reported oil and gas output of four million tons in 2004.

The field produced 2.22 million tons of crude oil and 1.78 billion cubic metres of gas, according to latest statistics from the Qinghai Oilfield branch of the China National Petroleum Corporation.

The oilfield, which started production in 1954, has found 25 oil and gas fields in the basin, verifying and controlling 400 million tons of oil reserve and 400.5 billion cubic metres of gas reserve. But owing to

remote location and poor transportation condition, the crude output in the oilfield fluctuated at 300,000 tons annually in the first three decades of operation.

Since the 1990s, the Qinghai Oilfield has made a series of breakthroughs in exploration technologies, which has stepped up oil and gas development in the basin.

MNA/Xinhua

Singapore's financial system remains healthy

SINGAPORE, 6 Jan — Singapore's financial system is in a healthy condition to sustain any shocks that may arise from long-term high oil price and global decline of the electronics demand.

A stress test conducted by the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) showed that local banks were sufficiently capitalized to absorb such shocks, said a local media report on Tuesday.

MAS' half-yearly Financial Stability Review said that the credit quality of banks is also stronger due to the good financial positions of the domestic corporate and household sectors.

The greater proportion of local banks' non-bank credit exposure is to households, which have relatively low default rates and are adequately collateralized, while their exposure to the more oil-dependent and technology-related industries, such as manufacturing and transport, is only 8 per cent of outstanding loans.

Local banks' capital adequacy ratios are also healthy with their non-performing loan ratios declining, according to the MAS.

No major negative effects for local banks in the region seems expanding, analysts said.

MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam strives to protect mangrove forests

HANOI, 6 Jan — There remains 14 mangrove forests for Vietnam to be protected in the 2005-2010 period, according to a recent survey jointly conducted by Vietnam's Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and the United Nations Environment Programme, the Vietnam News Agency reported on Tuesday.

They distributed over the northern province of Quang Ninh and Nam Dinh, Hai Phong City and southern Soc Trang, Ca Mau, Kien Giang and Ben Tre Province in the country.

Vietnam has in the past two years worked to ensure sustainable development for submerged forests, which face over-exploitation for aquaculture rearing. According to the survey report, the country's mangrove forests have to date dwindled to 155,290 hectares, a 50-per-cent drop from 1980. The reduction was blamed for the conversion of these forests to aquaculture and farming, which has seriously ruined the mangrove forests' ecosystem and impacted the sea environment.

Mangrove forests thrive near the mouths of large rivers where river deltas provide lots of sediment. Its roots collect sediments and slow the water's flow, helping to protect the coastline and preventing erosion. Over time, the roots can collect enough debris and mud to extend the edge of the coastline further out.

At the same time, mangrove forests are teeming with life. Shorebirds, crab-eating monkeys, and fishing cats all make it home. — MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam lowers import tariffs on clinker

HANOI, 6 Jan — Vietnam has just slashed the tariff on clinker imported from non-ASEAN (the Association of South-East Asian Nations) countries to 10 per cent from 25 per cent.

The reduction aims to help local cement makers lower their products' selling prices, as one ton of clinker, material for cement production, is now priced 27-28 US dollars, according to local newspaper Youth on Wednesday.

Vietnam is predicted to import around six million tons of cement this year, mainly due to low production capacity of local cement companies, the Vietnam National Cement Corporation said, noting that it imported nearly three million tons of clinker, mainly from Thailand in 2004.

The country's cement demand is estimated at 46.8 million tons in 2010, some 62.5 million tons in 2015 and around 69 million tons in 2020.

MNA/Xinhua

Construction Bank, Shenzhen Development Bank to join hands

BEIJING, 6 Jan — China Construction Bank (CCB) and Shenzhen Development Bank have reached an accord in an effort to conduct an all-round cooperation, a CCB spokesman said here on Tuesday.

Their business exchanges and cooperation will cover corporate finance, individual finance, foreign exchange business and fund management among others.

The move is expected to sharpen the competitive edge of both banks and help streamline their services at a time when China is opening the financial sector still wider to foreign banks under a commitment to the World Trade Organization, industry watchers say.

Shenzhen Development Bank, inaugurated in 1987, was the first Chinese bank listed in the stock market, while the much-bigger CCB boasts hefty capital and sprawling business network around the country.

"The two joint-stock banks can give full scope to their own advantages and benefit each other through cooperation," the CCB spokesman said.

CCB, which has already split into a holding company and a joint-stock

company — with the latter including all its core operations — was scheduled to issue shares sometime this year.

With a non-performing loan ratio of 3.74 per cent at the end of last September, the lowest among China's Big Four banks, the bank reported its operating profits rise of 21.5 per cent year-on-year to 49.94 billion yuan (about 6 billion dollars) in the first nine months of 2004.

MNA/Xinhua

South Africa appeals for blood donation

JOHANNESBURG, 6 Jan — The South African National Blood Service (SANBS) made an urgent appeal to the public to donate blood to boost supplies on Wednesday.

Marketing manager Mercia Van der Westhuizen said they had only five-day blood supply of Group O in their bank while they were supposed to operate on an eight-day margin.

MNA/Xinhua

Govt extends uplinking deadline for TV channels

NEW DELHI, 5 Jan — The Indian Government on Tuesday approved the proposal of review of uplinking policy for giving three month extension for existing news and current affairs television channels up to March 31, 2005, for conformity to the eligibility criteria.

The proposal needs amendments in the existing guidelines, and there-

fore it will give time to the Information and Broadcasting Ministry to complete the consultative process with the concerned ministries in respect of a proposal to amend the uplinking guidelines.

This was decided at a Cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

MNA/PTI



Athina Roussel Onassis, seen here in 2003, the granddaughter of late shipping billionaire Aristotle Onassis, is set to make a bid to ride for the Greek equestrian team for the 2008 Olympics in Beijing.—INTERNET

The real Summit

Sitagu Sayadaw

Every year, countries around the world hold a lot of summits focusing on various topics including the religion, politics and economy. For three days Myanmar hosted the World Buddhist Summit in Maha Pasana Cave, the venue of the Sixth Buddhist Synod, at Kaba Aye Pagoda in Yangon, from 9 to 11 December 2004. More than 200 Buddhist leaders and 1,000 observers from 38 nations discussed religious matters together with their hosts at the Summit held on a grand scale.

The Government assigned the Ministry of Religious Affairs the duty to play a leading role, work together with other ministries, and form the respective bodies for seeing to the convenience of the participants. Myanmar sent invitations to 40 countries, and except Italy and Bhutan, delegates of the invited nations attended the Summit. The Italian Buddhist association and the European Buddhist Union sent messages to the summit. Venerable monks and scholars from European countries — Switzerland, France, Belgium, Czech Republic, Germany, Sweden, Austria, Holland, Romania, Russia and England — took part in the discussions together with Buddhist delegates from other nations including Brazil (South America), Jamaica (Caribbean Islands) and Mexico. Australia also sent two Buddhist leaders and over 30 delegates, the US three Buddhist leaders and over 50 delegates, Japan over 50 delegates led by the leader of All Japan Buddhist Union, and the Republic of Korea over 70 delegates headed by leader of Shoghe Buddhist Association. South American nations Venezuela, Argentina and Panama sent observers. Buddhists from Israel, Greece, Iran, Canada and South Africa attended as observers.

The English word 'summit' means the highest point or the apex. Of the over 200 delegates to the Summit, two thirds were of the highest level, and the participation of prime ministers from five nations, who delivered addresses at the summit, and monks and lay persons who can recite the entire scriptures of the Three Pitakas orally, has made the World Buddhist Summit the apex of all the summits. It is also the summit of the academics as 25 doctorate degree holders took part in the discussions. On the other hand, the Nebutsushu was not able to invite even the Japanese prime minister. Let alone prime ministers of other nations, even the Thai prime minister did not attend the summit it held in Bangkok. Its Cambodian Summit was attended only by the prime minister of the host nation. No other heads of state or government attended it. Myanmar has about 500,000 Theravada monks, and all are serving the interest of the Sasana in unity under the leadership of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee. Such a body representing nearly 500,000 monks does not exist in any of the Buddhist countries around the world. Besides, Myanmar is a land of pagodas, which has hosted the Buddhist Synods for two times. The Nebutsushu cannot organize even a single body of over 150 Buddhist sects in Japan in holding its summits.

In contrast to the summits sponsored by Nebutsushu, the World Buddhist Summit hosted by Myanmar was able to serve as a podium for nine Theravada Buddhist Ganas of Myanmar, two Theravada Buddhist Ganas of Thailand, two

Theravada Buddhist Ganas of Cambodia, two Theravada Buddhist Ganas of Laos, four Theravada Buddhist Ganas of Sri Lanka and a number of Mahayana Buddhist sects to serve the Sasana's interest in unity. Despite their differences in names, all the rivers of the world including the Ayeyawady, the Ganges, the Yamonna, the Nile, the Mississippi, the Yellow River and the Mekong drain a single thing that is water into the oceans. Likewise, all the Buddhist Ganas and sects met in Maha Pasana Cave with single object that is for the Sasana. Some good-for-nothings said that Myanmar's World Buddhist Summit did not deserve to be mentioned as a summit, for, its main participants were only the Myanmar monks.

About 500 Arahats with Ashin Maha Kassapa at the helm convened the First Buddhist Synod in Yazagyo three months after the demise of the Lord Buddha. About 100 years later, Ashin Maha Yasa led the over 700 eminent monks in convening the Second Buddhist Synod. The Third Buddhist Synod was held in Patalipok in the Sasana Year 236. Over 1,000 venerable monks attended the conference

The objectives of the World Buddhist Summit are: to promote friendship, mutual understanding and cooperation among the Buddhist countries; to maintain Buddha's teachings and practice among the Buddhist countries; to promote Buddhist education based on the studies of Buddhist sculptures in nations of the world; to create a peaceful world by the Buddhist for all human beings; and to propagate the original teachings of the Buddha in the world.

chaired by Ashin Moggali Puttatisa. All the three Synods were held in India with the assistance and support of the Indian Kings — Ajatasat, Kala Soka and Asoka — and attended only by Indian monks. Not a single monk from Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia and Sri Lanka had taken part in the synods. But they were the real Buddhist summits that had been marked as the milestones in the history of Buddhism. All the Theravada Buddhists have acknowledged and practised the Dhamma, and Adhamma Viniyas and religious principles purified, preserved and maintained by the conferences. The general concept of Theravada Buddhism is not to add anyone's own ideas or thoughts to the Three Pitakas, not to delete any part of the teachings of the Lord Buddha and Arahats, not to rewrite the Three Pitakas, Suttas and Abhidhamma.

The Fourth Buddhist Synod was held in Sri Lanka in the Sasana Year 450. But no one dare say that it is just a meeting held by Sri Lankan monks themselves. Myanmar hosted the Fifth Buddhist synod in Mandalay in the Sasana Year 2400. No one has ever said that it is just a conference of Myanmar monks. The stone inscriptions recording the Fifth Synod have been acknowledged as the largest reli-

gious library. The Sixth Buddhist Synod was hosted by Myanmar in the Maha Pasana Cave in the Sasana Year 2498, and attended by monks from Thailand, Laos, Cambodia and Sri Lanka together with 2,500 monks of the host nation. It can also be called a Theravada Buddhist Summit. Recently Myanmar acted as the sole sponsor of the World Buddhist Summit where over 200 delegates from 38 countries of six continents, 100 members of the Sangha of 100 Myanmar monasteries abroad, all the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee members, Tri Pitaka title holders, 25 doctorate degree holders, and over 1,500 monks of the State Ovadacariya, the Central Working Committee of the Sangha, states and divisions and four Sasana universities met.

In four groups the delegates to the summit discussed the four topics — for propagation and development of Buddhism; to protect Buddhist education and the Sasana; the Dhamma and the world situation; and Buddhist teachings and the global peace. The delegates presented over 50 papers. Heads of state/government and diplomats sent 51 messages of congratulations to the summit. On the final day of the summit, 40 Buddhist leaders from around the world signed and issued a joint statement.

The objectives of the World Buddhist Summit are: to promote friendship, mutual understanding and cooperation among the Buddhist countries; to maintain Buddha's teachings and practice among the Buddhist countries; to promote Buddhist education based on the studies of Buddhist sculptures in nations of the world; to create a peaceful world by the Buddhist for all human beings; and to propagate the original teachings of the Buddha in the world. And with the objectives in mind, the delegates have reached the following agreements:

- * We are determined to preserve the Buddha Dhamma in its pristine purity
- * We will endeavour to promote and propagate the Teachings of the Buddha
- * We will strive for the protection, preservation and restoration of historic Buddhist monuments
- * We will contribute to bring about peace and prosperity in the world by spreading the Buddha's sublime message of loving-kindness, compassion and equanimity
- * We will endeavour to promote Buddhist unity and strive for friendship and mutual understanding among Buddhists all over the world
- * We will endeavour to promote Buddhist education employing modern methods and technology
- * We will endeavour to hold the Buddhist Conferences frequently to exchange ideas and promote understanding
- * We will endeavour to share the knowledge of Buddhist meditation with the people of the world for the sake of individual as well as world peace
- * We believe that more Buddhist centres should be established around the world to disseminate the original Teachings of the Buddha more effectively.

May the human beings enjoy happiness, and practise the Dhamma.

(Translation: TMT)

Myanma Alin+Kyemon: 24.12.2004.

Agricultural and regional development...

(from page 1)

stressed the importance of agricultural methods for exceeding the target of per acre yield.

He also inspected 31 acres of paddy near Thanpayakan village and water supply, and urged local farmers to extend water pumping for agricultural purpose.

In addition, the commander viewed the tarring of the 7,700-foot road, which links Bogyoke street and Kyunngu strand road in the township and gave instructions on completion of the project earlier than scheduled with fine quality.

On arrival at Kyunngu water pumping station, the commander inspected supply of water from Kukko river for 600 acres of crops, and instructed the officials to seek ways for sufficient supply of water for summer paddy fields. — MNA

Construction of road sections in Shan State (East) inspected

YANGON, 6 Jan — Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun inspected progress of building Kengtung-Pankyu-Tongtah-Mongpyin Road on 3 January.

On arrival at Pannaunglon Road construction camp, Shan State (East) Superintending Engineer U Thuang Htay reported to the minister on road construction tasks.

On 4 January, the minister inspected Mongpyin-Hsinmoung-Takaw road section and Hsinmoung-Pankhin-

Mongpyin section. The minister heard reports on progress of

works for respective road sections presented by engineers and gave instruc-

tions on durability of the roads.

MNA



Minister Maj-Gen Saw Tun inspects the repairing of Tarkaw-Hsinmaung-Mongpyin-Kengtung Road. — CONSTRUCTION

Tar roads, artesian well opened in honour of Independence Day

YANGON, 6 Jan — Hailing the 57th Anniversary Independence Day, a new Yogyi tar road was opened in Bhamo Township on 1st January. Chairman of Township Peace and Development Council U Aung Kyaw Khine and Executive Officer U Min Zaw formally opened the road. The road is 3,600 feet long and 12 feet wide and it was upgraded from the gravel road into the tar road.

Similarly, Min-kyawswa self-reliant tar road was opened in Aungthitsa Ward, Kalay

Township, on 31 December 2004. Executive Officer Deputy Director U Tin Ko of Development Affairs Committee clarified matters related to the new tar road and Director of Sagaing Division Development Affairs Committee U Khin Maung Swe, Member of Kalay District PDC U Ngwe Tun and Chairman of Aungthitsa Ward PDC U Maung Maung Si formally opened the road.

A 2-inch artesian well was also opened in Popa village, Kanbalu Township on 2nd January.

Executive Officer of Township Development Affairs Committee Assistant Director U Aung Ko Latt explained about the tasks of drilling well and achieving the pure water in the rural regions. A townselder expressed thanks. The artesian well was formally opened by the Chairman of Sagaing Division PDC, the assistant director of Sagaing Division DAC and officials.

The well produces 800 gallons of water per hour and it can provide sufficient pure drinking water to the villagers. — MNA

Rules on Armed Forces Day Commemorative Painting and Sculpture Contests announced

YANGON, 20 Aug — Hailing the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day which falls on 27 March 2005, the Painting and Sculpture Contests and Exhibition Organizing Sub-committee under the Poem and Arts Competitions Organizing Work Committee chaired by Deputy Minister for Culture Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung announced rules on the Arts and Sculpture Contests.

Six categories

The Painting Contest will be divided into six categories — the pre-primary level (school children from Pre-Primary School, the primary (junior) level (KG, first and second standards), the primary (senior) level (third and fourth standards), the middle school level (fifth to seventh standards), the high school level (eighth to tenth standards and technical and agricultural schools) and the open level (university, college, institute, State School of Fine Arts, amateur and professional contestants).

Sculpture Contest

Contestants can participate in only the open class of the Sculpture Contest. But, they may take part in the two events—the open class (plaster) and the open class (wood). All the contestants including amateurs, professionals and students may take part in both contests.

In the pre-primary and all basic education levels of the Painting Contest, the size of the entry must

be 20" x 15" presented by any colour and system. The entry must be endorsed by respective principals with the name of contestant, standard, school, township, date of birth, father's name, full address and two passport size photos. The entries are to be sent to the Education Planning and Training Department at 123, Natmauk Street, Bahan Township, not later than 1 March 2005.

The size of entries for the open division painting contest must be 30" x 20" size work presented by any colour and system. Name, Citizenship Scrutiny Card Number, date of birth, father's name, occupation and full address must be written with two passport size photos. The entries must be own creation.

The entry for the wood and plaster events of the Sculpture Contest must not be higher than 36 inches and circumference not larger than 24 inches. The work must be own creation. The entry is to be attached with the name, Citizenship Scrutiny Card number, full address and a brief biography and three passport size colour photos.

Any title can be given to the entry. The entries must be the ones have not entered the contest and exhibition yet. The entries are to be sent to the Secretary of the Painting and Sculpture Contests and Exhibition Organizing Sub-committee, Tatmadaw Convention Hall, U Wisara Road, not later than 3 March 2005.

All the entries must

reflect 12 Objectives of the State, objectives of the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day and 12 fine traditions of the Tatmadaw.

Entries for the open class painting and sculpture contests are to be sent to the Secretary of Myanmar Traditional Artists and Artisans Association (Central) of 187, east wing of Bogyoke Market, Pabedan Township, not later than 1 March 2005 or the Secretary of the Painting and Sculpture Contests and Exhibition Organizing Sub-committee, Tatmadaw Convention Hall, U Wisara Road, here, from 1 to 3 March 2005.

Other entries

Apart from the entries, other paintings and sculptures may be sent to be displayed at the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Exhibition. They must also reflect the 12 Objectives of the State, objectives of the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day and 12 fine traditions of the Tatmadaw.

In addition, the works may reflect the ancient Myanmar Tatmadaw, historic matters of the Tatmadaw which occurred in the periods of Pre-Independence and State Peace and Development Council, and its endeavours in safeguarding and developing the State. The other paintings and sculptures are to be sent directly to Tatmadaw Convention Hall on U Wisara Road from 1 to 5 March 2005.

MNA

Independence Day Exhibition continues



An official presents prize to a teacher of Hline Township BEHS 2 in Computer Quiz of YUCS and Teaching Contest. — MNA

YANGON, 5 Jan — The 57th Anniversary Independence Day Exhibition organized by the 57th Anniversary Independence Day Information Organizing Sub-committee and the Exhibition Staging Sub-committee continued for the fourth day at the Tatmadaw Convention Hall on U Wisara Road in Dagon Township from morning to this evening.

A total of 3,949 teachers and students of basic education schools, members of the Sangha and people including members of social organizations visited the exhibition.

Booths of ministries

— the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs, the Ministry of Energy, the Ministry of Industry-1, the Ministry of Industry-2, the Ministry of Electric Power, the Ministry of Science and Technology, the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Transport, the Ministry of Home Affairs, Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control, News and Periodicals Enterprise of the Ministry of Information, Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications of the Ministry of Communi-

cations, Posts and Telegraphs—were displayed at the exhibition.

The bookstalls of the NPE, Sarpay Beikman and private bookshops sell books and periodicals at reasonable prices. Education Officer U Pe Mann of Kyimyindine Township presented No 2 BEHS of Hline Township in the Computer Quiz of Yangon University of Computer Studies and Teaching Contest with Audio Language Lab of Soft Guide Computer Co.

The exhibition is being kept open free of charge up to 11 January from 9 am to 5 pm daily.—MNA

57th Anniversary Independence Day observed in States and Divisions

YANGON, 6 Jan — The ceremony to mark the 57th Anniversary Independence Day was held at the parade grounds of Coastal region Command in Myeik on 4 January, attended by Chairman of Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Coastal region Command Maj-Gen Ohn Myint.

After the programmes of the Independence Day ceremony, the commander read out the message sent by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe.

Next, the commander delivered an address at the model baby and mother contest at Pale Yadana Hall in Myeik and presented prizes to the winners.

Maj-Gen Ohn Myint graced the opening ceremony of Bo Ba Htoo gravel road in Parami Ward in honour of the Independence Day. The road, 20 feet wide and 2,845 feet long, was built at a cost of over K 8.5 million. Similarly, Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Commander of Western Command Brig-

Gen Min Aung Hlaing attended the 57th Anniversary Independence Day ceremony at U Ottama Hall in Sittway on 4 January.

Next, the commander attended the ceremony to put back into service of Ayethaya self-reliant road in Setyonsu Ward in Sittway.

In the sports ground of Monywa Station, the Independence Day was observed. Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye attended it. Next, the commander enjoyed the funfair and sports meets to mark the Independence Day.

Likewise, Chairman of Mandalay Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint attended the ceremony in commemoration of the 57th Anniversary Independence Day at the parade ground of the command in Mandalay. The commander presented prizes to winners in the funfair and sports meets to mark the Independence Day.

Maj-Gen Ko Ko, Chairman of Bago Division Peace and Development Council and Commander of Southern

Command, attended the ceremony in commemoration of the 57th Anniversary Independence Day and the baby show and contest in Toungoo.

At Kyauktaing sports ground in Patheingyi, the Flag hoisting ceremony was held on the 57th Anniversary Independence Day, 4 January, attended by Deputy Commander of South-West Command Brig-Gen Tint Swe. Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing, Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council, enjoyed demonstration skill of the military band contest at the sports ground. Next, the commander attended the self-reliant roads in Patheingyi.

In Mawlamyine, Chairman of Mon State Peace and Development Council Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung attended the flag hoisting ceremony to mark the 57th Anniversary Independence Day at Mawlamyine. Later, the commander presented prizes to winners in the essay, poem and computer competitions to mark the Independence Day.

MNA

60th 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

Robes donated to 504 novices in Taungtha

YANGON, 6 Jan — Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung attended the ceremony to donate robes to 504 novices at Maha Bodi Monastery in Kyaukka Village of Taungtha Township on 1 January.

The minister paid obeisance to Joint-Secretary of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Myingyan Zeya Linkara Pariyatti Monastery Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Kitti and members of the

Sangha. Next, he inspected construction of the building for Buddhist Sasana Propagation Training School in Pakokku.

On 2 January, the minister paid homage to Pakokku Maha Withutayama Aletaik Sayadaw Bhaddanta Vichara and State Ovadaçariya Maha Wizayayama Pali Tekkatho East Taik Sayadaw Bhaddanta Marlalankara.

He then met with members of Union Solidarity and Development Affairs in Yezagyo.

Brig-Gen Thura

Myint Maung met with local people in the precinct of Panthaku Monastery in Hsinchaung Village of Yezagyo Township. And, he donated provisions to the Sayadaw of the monastery.

On arrival at Pakokku, the minister met with USDA members.

On 3 January, the minister paid homage to members of the Sangha of monasteries in Yezagyo Township and supplicated on religious affairs.

MNA

Minister attends SEA Archery c'ship dress rehearsal

YANGON, 6 Jan — Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint attended the dress rehearsal of the opening ceremony of the First Southeast Asia Archery championship held at Kyaikkasan Grounds here this morning.

He made arrangements for the betterment

of the performances of girls' band troop of No 4 Basic Education High School in Tamway Township, and pom pom dance, Indian Club sports, traditional martial arts and aerobic troupes as well as the parade of the participating teams.

Also present were

officials of the ministry, the president and members of the Myanmar Archery Federation and others.

Afterwards, the minister inspected the construction of a swimming pool for new generation athletes and hostels for divers. — MNA

Rules for Armed Forces Day...

(from page 16)

presentation and composing. The poem contest will be divided into two categories.

Those who have won first second or third prizes in the Poem Contest to mark the Armed Forces Day and the National Motto Contest, Sarpay Beik-man Manuscript Award Contest and the poem contest of the Pakokku U Ohn Pe Literary Award Contest and National Literary Award winners may participate in the level-1 and those who did not win the prizes may take part in the level-2.

Those who did not win the prizes can participate in the level-1. However, one contestant may take part in one level only, and the level number must be written on the entry. There will be two events at the level-1—the long poem and the short poem. The contestant can participate in both or one of them. However, it must be one entry for one event. The short poem must be between 100 and 300 stanzas and the long one between 1,000 and 2,000 stanzas. The entries must be in line with the rules. The free verse and modern poems will not be accepted.

The poem must be written on one side of paper and the two copies of the entry must be submitted.

And, the entry must be attached with the name of the contestant, pen-name, names of parents, education, occupation and address together with three 2" x 2.5" size colour photos. The entry must be own creation and has not featured in any publication yet. The State has authority to use the prize-winning works.

The entries are to be sent to Lt-Col Ohn Maung (Retd) (Myinmu Maung Naing Moe), Chief Editor, Naingangan Gonyi Literary House, Sarpay Beikman, 531, Merchant Street, here, Tel: 374532, not later than 31-1-2005. — MNA

PBANRDA Minister attends concluding ceremonies of training courses



Minister for PBANRDA Col Thein Nyunt addresses concluding ceremony of training courses. °

PBANRDA

YANGON, 6 Jan — The No 11 Advanced Management Course, No 2 Refresher Course for Executive Officers and No 20 Management Course concluded this evening at Central Training School of the Education and Training Department under the Ministry for the Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs with an address of Minister for PBANRDA Col Thein Nyunt.

Presented on the occasion were Officer on Special Duty Brig-Gen Kyaw Thu, directors-general of the ministry, deputy directors-general, directors, guests and trainees.

On the occasion, the minister gave a speech in detail for participation of the trainees in the development and beautifying tasks of border areas and rural region development tasks.

Next, the minister presented model trainee awards to Deputy Director U Ni Tun of Kayah State Development Affairs Committee in the advanced course, Staff Officer U Maung Maung Aye of Kungyangon Township DAC in the No 2 Refresher Course for Executive Officers and Deputy Head of Department of Thanlyin Township DAC. The minister presented the completion certificates of the course to the trainees through their leaders.

Altogether 75 trainees attended the training courses which lasted 10 weeks.

After the ceremony, the minister and party inspected the hostels of trainees, lecture halls and mess hall and arrangements for beautifying the training school and gave necessary instructions.

MNA

Associations of Myanmar Livestock Breeding Federation reorganized for second term

YANGON, 6 Jan — The Yangon Division Livestock Breeding Federation, Feedstuff Producers Association, Animal Medical Equipment Producers Association, Breeders Association and Broiler Breeders Association of the Myanmar Livestock Breeding Federation held the ceremony to reorganize them for second three-year term at International Business Centre on Pyay Road this morning.

Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Patron of MLBF Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein delivered addresses.

Next, the commander and the minister accepted

K 2.3 million donated by wellwishers.

After the ceremony, the commander and the minister viewed round the feedstuff, animal medicines and equipment displayed at the booths of private breeders and companies.

In the afternoon, the ceremony resumed. Director-General U Maung Maung Nyunt of Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department and Vice-President-1 of MLBF U Win Sein gave speeches.

The director-general and Rector of University of Veterinary Science Dr Aung Than accepted the cash donations. Next, General Secretary of the federation Dr Zaw Win Myat read out the lists of Executive Committees of the respective associations. — MNA

Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation tours...

(from page 16)

and sowing hatred and discord among the people. With the understanding of the State's objectives, international affairs, and prevailing evidences in the nation, the members will further be imbued with patriotism and Union Spirit. The members are to make combined endeavours to refute the groundless accusations and to lend themselves to successful

implementation of the seven-point Road Map, he noted.

In conclusion, she called on the members to make efforts to be able to stand as a force of the nation, while contributing towards nation-building undertakings in cooperation with social organizations.

Next, MWAFF Vice-President Daw Khin Lay Myaint dealt with matters on trafficking in persons;

General Secretary Professor Dr Daw Khin Mar Tun, on promotion of the women's life; and second leader of organizing group Additional Director of the Supreme Court Daw Thein Thein Nyunt, on the protection of women.

Six groups, each of which was made up of 30 members out of those present, held frank discussions with members of the MWAFF field trip

on education, health, economic and social sectors.

The MWAFF field members also met executives of Taninthayi Division, District and Township Organizations for Women's Affairs at the Coastal Regional Command Headquarters. The meeting focused on constitution and functions of the associations, future tasks and organizational matters.

MNA



Deputy Head of Tamway Township Fire Services Department Ye Thurein Naing Oo demonstrates fire fighting skills at Myanma Motion Picture Enterprise (Head Office).— MNA

Fire fighting demonstrated at MMPE (Head Office)

YANGON, 6 Jan — Officials of Tamway Township Fire Services Department demonstrated fire fighting skills at the Myanma Motion Picture Enterprise in Bahan Township this morning.

Deputy Director U San Nwe of

MMPE explained preventive measures against fire.

Deputy Head of the Township FED Ye Thurein Naing Oo explained do's and don'ts in fire prevention.

Later, FSD members performed fire fighting skills demonstration.—MNA

သတိပေးနိဒါန်းဆော်ချက်

ရန်ကုန်မြို့တော်အတွင်း မောင်းနှင်သွားလာလျက်ရှိသော မော်တော်ယာဉ်များ အနက် အချို့မော်တော်ယာဉ်များသည် မီးခိုးအလွန်အကျွံ ထွက်ရှိလျက် အများပြည်သူဆိုင်ရာ လမ်းများပေါ်တွင် မောင်းနှင်သွားလာနေသည့်ကို တွေ့ရှိရပါသည်။ အဆိုပါ မီးခိုး အလွန် အကျွံထွက်သော မော်တော်ယာဉ်များကြောင့် ပတ်ဝန်းကျင်လေထု ညစ်ညမ်းမှု ဖြစ်သည့်အပြင် ပြည်သူများ၏ ကျန်းမာရေး ကိုပါ ထိခိုက်နိုင်သဖြင့် မီးခိုးအလွန်အကျွံထွက်သော ယာဉ်များအား စစ်ဆေးတွေ့ရှိပါက ထိရောက်စွာ အရေးယူဆောင်ရွက်သွားမည်ဖြစ်ကြောင်း သတိပေးနိဒါန်းဆော်ချက် ပါသည်။

ယာဉ်စည်းကမ်းထိန်းသိမ်းရေးကြီးကြပ်မှုကော်မတီ

ပညာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန
အဆင့်မြင့်ပညာဦးစီးဌာန
(ဘေဘက်မြန်မာပြည်)
ရန်ကုန်အစိုးရဝန်ထမ်း
e-Education Learning Centre သင်ခန်းစာ
ထုတ်လွှင့်မည့်အစီအစဉ်

၈-၁-၂၀၀၅ (စနေနေ့)
* အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ကျောင်းသား/ကျောင်းသူများအတွက် သင်ခန်းစာများ။

၉-၁-၂၀၀၅ (တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့)
* အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ကျောင်းသား/ကျောင်းသူများအတွက် သင်ခန်းစာများ။

၁၀-၁-၂၀၀၅ (အင်္ဂါနေ့)
* နံနက် ၉:၀၀ နာရီမှ ၁၀:၂၅ ထိ - မြန်မာစာ
* နံနက် ၁၀:၂၅ နာရီမှ ၁၁:၁၀ ထိ - အင်္ဂလိပ်စာ
* နေ့လယ် ၁၁:၀၀ နာရီမှ ၁၂:၀၀ ထိ - သင်္ချာ
* နေ့လယ် ၁၂:၀၀ နာရီမှ ၁၃:၀၀ ထိ - ဓမ္မဗေဒ
* နေ့လယ် ၁၃:၀၀ နာရီမှ ၁၅:၁၅ ထိ - ဇီဝဗေဒ
၂၀၀၅ ခုနှစ် တက္ကသိုလ်ဝင်စာမေးပွဲဖြေဆိုမည့် ကျောင်းသား/ ကျောင်းသူများ

၁၂-၁-၂၀၀၅ (ဗုဒ္ဓဟူးနေ့)
* နံနက် ၉:၀၀ နာရီမှ ၁၁:၀၀ ထိ - ဓာတုဗေဒ
* နေ့လယ် ၁၁:၀၀ နာရီမှ ၁၃:၁၀ ထိ - ဘေဘက်စာ
* နေ့လယ် ၁၃:၁၀ နာရီမှ ၁၄:၀၀ ထိ - ဓမ္မဗေဒ
* နေ့လယ် ၁၄:၀၀ နာရီမှ ၁၅:၅၀ ထိ - ရူပဗေဒ
၂၀၀၅ ခုနှစ် တက္ကသိုလ်ဝင်စာမေးပွဲဖြေဆိုမည့် ကျောင်းသား/ ကျောင်းသူများ

၁၃-၁-၂၀၀၅ (ကြာသပတေးနေ့)
* နံနက် ၉:၀၀ နာရီမှ ၁၀:၄၅ ထိ - သမိုင်း
* နံနက် ၁၀:၄၅ နာရီမှ ၁၃:၁၀ ထိ - စိတ်ကြိုက်မြန်မာစာ
* နေ့လယ် ၁၃:၁၀ နာရီမှ ၁၄:၀၀ ထိ - ဓမ္မဗေဒ
* နေ့လယ် ၁၄:၀၀ နာရီမှ ၁၅:၃၀ ထိ - ပထဝီဝင်
၂၀၀၅ ခုနှစ် တက္ကသိုလ်ဝင်စာမေးပွဲဖြေဆိုမည့် ကျောင်းသား/ ကျောင်းသူများ

နေ့လည် ၁၃:၁၀ နာရီမှ ၁၅:၀၀ နာရီထိ

၁၄-၁-၂၀၀၅ (သောကြာနေ့)
* Clothing
- အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပထမနှစ် အင်္ဂလိပ်စာအထူးပြု ကျောင်းသား/ကျောင်းသူများ။
* Echo Location
- အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပထမနှစ် အင်္ဂလိပ်စာအထူးပြု ကျောင်းသား/ကျောင်းသူများ။
* The Origin of Feudalism
- အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပထမနှစ် ဝိဇ္ဇာအားလုံး ဥပဒေ၊ ရသ အထူးပြု ကျောင်းသား/ကျောင်းသူများ။

Advocacy Meeting for Leprosy with Media Personnel held

YANGON, 6 Jan — The Advocacy Meeting with Media Personnel for free from leprosy and rehabilitation organized by Leprosy Elimination Project of the Health Department was held at the meeting room of the department on 29 December 2004.

Deputy Director-General (Pub-

lic Health/Disease Control) Dr Ye Myint of the HD gave a speech and Leprosy Elimination Project Manager Dr Kyaw Myint briefed them on progress of leprosy elimination in Myanmar and rehabilitation tasks. The Deputy Director-General gave concluding remarks.

MNA

သမဝါယမဝန်ကြီးဌာန
မြန်မာ့သမဝါယမပြည်ထောင်စုအဖွဲ့အစည်းအရောင်းပွဲတော်-၂၀၀၅
မြန်မာ့သမဝါယမ
MYANMAR CO-OPERATIVES CENTENARY
သမဝါယမကျေးသန်းစုရောင်းဝယ်ရေးဗဟိုဌာန
ဆရာတံပလာဝေ
ဆရာတံပေးနှင့်တက္ကသိုလ်ရိပ်သာလမ်းသစ်အထပ်၊ ဗဟိုမြို့နယ်။
(၇-၁-၂၀၀၅ မှ ၁၃-၁-၂၀၀၅ ထိ)
နေ့စဉ်နံနက် (၉) နာရီ မှ ည (၉) နာရီ

From National Convention to discipline-flourishing democratic state

Tekkatho Myat Thu

Myanmar, home to over 100 national races living in unity throughout the history, is an independent and sovereign union nation.

Freedom is the ownership of sovereignty by the people themselves. The three branches of sovereignty are: the legislative power required for national peace and stability, security and development; the executive power to guide the nation towards peace, stability and progress; and the judicial power to enact laws for security and the State and the people.

Sovereignty comes from the people, and covers every part of the nation. A country whose population is more or less than 100,000 exercised the direct democracy system, in which, all the grown-ups reaching the specified age, made collective decisions for governance. The system was practised by Athens, Rome and other city states that came into being 2,600 years ago.

But the direct democracy system is not suitable for the present-day nations with millions of citizens. So, the countries elect representatives to lay down and exercise the executive power, the legislative power and the judicial power. Moreover, extra laws are enacted to prescribe do's and don'ts for the representatives in exercising the three branches of power properly. Besides, the work of running the parliament, the government and the judicial machinery should be within the framework of the constitution.

Throughout over 100 years under enslavement, Myanmar's sovereignty had been in the hands of foreigners, oppressing, exploiting and torturing the people be-

yond tolerance. The 1947 Constitution was drawn in haste as the colonialists were insisting on the drafting of a constitution before independence was granted. Myanmar regained independence only after proclaiming her system of governance in the constitution.

In 1974, a new constitution based on socialism was drawn after seeking public opinion, and it was ratified with 90.19 per cent public support. But soliciting constitution came to an end in 1988, because the socialist system had become unpopular among the people.

Thus, the need to draft a new constitution that will materialize a genuine discipline-flourishing democracy and that will assure people to hand over the sovereignty to trusted representatives had become essential at that time.

The Government invited representatives from all ten legally existing political parties in a proportionate ratio and the representatives-elect in 1992 to discuss the holding of the National Convention. The meeting laid down the objectives of the National Convention, and authorized the ratio of delegates from the respective organizations and people from all walks of life, with the majority's approval.

The National Convention began in Kyaikkasan Grounds on 9 January 1993, with the participation of delegates from political parties, national races, workers, peasants, intellectuals and intelligentsia, State service personnel and peace groups as well as the representatives-elect.

I have witnessed the Convention in person

since 1993 as I am a delegate of intellectuals and intelligentsia. The delegates of all strata of life, various organizations and national races laid down the basic principles to formulate a new constitution, after making thorough discussions among themselves in groups.

They were able to lay down and approve the 15 chapters to be included in the constitution.

I saw amity and transparency among the delegates. There were some arguments among them, but they were able to settle all the disagreements in view of the emergence of a constitution. The National Convention was adjourned on 31 March 1996.

On 30 August 2003, the Government globally declared the seven-point Road Map or the future policy programme of the State. The first stage is to reconvene the National Convention.

The remaining six stages are: 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; drafting of a new constitution in accordance with basic principles and detailed basic principles laid down by the National Convention; adoption of the constitution through national referendum;

holding of free and fair elections for Pyithu Hluttaws (Legislative bodies) according to the new constitution; convening of Hluttaws attended by Hluttaw members in accordance with the new constitution; 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.

The National Convention resumed at Nyaungnapin Camp in Hmawby Township, on 17 May 2004. The number of delegates to the Convention has increased to 1,088 as more delegates from states and divisions attended it.

A person attending the Convention at the

Union Hall may feel like taking part in a Union Day celebration, for, he could see delegates of various national races wearing the respective colourful costumes. In other words, the hall was like a beautiful garden with colourful flowers in full bloom. The camp

was provided with all necessary facilities for the convenience of all the delegates. The delegates become friendlier to one another while strolling along the camp's ring road, thus further facilitating the work of the Convention.

The coming Convention will discuss in groups the basic principles for the executive sector, the legislative sector and the judicial sector to be included in drafting the constitution. The

delegates have already presented the basic principles for sharing of the legislative power to the Convention. The nine-member panel of chairmen of the meeting are reviewing their submissions.

The National Convention is the first step of the Road Map or for the emergence of an enduring state constitution that ensures the nation's perpetuation and that gives the nation all the characteristics of an independent and sovereign country. A portion of the Convention has already been completed, and it is to resume in coming February.

The Convention is being held with full national essence to serve the country's interest. Despite the attempts and plots of a handful of destructionists to stop the Convention, the entire national people and all the delegates have already made a firm resolve to strive for the success of the National Convention with unflinching spirit.

(Translation: TMT)

Kyemon+Myanma Alin: 5.1.2005.

The coming Convention will discuss in groups the basic principles for the executive sector, the legislative sector and the judicial sector to be included in drafting the constitution. The delegates have already presented the basic principles for sharing of the legislative power to the Convention. The nine-member panel of chairmen of the meeting are reviewing their submissions.

ကျေးရွာတို့က ကိုယ့်အားကိုယ်ကိုးစာကြည့်တိုက်များ ထူထောင်မိ၊

ငိုင်းခန်းကူညီဆောင်ရွက်မိ။

၂၀၀၅-ခုနှစ်၊ ဇန်နဝါရီလ (၃)ရက်နေ့ထိ နိုင်ငံအဝန်းတွင် ကျေးရွာ ကိုယ့်အားကိုယ်ကိုးစာကြည့်တိုက် (၁၁၁၄၁)တိုက် ဖွင့်လှစ်ပြီး ဖြစ်ပါသည်။

ကျေးရွာကိုယ့်အားကိုယ်ကိုး စာကြည့်တိုက်များအတွက် သုတ/လှူဒါန်းအဖွဲ့များကို ပြန်ကြားရေးနှင့် ပြည်သူ့ဆက်ဆံရေး ဦးစီးဌာန ခရိုင်/မြို့နယ်ရုံးများသို့ လှူဒါန်းနိုင်ပါသည်။

ပြန်ကြားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန
ပြန်ကြားရေးနှင့် ပြည်သူ့ဆက်ဆံရေးဦးစီးဌာန

British manufacturing growth slows in December

LONDON, 6 Jan — Growth in Britain's manufacturing sector slowed in December although new orders enjoyed their fastest pace of growth in five months, a report released Tuesday shows.

The report, from the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply and NTC Research, shows growth in the sector's output slowed sharply from November's strong pace and that companies cut jobs for the first time in nine months.

It said the purchasing managers' index for manufacturing, which slipped to 53.7 in December from 55.0 the previous month, was lower than the consensus expectation of 54.4 although it remained well above the 50 mark that separates expansion from contraction.

The report showed that growth in output from the consumer goods industries also slipped to its slowest pace since June 2003 while intermediate goods output, which makes up the majority of British manufacturing production, along with investment goods, partly offset this weakness.

However, the report said the new orders index edged up to 55.5 from 55.2, the highest since last July. New export orders grew for the fourth consecutive month, it showed.

MNA/Xinhua

ENGAGEMENT

An auspicious engagement ceremony was held at the Traders Hotel, Yangon, on 29th December 2004 between

Alfred Aung Lwin
B.Sc (Hons), M.Sc (Thesis) Zoology
son of U Aye Maung (Merchant) and Daw Tin Tin, Maydarwi Road, North Okkalapa Township, Yangon, and

Ma Swe Swe Min
B.Sc (Hons), M.Sc (Zoology)
the only daughter of U Shwe La Min (Retired Director, Directorate of Investment and Company Administration) and Daw Tin Tin Swe, Marlar Myaing Avenue, Pyay Road, Kamayut Township, Yangon, in the presence of honourable patrons, guests, relatives and friends.

Our heart-felt thanks are extended to all honourable patrons, guests, relatives and friends who witnessed this event.

Both parents and Alfred Aung Lwin & Swe Swe Min

Australian scientists develop sperm-sorting machine

LONDON, 6 Jan — Scientists in Australia have developed a sperm-sorting machine which may help infertile men to become fathers.

The device filters out sperm with DNA damage associated with infertility and a raised risk of childhood cancers.

"Mechanized sorting should be particularly useful when a would-be father is older, or is a heavy smoker or has been exposed to pollution in the workplace — all factors that increase this type of DNA damage," *New Scientist* magazine said on Wednesday.

Fertility clinics centrifuge semen to increase

the concentration of the densest sperm and raise the odds of fertilizing an egg.

But it is a time-consuming process and does not identify damaged sperm.

The new machine, developed by John Aitken and Chris Ainsworth of the University of Newcastle in New South Wales and its commercial partner Life Therapeutics of Sydney, is based on the principle that sperm with the most negatively charged membranes have the least DNA damage, according to the magazine.

The scientists believe sperm with negatively charged membranes have matured normally.

MNA/Reuters

TRADE MARK CAUTION
Schering-Plough Ltd., a Company incorporated in Switzerland of Weysstrasse 20, P.O.Box CH 6000, Lucerne 6, Switzerland, is the Owner of the following Trade Marks:

AQUAFLO
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in respect of "veterinary antibiotic for use in aquaculture" in Class 5.

SLICE
Reg. No. 6829/2004
in respect of "veterinary preparation for the prevention and treatment of lice infestations in aquaculture" in Class 5.

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

Win Ma Tin,
M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L.
for Schering-Plough Ltd.
P.O. Box 60, Yangon
Dated: 7 January 2005.

ပြည်တွင်းပြင်ကိုအားပေးပါ

ပြန်ကြားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊ မြန်မာ့အသံနှင့် ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားအတွက် အသုံးပြုရန် လိုအပ်သောစက်များ ဝယ်ယူရန် တင်ဒါခေါ်ယူခြင်း

၁။ ပြန်ကြားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊ မြန်မာ့အသံနှင့်ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားတွင် အသုံးပြုရန် လိုအပ်သော အောက်ဖော်ပြပါသတင်းဖမ်းယူရေးနှင့် သတင်းတည်းဖြတ်ရေး စက်ပစ္စည်းများကိုဝယ်ယူလိုပါသည်။

(က)	DV Editing VCR (Recorder).	4	Nos
	BR DV 6000 U (JVC)		
(ခ)	DV Editing VCR (Player).	3	Nos
	BR DV 3000 U (JVC)		
(ဂ)	Editing Controller	5	Nos
	RM-G 820 (JVC)		
(ဃ)	DV Tape	229	Nos
	DV 180 ME (Sony)		

၂။ တင်ဒါခေါ်ယူခြင်းမူဝါဒ(၂၁-၁-၂၀၀၅) ရက် (၁၆-၃၀) နာရီတွင်ပိတ်ပါမည်။
၃။ တင်ဒါခွဲခွဲအသေးစိတ်အချက်အလက်များကိုအောက်ပါလိပ်စာတွင် လာရောက်ဝယ်ယူနိုင်ပါသည်။

ပြည်တွင်း/ပြည်ပပစ္စည်းများ ဝယ်ယူရေးနှင့်ထုတ်ဝေရေးရေးရာဇာတ်စေတီ
ပြန်ကြားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန
အမှတ် ၂၂၊ ဝါးမိမြို့လမ်း၊ ရန်ကင်းမြို့။
ဖုန်း- ၂၄၆၂၄၂၊ ၂၄၆၂၄၃၊ ၂၄၆၂၄၄

Hu Jintao on core role of CPC committee in armed police's development

BEIJING, 6 Jan — Chinese President Hu Jintao underscores the core role to be played by the Communist Party of China (CPC) committee in the course of the development of armed police here Wednesday at a conference of the armed police's party committee.

Hu said he would require the armed police to turn itself into a "powerful and civilized force" by going on holding high the banner of Deng Xiaoping Theory and "the important thought of the Three Represents" in line with the requirement that "the party is built to serve the interests of the people and state power is exercised for the people."

"The armed police is

a vital component part of China's Armed Forces and has shouldered its responsibility in safeguarding national security, maintaining social stability and promoting the socialist modernization drive," he said. He urged China's armed police to contribute tremendously in building "a well-off society in an all-round way".

In recent years, he acknowledged, "the armed police have accomplished various missions, especially rescuing people and property in disasters and dealing with emergencies.

"In the complex and volatile international situation, China is at the critical phase of reform and development, facing both opportunities and

challenges," he said. "It is a heavy task to guarantee national security and social stability," Hu said. He noted he hoped that the armed police would "accomplish their obligations endowed by the Party and the people by adapting to the new situation".

Moreover, Hu said the armed police should be governed strictly in accordance with law and demanded the armed police speed up informatization and its own reform, aiming to upgrade its performance in a comprehensive manner.

Hu Jintao is also the general secretary of the CPC Central Committee and chairman of the CPC Central Military Commission. — MNA/Xinhua



Vietnamese workers load sacks of rice onto a ship at a port in Hai Phong city, 92 km east of the capital Hanoi, on 5 Jan, 2005. — INTERNET

Sinopec to step up oil exploitation in western China

BEIJING, 5 Jan — Asia's largest oil refiner, Sinopec, plans to increase its efforts this year to develop oil exploitation in western China, reported Wednesday's *China Daily*. By the end of 2004, Sinopec had discovered 1.21 billion tons of proven oil and gas equivalent reserves in the Tahe Oilfield, of the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, according to company sources.

The oil giant said, after 20 years of exploration, it had found 1.08 billion tons of oil and 59 billion cubic metres of natural gas in the Tahe Oilfield in Xinjiang's Tarim Basin.

China boasted 3.2

billion tons of proven oil reserves - an equivalent of around 23.5 billion barrels — by the end of 2003, according to British oil giant BP's statistical review. "China is strengthening the exploitation of oil fields in its western region, aiming to retain the oil reserve balance, as the country has witnessed an annual decrease of approximately 2 per cent in oil reserves in eastern China," Zhang Jian, an analyst with China Securities was quoted by *China Daily* as saying.

"However, it seems unlikely that new large oil reserves will be found in western China," Zhang said, "so, Sinopec's

focused efforts would be targeting the improvement of existing oilfield's exploitation and production abilities, especially the Tahe Oilfield in Xinjiang's Tarim Basin."

The Tahe Oilfield produced over 3 million tons of oil in 2004, while Sinopec's Shengli Oilfield, in eastern China's Shandong Province, is also the country's second-largest oil field behind PetroChina's Daqing Oilfield in northeastern China, turned over more than 20 million tons of oil, said a Sinopec deputy manager in charge of oil exploitation.

MNA/Xinhua

Five killed in N-W China cave-house collapse

YINCHUAN, 6 Jan — A cave-house collapsed early Monday in the rural area of Guyuan City in northwest China's Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, killing five people.

A local official said Tuesday the tragedy took place between 1:00 am to 3:00 am Monday and five sleeping members of a family including three children were killed in the accident.

Neighbours said the family had not lived in the cave-house until several days before when the temperature dropped sharply in the area.

MNA/Xinhua

ပညာရေးနှင့် ခေတ်မီပို့ဒ်များတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်ဆဲ

Mosquito nets used for fishing in remote Tanzanian villages

DAR-ES-SALAAM, 5 Jan—Villagers living by the Lake Nyasa shores have found a better use of their United Nations-and government-subsidized mosquito nets: instead of covering people against malaria-spread mosquitoes, they fish with the nets from the lake they live nearby.

The alternative use of the mosquito nets is popular on the Tanzanian shores of the lake in the southwestern corner of the country, according to the health centres in the area.

The result of this alternative use is that the malaria prevalence rate along the coastline of Lake Nyasa has kept increasing in the past years, despite the fact that af-

fordable and chemically-treated mosquito nets were provided with the villagers.

Claiming 125,000 human lives annually in Tanzania, malaria is one of the three killer diseases in the East African country. The other two killer diseases are HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis.

When asked about their preferences, villagers said that they had

long become used to mosquito bites and had taken them as harmless and that they would rather use the mosquito nets for a better end, that is to make a living with, for most of the people dwelling in rural Tanzania live on an average of one US dollar a day.

The villagers-cum-fishers sell their catch to better-off Malawians across the lake to earn a

handsome income.

A nationwide campaign against malaria has been underway in Tanzania, where chemically-treated mosquito nets cost only four dollars a piece and pregnant women only have to pay a tiny bit of the reduced amount, thanks to government subsidies.

MNA/Xinhua

17.5 million foreign tourists visit Turkey last year

ANKARA, 6 Jan — A total of 17.5 million foreign tourists visited Turkey in 2004, an increase of 24.86 per cent over the previous year, the Turkish Culture and Tourism Ministry announced on Wednesday.

The ministry said 61.19 per cent of the tourists were from the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) countries, while 27.61 were from east European countries.

Germany was the largest supplier of tourists to Turkey in 2004, accounting for 22.4 per cent, said the ministry, adding that Germany was followed by Russia, Britain, Bulgaria, the Netherlands, Iran, France, Greece, Austria, Belgium, Azerbaijan, Italy, Ukraine and the United States.

Last December witnessed a surge of the number of foreign tourists visiting Turkey, jumping by 22.57 per cent to 789,188 compared with that in 2003, said the ministry. — MNA/Xinhua

Secondhand smoke lowers kids' math, reading scores

NEW YORK, 5 Jan—Kids and teenagers exposed to even trace amounts of secondhand smoke score lower on tests of reading and reasoning, according to new research.

Overall, up to 33 million children and teenagers in the US may be exposed to enough secondhand tobacco smoke to affect their reading ability, making this a huge public health issue, study author Dr Kimberly Yolton of the Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center in Ohio told Reuters Health.

"That's an enormous amount of children," she said in an interview. "We

really need to do a better job of making sure they have clean air to breathe, so they can reach their full-potential."

During the study, Yolton and her colleagues asked 4,399 kids between the ages of 6 and 16 to complete reading, math and reasoning tests. The researchers also checked their blood for cotinine, a substance created when the body breaks down nicotine, thereby serving

as a marker for exposure to tobacco smoke.

Cotinine scores were typically higher in African-American kids, and in those who shared a home with at least one smoker.

The researchers found that children with more cotinine in their blood tended to score lower on the reading, math and reasoning tests. And the higher the cotinine levels, the lower were their scores, the authors note in the journal Environmental Health Perspectives.

Internet



Visionary Vehicles LLC, started by the man who brought the Yugo car to America in the 1980s, plans to sell a million vehicles from China on the US market at bargain-basement prices by 2011, the company said on 3 Jan, 2005.—INTERNET

Jet fighter dumps fuel in Cape Town after engines fall

JOHANNESBURG, 6 Jan — Air traffic at South Africa's Cape Town International Airport was delayed on Tuesday afternoon after an ex-military fighter jet jettisoned about 3,000 litres of fuel following an engine failure shortly after take-off.

Thundercity director Andrew Barends said that the plane, a British Bae-Buccaneer, belongs to Thundercity, a privately owned collection of operational ex-military jets housed adjacent to the airport complex.

The accident occurred around 3 pm (1300 GMT) when one of the two-seater aircraft's two Rolls Royce engines failed. The pilot requested to go up to 10,000 feet, from where he dumped the fuel —

which was vapourized because of the altitude.

Air traffic control cleared the pilot and his navigator for landing after the fuel was dumped and the pilot managed to "re-light" the stalled engine. Barends said the aircraft, which was being flown by its regular pilot, managed to carry out a "normal and safe" landing, whereupon some of the fuel in the plane's venting pipes spilled onto the runway.

MNA/Xinhua

Colombian police seize 3 kilos of heroin hidden in pet dogs

BOGOTA, 5 Jan— Colombian police on Tuesday seized 3 kilos of liquid heroin hidden in pet dogs in a raid in northwestern city of Medellin, police said.

Searching in a farm near Medellin Airport, the police found the drugs planted in six dogs.

It seemed that the drug traffickers wanted to airlift the drugs, with its street value of about 200,000 US dollars, to the

black market in the United States.

During the operations as of November last year, Colombian military police confiscated 98 tons of drugs, weapons, cars, communication facilities and a large sum of money

used for drug-trafficking.

Colombia is one of the major drugs producers in the world. Its annual cocaine output totalled 570 tons, accounting for 90 per cent of the world production.

MNA/Xinhua

Orb Networks Inc shows off a new streaming service that lets subscribers remotely access their digital media files from their home PCs, and even watch live television, on gadgets with Internet connections, on a browser-equipped cellphone at Consumer Electronics Show at the Las Vegas Convention Center on 4 Jan, 2005.

INTERNET



The best time to plant a tree was twenty years ago. The second best time is now.

Montoya to be connected to artificial lung for indefinite time

BOGOTA, 6 Jan— Former coach of Colombian soccer club One Caldas, Luis Montoya, injured by two shots in December, will need to be connected to a breathing device for indefinite time the doctors said on Wednesday.

"The lesion of professor Montoya is definitive and the probability of disconnecting him the breathing device is useless," doctor Diego Lalinde told reporters.

Montoya, who led Once Caldas to win Libertadores Cup in 2004 and elected as best South American coach of the year, is in the intensive-care section of a clinic of the city of Medellin, 246 kilometres northwest of Bogota.— MNA/Xinhua

SPORTS

FIFA to test new device watching goal line

LONDON, 6 Jan — FIFA is to test a special device involving a microchip inside the ball next month as a possible solution to goal-line disputes during matches.

The device, developed by ball manufacturers Adidas, will be tested at Cardiff's Millennium Stadium on February 26, the day before the English League Cup final. If successful it could be used in the final itself, a spokesman for the world body said on Wednesday. However, FIFA has repeated its opposition to the use of video replays despite one of the clearest errors yet in a top level match during Tuesday's English Premier League game between Manchester United and Tottenham Hotspur at Old Trafford.

FIFA and European counterpart UEFA agreed last month to examine the use of new technology to assist referees. Italy's soccer federation, the Polish football association and the incoming chief executive of the English Football Association, Brian Barwick, have all expressed support for the use of video replays in the past month. —MNA/Xinhua



Ferrari's seven-times Formula One champion Michael Schumacher gives instructions to his crew during the first practice session at Shanghai Circuit in this 24 September, 2004 file photo. —INTERNET

Southampton battles out 3-3 home draw with Fulham

LONDON, 6 Jan — Struggling Southampton battled out a 3-3 draw at home to Fulham in a see-saw clash in the Premier League on Wednesday.

The result leaves Southampton, now winless in their last nine games, 19th in the 20-strong league and prime relegation candidates. Fulham rose a place to 15th. Former England midfielder Jamie Redknapp made his debut for Southampton after signing on Tuesday from Tottenham for the club now managed by his father Harry.

Redknapp helped set up the first Southampton goal and was unlucky not to be

awarded a free kick when fouled near the halfway line on 50 minutes. Instead, play was waved on and Tomasz Radzinski struck to put Fulham 3-2 up.

But the Saints salvaged a point, and their fourth consecutive home draw, 19 minutes from time when under-pressure Liam Rosenior sliced an own goal.

Fulham had gone ahead in the 20th minute when Papa Bouba Diop rose to meet a corner but

Southampton hit back swiftly with well-taken goals from striker Kevin Phillips on 21 and 29 minutes.

Fulham made it 2-2 just before halftime as Steed Malbranque took advantage of poor Southampton defending from a corner.

At the top Chelsea are seven points clear of champions Arsenal after their 2-0 win over Middlesbrough on Tuesday. —MNA/Reuters

Portuguese Prime Minister decorates Porto for its achievements

LISBON, 6 Jan — Portuguese soccer club Porto, coached by Spaniard victor Fernandez, received Wednesday from acting Prime Minister Pedro Santana Lopez the Award to Sports Merit for its achievements last season.

These achievements include the triumph in the UEFA Champions League and the Inter-Continental Cup.

In a ceremony held in Del Dragon Stadium, Santana gave the members of the team - with the exception of Diego and Derley who were not there - the medal of honour. He said in a brief speech that "as prime minister I am proud to tell the world Porto is

Portuguese."

Santana, who once was president of soccer club Lisbon Sporting, the eternal rival of Porto, termed this recognition as "an act of justice" in reference to the attitude of the Mayor of Porto, social-democrat Rui Rio, of his own political party, who has a strong dispute with the club, which he never received.

The president of the club, Nuno Pinto, said in response that "we'll keep on doing whatever it takes to put the name of Portugal high".

At the end of the ceremony a plate was placed to remember the mentioned date. —MNA/Reuters

Real beat Sociedad 2-1 in frantic mini-match

MADRID, 6 Jan — Zinedine Zidane helped Vanderlei Luxemburgo get off to a dream start as Real Madrid coach when he scored the winner to give his side an incredible 2-1 victory over Real Sociedad in a frantic seven-minute mini-match at the Bernabeu on Wednesday.

The French midfielder scored the crucial goal after teammate Ronaldo had been brought down in the area four minutes into a match that had to be completed 24 days after the original fixture was abandoned because of a bomb scare.

The result means that Real move up into third place in the table, level on points behind second-placed Valencia and 10 adrift of league leaders Barcelona.

The game marked a wonderful debut for Luxemburgo, who was appointed as Real coach after the club unexpectedly sacked his predecessor Mariano Garcia Remon last week.

The Brazilian will go down as one of the few coaches in footballing history to take charge of a team midway through a match and celebrate by guiding his team to a morale-boosting victory.

In the first game Ronaldo put Real ahead against the run of play with an acrobatic strike on the turn just three minutes before halftime.

But Sociedad got a deserved equalizer in the second half when live-wire

Turkish forward Nihat Kahveci scored with a carbon copy strike and were on top when the game was halted.

The second round of the game was a different matter altogether and Real showed a new desire and verve.

The match restarted with a goal kick for Sociedad, but the visitors quickly lost control of the ball and it was Real, roared on by 15,000 fans who had been given free access to the stadium, who piled on the pressure.

Striker Fernando Morientes, who was given a rare start ahead of Michael Owen, had a couple of half chances in the first two minutes, but it was a hopeful kick forward from midfielder Guti that helped decide the game.

Ronaldo managed to control the ball, raced into the area, unleashed a couple of trademark step-overs and was brought down by a desperate challenge from Sociedad fullback Mikel Labaka.

Referee Vicente Lizondo Cortes had no hesitation in pointing to the spot and Zidane fired his spot kick inside the right-hand post to score the winner.

MNA/Reuters

French prosecutors to investigate PSG transfers

PARIS, 6 Jan — French prosecutors have launched an investigation into alleged transfer fraud at French First Division soccer club Paris St. Germain between 1998 and 2003, a judicial source said on Tuesday.

The Paris prosecutor's office will look into the transfers of players like Brazilian Ronaldo, the 2004 World Player of the Year, to determine whether agents received illegal commission payments, the source said.

The case was opened after a complaint by French pay television Canal Plus, which owns PSG, over Ronaldinho's arrival in 2001 and the Brazilian's departure in 2003. Legal sources said the prosecutor's office was also investigating the transfers of France striker Nicolas Anelka to Manchester City in 2002 and Italy's Marco Simone to Monaco in 1999. French prosecutors have already launched inquiries into alleged tax evasion attempts during transfers at Olympique Marseille and alleged fraud by various soccer agents after a complaint by the French soccer federation last year.

MNA/Xinhua

Mallorca sign in midfielder de los Santos from Valencia on loan

MADRID, 6 Jan — Primera Liga strugglers Real Mallorca have signed Uruguayan midfielder Gonzalo de los Santos on loan from Valencia for the rest of the season.

Mallorca said that the deal also included an option to buy De los Santos at the end of the season.

The 28-year-old central midfielder, who was on loan at Atletico Madrid last season, has failed to win a place in the Valencia starting line-up this season and does not figure in the plans of coach Claudio Ranieri.

He is the second player to join the islanders during the mid-season transfer window.

Japanese striker Yoshito Okubo, who is on loan from Cerezo Osaka for the rest of the season, has been training with the rest of the squad since mid-December.

Mallorca are 19th in the 20-strong Primera Liga, one point above bottom club Numancia. They host Deportivo Coruna in their first league match of the year on Sunday. —MNA/Xinhua



Horses frolic on a snowy pasture at the Schauinsland in the Black Forest in southern Germany, on 3 Jan, 2005.

INTERNET

Drive with care

Zimbabwean SMEs urged to form associations

HARARE, 6 Jan — Zimbabwean Minister of Small and Medium Enterprises Development Sithembiso Nyoni has urged small and medium enterprises to form associations to enhance their lobbying efforts for funds and contracts, local media reported on Wednesday.

The formation of associations would make small and medium enterprises visible, vibrant and responsive to the market, Nyoni said, adding that the small and medium enterprises in different sectors of the economy would be more effective when speaking with one voice.

"As individuals, they have no pressure but as a group they can lobby for sub-contracts," she said.

She said the programmes to promote small and medium enterprises would be expanded in 2005, based on experiences gained from the previous year.

Nyoni revealed that her ministry started five programmes in the past year aimed at assisting small and medium enterprises. These included the loan booths, people's shops, vendor marts, road shows and the productive sector finance.

At least 66 loan booths have been established and these have proved to be an effective tool for alleviating poverty.

"It's the best thing that ever happened," Nyoni said, adding "It makes money available to the poor."

The project, she added, would complement the land reform programme by providing a ready market for products as well as ensuring that vegetables were cheap and sold in a clean environment.

Road shows held in Chinhoyi, Mutare, Bulawayo, Gweru and Harare last year, had also made the public aware of what small and medium enterprises produced.

"This year they will be held in every city," she said.

She said a strategic planning meeting would be held soon for the small and medium enterprises sector to give input on what it expects from the ministry in 2005.

It is estimated that at least 80 per cent of families in Zimbabwe earn a living from the small and medium enterprises sector. — *MNA/Xinhua*

China's traditional Kunqu Opera popular colleges

HANGANHOU, 6 Jan — For Chinese college students, traditional Kunqu Opera will no longer be just description in a textbook, but a part of campus culture.

This year, the Chinese Ministry of Culture has required each of the country's seven professional Kunqu Theatres to give 20 free public performances at Chinese colleges yearly.

All costs of these performances will be covered by the central and local governments, said Lu Yuzhong, an official with the ministry's department of arts, at a recent national Kunqu seminar held in Hangzhou, capital city of East China's Zhejiang Province. Lu said the move is a part of the country's latest programme to save, protect and support the Kunqu art drafted last May.

Under the programme, the Chinese Government will establish three to four Kunqu protection centres, create ten new Kunqu scripts and rescue 15 classic scripts and 200 traditional scripts from 2005 to 2009.

In addition, the country will take steps to train new Kunqu players and organize more cultural activities to boost Kunqu's popularity.

In Zhejiang, where

the Kunqu Opera once was popular, the local Zhejiang Kunqu Theatre has decided to perform at Zhejiang University and other colleges and to discuss new scripts with the students.

"Only when the Kunqu gets popular among the young generation, can it be best-known from one generation to another," said Lin Weilin, head of the Zhejiang Kunqu Theatre.

Lin said China lacks a long-term plan to publicize its cultural heritage among the young generation. In that respect, the new programme is a breakthrough.

MNA/Xinhua

Home loans in Britain fall sharply in November

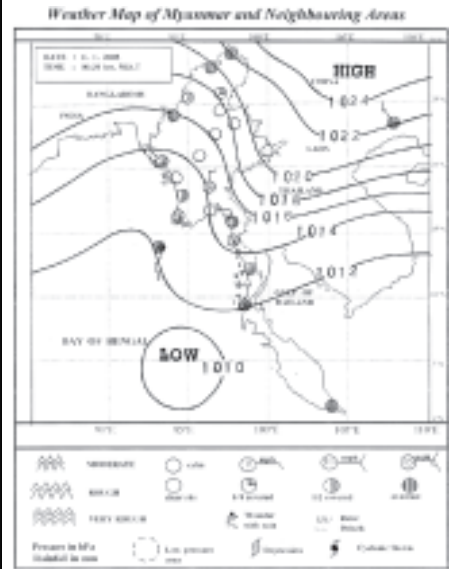
LONDON, 6 Jan — The number of mortgages approved in Britain fell sharply in November to the lowest level for nearly a decade, showing further evidence that the housing market is cooling down rapidly, official figures indicated on Tuesday.

The Bank of England (BoE) said mortgage approvals — the number of loans granted but not yet made — fell to 77,000 in November from a revised 85,000 in October, the lowest since September 1995.

"It looks like demand in the housing market has weakened and it's going to continue weakening," said George Buckley, an economist at Deutsche Bank.

Experts believe five interest rate rises since November 2003 which took the base rate from a 48-year low of 3.5 per cent to the current 4.75 per cent are cutting borrower's appetite for debt.

The official figure echoes other recent reports from different mortgage lending institutes which show a slowdown of the housing market in December and point to a stagnation in the New Year. — *MNA/Xinhua*



WEATHER

Thursday, 6 January, 2005

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 (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Kachin State, Bago, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were (2°C) in Hakha, (3°C) each in Pinlaung and Moekok.

Maximum temperature on 5-1-2005 was 94°F. Minimum temperature on 6-1-2005 was 57°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 6-1-2005 was 82%. Total sunshine hours on 5-1-2005 was (8.5) hours approx. Rainfalls on 5-1-2005 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 9 mph from East at (03:03) hours MST on 6-1-2005.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 7-1-2005: Weather will be partly cloudy in Taninthayi Division and generally fair in the remaining areas.

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Possibility of isolated light in extreme southern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 7-1-2005: Fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 7-1-2005: Fine weather.



Friday, 7 January
Tune in today:

- 8:30 am Brief news
- 8:35 am Music: Simple thing
- 8:40 am Perspectives
- 8:45 am Music: Picking me up
- 8:50 am National news/Slogan
- 9:00 am Music: Yeh³
- 9:05 am International news
- 9:10 am Music: Mambo No.5
- 1:30 pm News/Slogan
- 1:40 pm Lunchtime music - I live my life for you - Hello - Love to love - Faith
- 9:00 pm Independence Day Talk : Patheingyi Bridge: Development in Ayeyawady Division
- 9:15 pm Article/music
- 9:25 pm Music at your request - Forever and for always - The girl from yesterday - Owner of my heart
- 9:45 pm News/Slogan
- 10:00 pm PEL



Friday, 7 January
View on today:

- 7:00 am 1. Recitation of Parittas by Sayadaw U Ottamathara
- 7:25 am 2. To be healthy exercise
- 7:30 am 3. Morning news
- 7:40 am 4. Nice and sweet song
- 7:55 am 5. အတီဖြိုင်ပွဲ
- 8:00 am 6. The mirror images of the musical oldies
- 8:20 am 7. ဘော်ဘော်ရေရေလှောင်တစ်
- 8:30 am 8. International news
- 8:45 am 9. English for Everyday Use

- 4:00 pm 1. Martial song
- 4:15 pm 2. Song to uphold National Spirit
- 4:30 pm 3. Practice in Reading
- 4:45 pm 4. Musical programme
- 5:00 pm 5. အဝေးသင် တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး ဝတ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ - ပထမနှစ် (စာတုစေးအထူးပြု) (စာတုစေး)
- 5:15 pm 6. Dance of National Races
- 5:30 pm 7. လက်ဆွဲတမ်းပေးဂီတတေး
- 5:40 pm 8. ဂျပန်အစိုးရအဖွဲ့အား အားပေးခြင်း
- 5:50 pm 9. ဂီတပညာရေးစာတမ်း
- 6:05 pm 10. "စက်မှုတစ်ဆင့်လှုပ်ငန်းတွင်" အကယ်ဒမီ ဇင်ပိုင်၊ အကယ်ဒမီ မင်းမော်တို့၏ အကယ်ဒမီ ဖိနပ်မြိုင်အောင် ခါရိုက်တာ-ဝင်းထွန်းထွန်း
- 6:10 pm 11. Discovery
- 6:15 pm 12. Song of yesteryears
- 6:30 pm 13. Evening news
- 7:00 pm 14. Weather report
- 7:05 pm 15. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတမ်းလွှဲ "လူ့မျိုးလူ့ကောင်း" (အပိုင်း-၄၄)
- 7:35 pm 16. အမျှင်အခြားအတား ခွန်ရှည်ကြာ နိုင်ငံရေးမှ ချီလူ့ရှု "ရွှေရောင်လွမ်းသည့်မြန်မာအားကစား" (အပိုင်း-၂)
- 8:00 pm 17. News
- 18. International news
- 19. Weather report
- 20. မြန်မာ့လူ့ရှင် "ငါ့လူတစ်ပါးယောက်ျားမိန်းမ" (အပိုင်း-၂) ရန်အောင်၊ လွင်မိုး၊ မေသန်းနု၊ ထက်ထက်မိုးညို၊ ခင်စာပြည်ကျော်၊ ခါရိုက်တာ-ဝင်းထွန်းထွန်း
- 21. The next day's programme

Malaysian Prime Minister sends felicitations to Lt-Gen Soe Win

YANGON 6 Jan — *The following is a message of felicitations from Mr Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, Prime Minister of Malaysia, sent to Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win, on the occasion of the 57th Anniversary Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar.*

Your Excellency,

On this auspicious occasion of the 57th Anniversary of the Independence Day of Myanmar, I wish to extend, on behalf of the Government and the people of Malaysia, My sincere congratulations and best wishes to Your Excellency, the Government and the people of the Union of Myanmar.

It is my sincere hope that the existing close and friendly ties between Malaysia and Myanmar continue to expand in the years ahead for mutual benefit of our two countries.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration. —MNA

Surgical operations performed at DSOH (500-bed)

YANGON, 6 Jan — Officiating Commandant of Defence Services Orthopaedic Hospital (500-bed) Lt-Col Tun Tun, Adviser Prof U Thet Htar Wai, orthopedic and facial specialists are performing surgical operations together with Singaporean specialists of Plastic, facial and oral surgery at the DSOH (500-bed) up to 9 January.

The patients who have undergone surgery are in good health. — MNA

Officiating Commandant Lt-Col Tun Tun, Adviser Prof U Thet Htar Wai and Singaporean specialists perform surgical operation at Defence Services Orthopaedic Hospital (500-bed). — PRPU



Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation tours Taninthayi Division

YANGON, 6 Jan—Over 1,200 members of the Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation and the Taninthayi Division Organization for Women's Affairs met at the gymnasium in Myeik, Taninthayi Division, yesterday morning.

On the occasion, MWAF President Daw Than Than Nwe delivered a speech, saying that the MWAF has turned one year and the members made a tour of the region to review implementation of the tasks and to find out the strong and weak points. The federation is implementing its seven objectives, and it will continue to carry out its basic principles effectively, she pledged. The government is giving encouragement to social organizations in an attempt to enlist the strength of the people for national progress and for perpetual existence of the nation. Now, such non-governmental organizations as the Union Solidarity

and Development Association, Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Auxiliary Fire Brigade, Red Cross Society and War Veterans Organization are playing an enthusiastic role in carrying out the five rural development tasks, she said. The MWAF too is playing an active role in the tasks for prevention of violence against women, trafficking in persons, and raising the life of women in collaboration with related ministries, she added.

As is known to all, the government, upholding our three main national causes, is putting the twelve objectives into practice day and night for national progress. The members are to be fully aware of a wide variety of fabrications manufactured by internal and external destructive elements with the intention of tarnishing the prestige of the Tatmadaw (See page 10)



President of MWAF Daw Than Than Nwe meets with members of Taninthayi Division Organization for Women's Affairs in Myeik. — MNA

Rules for Armed Forces Day commemorative poem contest announced

YANGON, 6 Jan—Hailing the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day which falls on 27 March 2005, the Poem Contest Organizing Sub-committee under the Poem and Arts Competition Organizing Work Committee, chaired by Deputy Minister for Culture Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung, has announced to hold the

Poem Contest to mark the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day.

The contestants can portray objectives of the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day, matters related to fine traditions of the Tatmadaw, historic events occurred in the periods of Konbaung Era (AD 1824), Independence Era (1948-1988)

and the State Peace and Development Council, endeavours of the State Peace and Development Council in religious affairs, construction, peace negotiation and drug elimination sectors.

The entries will be scrutinized with three sectors—theme style, (See page 9)

Stone Age, Bronze Age artifacts for Tagaung Museum

YANGON, 6 Jan — A Buddhist monk presented his collections of Stone Age and Bronze Age artifacts twice to Archaeology Department (Upper Myanmar) in the previous month.

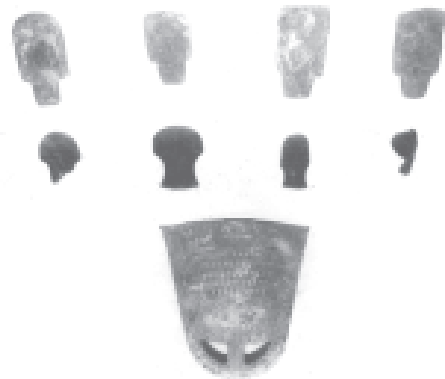
The monk, Bhaddanta Kumara, of Indaw Township, Sagaing Division, presented a bronze weapon, six pieces of stone weapons and four items of earthen pipes and also a peacock silver coin of Yadanabon period to the department on 7 December; and one bronze bell, three pieces of bronze weapons, 49 pieces of stone

weapons, four earthen pipes and one bronze pipe on 25 December. The arti-

facts will be displayed in Tagaung Museum in ancient Tagaung town,

Thabeikkyin Township, Mandalay Division.

MNA



Artifacts in stone age and bronze age donated by Mezar Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kumara of Indaw, Sagaing Division. — CULTURE

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