

# The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Saturday, 31 December, 20051

## The struggle to regain independence lasted over 100 years

For over 2,000 years, Myanmar had lived under their own national leader, own law and own culture with dignity before falling under servitude at the end of 19th century. The independence had been restored only after over 120 years of struggle. The struggle lasted over 100 years to regain independence which was lost within two weeks.

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

(From address delivered at the opening of Special Refresher Course No 3 of the Union Solidarity and Development Association)



## Motion Picture Academy Awards presentation ceremony for 2004 held

**Film artistes, technicians actively participating in safeguarding independence, ensuring peace and stability of the State, national development drive**

YANGON, 30 Dec — The Motion Picture Academy Awards Presentation Ceremony for 2004 of the Myanmar Motion Picture Enterprise of the Ministry of Information was held at

the National Indoor Stadium-1 in Thuwunna, Thingangyun Township, here this evening.

Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein and wife Daw

Khin Khin Win graced the ceremony.

Also present on the occasion were Members of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and wife, Lt-Gen Maung

Bo and wife, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Lt-Gen Myint Swe and wife, the ministers and deputy ministers, the chairman

and members of the panel of the judges of Myanmar Motion Picture Promotion and Scrutinizing Board, officials of the motion picture censor board and video censor board, directors-general

and managing directors of the departments under the Ministry of Information, officials of Myanmar Motion Picture Asiyon, Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association, Myanmar Thabin Asiyon and Myanmar Music Asiyon, film artists, technicians, film makers and fans.

Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan delivered an address. He said: I would like to extend my warmest greetings to Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council and wife, SPDC members and wives, the ministers and deputy ministers, heads of department, officials of Myanmar Movie Asiyon, Thabin Asiyon, Music Asiyon and NGOs, artistes and movie fans, and I wish the well-being in mind and body of all of you on the occasion of the Myanmar Motion Picture Academy Awards Ceremony.

(See page 10)



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein shakes hands with academy awards winners for 2004. — NLM

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

**PERSPECTIVES**

Saturday, 31 December, 2005

**Strive for ensuring health care services of the people**

The State Peace and Development Council relying on own resources has been striving for the emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation.

In the process, health and fitness of the entire nation as well as qualified human resources are imperative.

Therefore, the government is placing emphasis on uplift of health, fitness and education standard of the entire nation, which is one of the four social objectives.

At present, the government is making relentless efforts in the drive for bringing about health care services the length and breadth of the nation in order that the entire national people can enjoy health and fitness.

A ceremony to open PyinOoLwin Hospital (200-bed) in PyinOoLwin, Mandalay Division, was held at the hospital on 16 December 2005, attended by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe.

Under the guidance of the Head of State, the high class hospital was built with the aim of establishing a health resort in the hill station for the people to undergo medical treatment with peace of mind.

The hospital is made up of a main ward, 140 feet long and 48 feet wide, two wards each measuring 128 feet in length and 48 feet in width and another ward, 120 feet long and 48 feet wide. It is complete with general practice unit, gynecological and obstetric unit, cardiac unit, urosurgical unit, paediatric unit, larynges otology unit and neurosurgical unit, coupled with specialists and physicians.

To ensure health and fitness of the entire nation, the government opened 191 more hospitals across the nation after 1988, raising the total number of the hospitals to 822. Moreover, it has upgraded 149 hospitals. In the same way, institutes of medicine, institutes of dental medicine, institute of pharmacy, institute of paramedical science, institute of nursing, institute of primary health, institutes of traditional medicine numbering 16 were opened to produce medical practitioners.

In the meantime, more doctors, nurses and health staff were appointed while medicines and medical equipment were provided to the hospitals. With the improvement of the standard of health care services, the people have now been able to enjoy longevity.

Therefore, the government is striving in all seriousness for uplift of health and fitness of the entire nation so that each and every citizen can enjoy longevity.

**Fire breaks out in Kawthoung**

YANGON, 30 Dec—A fire broke out at 5.20 pm yesterday at the Myoma Market in Kawthoung, Taninthayi Division, leaving 659 shops burnt down. The fire started due to wire shock at shop No 249, and then surrounding shops caught it.

Soon after the incident, two fire engines from the township fire services station and 25 water tankers began to put out the flames. Tatmadaw members led by Col Kyaw Phyto and Col

MyintTun of local regiment, a fire engine and four water tankers from Yuzana Company, members of the township Fire Services Department, and officials cooperated in extinguishing the fire. The fire was under control at 8.15 pm.

There were no casualties owing to the incident. An administrative office was thus opened in the township Customs office near the market to carry out relief services for the victims.—MNA

**People's Desire**

- \* Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views
- \* Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of the State and progress of the nation
- \* Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State
- \* Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy

**USDA Secretary-General U Htay Oo receives Vietnamese Friendship Association**

YANGON, 30 Dec — Union Solidarity and Development Association Secretary-General U Htay Oo received Vice Chairman Mr Pham Van Chuong of Vietnamese Friendship Association and party at the Head Office of USDA on University Avenue Road in Bahan Township this morning. It was also attended by USDA CEC Members U Maung Maung Thein and U Than Htay, and officials.

At the call, USDA Secretary-General U Htay Oo clarified the matters related to the aim and organizational set-up of the USDA, the cooperation of the people in



USDA Secretary-General U Htay Oo meeting with the Vietnamese delegation. — MNA

the measures of the State for stability and development, and the progress of the State. Afterwards, the USDA members explained the participation

of members in the development tasks and answered the queries raised by the guests.

Next, the USDA secretariat member and

Vice Chairman Mr Pham Van Chuong exchanged the souvenirs and had documentary photo taken.

MNA

**Director-General's shield of MPF track and field competitions concluded**

YANGON, 30 Dec — The 19th Director-General's shield of Myanmar Police Force track and field competitions in conjunction with the prize-distribution ceremony

took place at Aung San Stadium, here, this morning.

Among the spectators were Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo, wife Dr Daw Nyunt

Nyunt Oo and others. Director-General of Myanmar Police Force Brig-Gen Khin Yi delivered a speech. The competition then commenced.

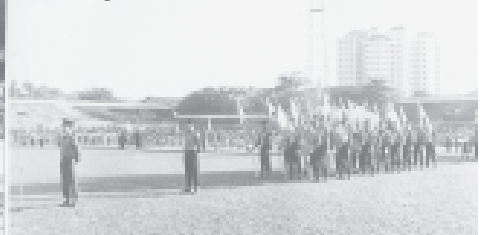
At prize-distribution

ceremony, Dr Daw Nyunt Nyunt Oo, Brig-Gen Khin Yi and Minister Maj-Gen Maung Maung Oo presented prizes to the winning teams.

MNA



Director-General of Myanmar Police Force Brig-Gen Khin Yi delivers an address at the conclusion of Track & Field Competitions. — NLM



**Victorious Myanma disabled athletes honoured**

YANGON, 30 Dec — Organized by Net Work Marketing Ltd and Lasanda Printing Ink and Paper Trading, a ceremony to honour the victorious Myanma disabled athletes, who competed in Manila, the Philippines, was held at the Central Hotel yesterday evening with an address by Minis-

ter for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint. The minister made a speech and presented K 3.7 million to the athletes.

At cash donation ceremony, the well-wishers donated K 300,000 and 100 hats to the Myanmar Disabled Sports Federation.

MNA

**UMFCCI General Secretary meets Chinese guests**

YANGON, 30 Dec — General Secretary of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Sein Win Hlaing, Joint Secretary-1 Dr Maung Muang Lay, CEC members, and executives met the 17-member Chinese delegation led by Director-General Mr Yang Zhi Min,

Yunnan Agricultural Department at UMFCCI this afternoon and cordially discussed matters on the cooperation in agricultural and livestock tasks, agricultural produce and rubber products to be imported and cultivating and trading of fruits including mangoes and lime.

MNA



Academy awards winners for 2004. — NLM



Vehicles move through thick fog on a road in Qingdao, eastern China's Shandong Province, on 30 Dec, 2005. Visibility had been reduced to as low as 30 meters (98 feet), local media reported.—INTERNET

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## Lower ASEAN tariffs offer Vietnam opportunities, challenges

HANOI, 29 Dec—Tariffs on 27 imported commodities under the ASEAN's Free Trade Area (AFTA), are to fall to 0-5 per cent from 1 January, 2006, bringing about both opportunities and difficulties to Vietnam.

The drop, part of the AFTA's tariff reduction roadmap, will help boost trade among 10 members of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), and force Vietnamese enterprises be more active in enhancing

their competitiveness, local newspaper *Vietnam News* reported on Wednesday.

With the new tariffs, Vietnamese consumers can enjoy lower prices of the 27 goods of ASEAN members, including electronic appliances, husked rice, paddy rice, poultry eggs, vegetables and fruits.

However, the tariffs will force Vietnamese businesses, many of which are financially weak, to

pay greater attention to quality and service so that they can further tap the regional market as well as keeping the domestic one.

Vietnam exported 3 billion US dollars worth of goods to the ASEAN market in 2004, the report said. The ASEAN groups Vietnam, Thailand, Cambodia, Singapore, Brunei, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar and the Philippines.—MNA/Xinhua

## Koizumi keen for friendly ties with China

TOKYO, 29 Dec—Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi said on Wednesday he would strive to develop friendly ties with China in 2006, after a year in which relations with that country hit their lowest in decades.

Long-chilly relations between Tokyo and Beijing have become fraught this year through disputes over issues mostly relating to Japan's invasion and occupation of parts of China in the early 20th Century.

Bilateral ties hit their worst level in decades in April, when thousands of Chinese took to the streets in sometimes violent anti-Japan protests. Ties with South Korea have also soured for similar reasons and Koizumi said he would like to mend that fence as well.

"For Japan, China and South Korea are important neighbours and friendly countries," Koizumi told reporters, adding that the development of China and South Korea opens up opportunities for Japan.

"From that standpoint, I don't think there is any

change on the point of trying to develop friendly relations even if there are various differences in our respective positions."

Japan needs to take steps so China and South Korea would understand such thinking, Koizumi said, adding that he hoped

those two countries would do the same.

Koizumi's comments came after an opinion survey published on Wednesday in which two-thirds of Japanese who replied said they did not trust China.

MNA/Reuters

## US partners in Iraq dwindling in number, size

WASHINGTON, 29 Dec—The international military coalition in Iraq is shrinking, as two countries finished pulling their troops out this month and three others announced plans to remove hundreds more.

Coalition forces in Iraq now number fewer than 23,000 from 24 countries, down from

about 50,000 from 38 countries in 2003.

The United States is reducing its troop levels in Iraq, as well, with plans to have about 130,000 troops there by spring 2006 instead of the 138,000 it had stationed there for much of 2005.

The troop reductions are signs that Iraq is

stabilizing and Iraqi security forces are increasingly able to keep the peace on their own, said Navy Lt Cmdr Joe Carpenter, a Pentagon spokesman.

"Our allies' adjustments are very akin to our adjustments, and it's all based on the conditions we're seeing in Iraq," Carpenter said.

"It would be wrong to interpret this negatively. This is an indication of progress in Iraq."

White House

spokesman Trent Duffy said each country has to decide on its own whether to participate in the coalition, "and we respect those decisions."

The countries involved in pullouts or troop reductions include Ukraine and Bulgaria, which both withdrew the last of their troops Tuesday.

The Netherlands, Poland, South Korea and Italy have reduced or plan to reduce their troop commitments.—Internet

## India test-fires ballistic missile

NEW DELHI, 29 Dec—India test-fired ballistic missile *Dhanush* from a warship in the Bay of Bengal on Wednesday, according to *Indo-Asian News Service*.

The missile, capable of carrying nuclear warheads, has a range of 250 kilometres, the report said.

The missile is the naval version of surface-to-surface *Prithvi* missile. *Dhanush* has been designed by India's Defence Research and Development Organization.

MNA/Xinhua

## US service member dies in vehicle accident in Afghanistan

KABUL, 29 Dec—One US service member was killed on Wednesday and another four injured in a vehicle roll-over accident in Afghan southern province of Kandahar, US military said.

"The patrol was conducting combat operations when the accident occurred. Their patrol was travelling in an up-armoured, high-mobility, multi-purpose, wheeled vehicle when the accident occurred. Enemy activity was not a factor in the accident," US military said in a news release.

"All five service members were evacuated from the scene to Kandahar for treatment. At the Kandahar Airfield Hospital the one service member was pronounced dead, one is being further evacuated for continued treatment and the remaining three were treated and released," it added. The cause of the accident is under investigation, and the name of the deceased is being withheld pending notification of next of kin.—MNA/Xinhua



People crowd around a row of destroyed cars, according to residents the result of a battle tank driving through a narrow street during a pre-dawn raid by the US military, in a neighborhood in Baghdad, Iraq, on 29 Dec, 2005. — INTERNET

## India, Sri Lankan leaders meet for better ties

**NEW DELHI, 29 Dec**— Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh here on Wednesday met with visiting Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa on a wide range of issues.

The meeting lasted for about 45 minutes, said Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Navtej Sarna. This is Rajapaksa's first trip abroad after being elected the Sri Lankan President.

"We understand that the President briefed the Indian side of his assessment of the current status of the peace process

in Sri Lanka. Both sides agreed that peace talks, aimed at strengthening the ceasefire, should begin at the earliest," the spokesperson said.

President Rajapaksa has welcomed India's commitment to peace and security in Sri Lanka, said the spokesperson.

The discussions also covered economic and

commercial cooperation and means of enhancing bilateral cooperation.

Specific issues discussed between the two sides included the conclusion of a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement, cooperation in the fields of railway, civil aviation, information technology and energy.

President Rajapaksa will also call on Indian President Abdul Kalam and other ministers during his three-day stay in Delhi.

MNA/Xinhua

### France issues cold alert in regions hit by snowstorm

**PARIS, 29 Dec**— France raised cold alert to its orange level until Wednesday night in the regions hit by snowfall that cut rail and road links and left thousands of motorists on highways due to black ice.

French meteorologic office also said that traffic conditions would become rapidly even harder in the hit regions and that electricity and telephone networks would also be affected. According to French national railway company SNCF, all high-speed train services between Paris, Lyon, Marseille and Montpellier were suffering delays of one to two hours on Wednesday after drivers were ordered to cut their speed for safety reasons. In northeastern France, about 5,000 to 10,000 people spent a chilly night behind the wheel after traffic ground to a halt on a stretch of motorway between the towns of Toul and Nancy, regional authorities said.

Emergency services were called in to provide them with food and drink for the night, and nearby sports centres and town halls were opened up to provide makeshift shelter. French weather experts warned drivers to be on alert for snow and icy road conditions across a broad swathe of the country's northwest, east and centre. — MNA/Xinhua

### Frenchman kidnapped in Iraq shown on Arabiya TV

**DUBAI, 29 Dec**— A little-known Iraqi militant group has threatened to kill a French engineer kidnapped in Iraq unless France ends its "illegitimate presence" in the Arab country, Al Arabiya television reported on Wednesday.

The Dubai-based station aired a black-and-white video from the "Surveillance for the Sake of Iraq Brigade" showing a man seated in front of militants who pointed rifles at his head. The man

identified himself as Bernard.

He gave no surname but earlier this month, gunmen seized a French engineer in Baghdad, who was later identified by French and Iraqi officials

as Bernard Planche.

The officials said Planche was an employee of a non-governmental organization and worked at the Rusafa water treatment plant in eastern Baghdad. The French



Demonstrators picket the American Embassy in Moscow, on 29 Dec, 2005. The posters assail the United States for its alleged support for Ukraine in its gas price dispute with Russia. —INTERNET

### Death threats cut Iraq oil flow

**BAGHDAD, 29 Dec**—Iraq's largest oil refinery has been shut down following death threats to tanker drivers, jeopardising supplies of electricity across northern Iraq.

The threats followed a steep rise in the price of petrol earlier this month, ordered by the government.

The oil ministry said the shutdown at Baiji was costing \$20m (£12m) a day.

The ministry said it hoped the refinery, which has been out of action since the weekend, would be back up and running within days.

"Efforts are being made to convince the drivers to return to work," a spokesman said.

The Baiji refinery normally produces 8.5m litres (2.2m gallons) of petrol per day, along with 7.5m litres of diesel. —Internet

### Oil boiler explosion kills three in Vietnam

**HANOI, 29 Dec** — An oil boiler of a local company in Vietnam's northern region exploded on Tuesday, killing three men instantly, local newspaper Saigon Liberation reported on Wednesday.

A boiler used to change oil residue into relevant products exploded on Tuesday due to the failure of a safety valve, claiming lives of the three workers of the Van Dao Company in northern Ha Tay Province. The victims, at the age of 21, 24 and 31, were from the locality. — MNA/Xinhua

### Indian bus crashes into chemical tanker, 22 killed

**ANMEDAB (India), 29 Dec**— At least 22 people were killed, many of them burned to death, when a bus they were travelling on crashed into a tanker carrying chemicals in the western Indian state of Gujarat on Wednesday, police said.

The luxury bus was on its way from Mumbai, India's financial hub, when it collided head-on with the tanker at Bharuch Town, about 200 kilometres (125 miles) south of Ahmedabad, Gujarat's main city. "Twenty-two people died on the spot while six (injured) have been taken to hospital," Bharuch police chief GS Malik told Reuters. —MNA/Reuters

### Road accident kills 19 in Zimbabwe's festive season

**HARARE, 29 Dec**— A total of 19 people were killed and 270 others injured in 264 road accidents during the festive season countrywide, Zimbabwe Police spokesperson Andrew Phiri said on Tuesday.

Manicaland Province recorded the highest number of deaths with six people followed by Matabeleland South, which recorded four casualties. No deaths were recorded in Harare and Bulawayo although Harare Province recorded 72 road accidents — the highest number so far.

MNA/Xinhua

### Floods kill 1,660 in China this year

**CHENGDU, 29 Dec** — Floods claimed a total 1,660 lives this year in China, but much fewer than that of the previous years, said an official with the State Flood Control and Drought Relief Headquarters here on Tuesday.

Zhang Zhitong, vice head of the headquarters office, said at a meeting that China has seen very heavy rainfalls in 2005. — MNA/Xinhua



An Iraqi policeman holds his weapon as he secures a road near the Interior Ministry in central Baghdad, on 29 Dec, 2005. —INTERNET

Government said at the time it was doing its best to secure his release -- an assurance that President Jacques Chirac also made to the victim's daughter, Isabelle.

In the video, the man told the camera in English: "I am Bernard. I am 52. I am from Lyon, France. I have been working... as a water engineer for two years." His words were dubbed into Arabic by the channel.

"I thank everyone who wants to help me and thank my family and I apologize for all the problems I have caused them," he said. Arabiya television said: "The group called on the French Government to end what it said was the illegitimate French presence in Iraq or else the hostage would be killed."

MNA/Reuters

## New museum on Chinese heritage opens in Singapore

SINGAPORE, 29 Dec— A new museum on Chinese heritage has opened to the public in the Haw Par Villa in Singapore, *Channel News Asia* reported on Wednesday.

Having cost 7.8 million Singapore dollars (about 4.7 million US dollars) to develop, the Hua Song Museum tells the stories of Chinese immigrants around the world and the role of clan associations at the turn of the 20th Century.

Some 500 artifacts and nearly 1,000 exhibits, which were donated by clan

associations, community groups and individuals all over the world, are on show in the museum.

It is expected that the museum will become a fascinating and educational attraction to both Singaporeans and tourists who are interested in the history of Asian culture.

MNA/Xinhua

## France's security forces to be mobilized for New Year's Eve

PARIS, 29 Dec — French security forces will be mobilized to try to prevent any acts of violence on the New Year's Eve.

On the eve, 4,500 police and paramilitary gendarmes, backed by helicopters, will patrol Paris under strict orders to "prevent and repress any acts of violence", the capital's police department said in a statement released on Wednesday.

Sales of petrol in jerrycans have been banned before Christmas in several parts of the country over the end-of-year period, and will be banned in Paris from Friday. Paris region where hundreds of thousands of people gather on the New Year's Eve (500,000 on the eve of 2005), especially on the Avenue Champs-Elysees, will be closely watched. Public transport in the Paris region will be highly supervised

to follow travelling of potential troublemakers towards Paris or between sensitive departments. Identity checks or arrests of offenders will be made wherever necessary in the Paris region, which will be under increased surveillance by hundreds of video cameras installed permanently in subways or in the streets, according to police. According to the police department, there is a threat to "public order in

the capital" from people travelling from the areas around the capital, hit last month by an urban violence leaving nearly 10,000 cars torched. A state of emergency imposed in response to the rioting, allowing local governors to declare curfews and giving wider powers to the police, remains in place until February. Some 330 cars were torched across France last 31 December.

MNA/Xinhua



Tourists walk the streets of the lower Ninth Ward near the London Avenue canal breach, on 29 Dec, 2005 in New Orleans. Hurricane Katrina caused the canals to breach, flooding the city.—INTERNET

## Chinese company exports 106 electric vehicles to US

TIANJIN, 29 Dec — A Chinese company has exported 106 electric vehicles with proprietary intellectual property rights to the United States, proving China's capability to produce the vehicles industrially.

It is the first time Chinese electric vehicles have been exported in quantity, Tianjin Qinyuan Electric Vehicles Ltd said.

Valued at about 10,000 US dollars each, "Happy Messenger" electric

vehicles were developed by the company on its own. They meet US technical standards. The "Happy Messenger" vehicles have been purchased by the US for use in townships, military bases, ports and major research institutions.

The Tianjin company exported six "Happy Messengers" in April,

which were much commended by US dealers after performance tests and market promotion.

The US side ordered 106 vehicles in September, six of which were shipped in November, and the other 100 last week. Depending on market demand, more orders are expected.

MNA/Xinhua



An Iraqi resident holds empty smoke grenade canisters he said US soldiers used when they raided and searched his house for guerillas south of Baghdad, on 29 Dec, 2005. —INTERNET

## Russian rocket lifts off with EU satellite

MOSCOW, 30 Dec — A Russian rocket blasted off on Wednesday, carrying the first part of what European states hope will be a network of satellites that will create a global navigation system.

The 30-satellite Galileo network is intended to rival the US Global Positioning System, and is being built by manufacturing heavyweights from across the European Union.

"The start was on time. The rocket will start to put the satellite into orbit," said a spokesman for Russia's space agency Roskosmos, which

monitored the launch at the ex-Soviet Baikonur cosmodrome in the middle of Kazakhstan's arid steppe.

The rocket blasted off at 0519 GMT and the Galileo satellite was due to go into orbit 88 minutes after that.

Galileo is scheduled to go into service in 2008 and eventually will have 30 satellites for mostly civilian uses ranging from driver assistance to search-and-rescue help.

The system will be organized as a public-private partnership, with the Commission wanting two-thirds of the funding

to come from industry and the rest from public coffers.—MNA/Reuters

## Four injured in Army chopper crash landing in E Nepal

KATHMANDU, 29 Dec — At least four soldiers of Royal Nepali Army (RNA) were injured on Wednesday when an RNA helicopter was forced to land in an eastern district due to technical problems, an RNA official said here.

"Four soldiers on board were injured when the pilot was forced to land the helicopter at Namche Bazaar on the base of Mt Everest's Nepali side in Solukhumbu District, some 300 kilometres east of Kathmandu," the official at RNA Public Relation Directorate told *Xinhua* on condition of anonymity.

Another 10 people on board suffered minor scratches and bruises, he noted, adding the helicopter also suffered damages.

The injured four were airlifted to Kathmandu and are being treated at the Army hospital at Chhauni, he revealed.—MNA/Xinhua

## Comprehensive investigation planned into ancient section of Great Wall

SHIJIAZHUANG, 29 Dec— China is preparing the first comprehensive investigation of the Great Wall section that was built during Qin Dynasty (475-221 BC), according to the China Great Wall Society on Wednesday.

The programme will start in April or May next year, said Dong Yaohui, vice-chairman and secretary-general of China Great Wall Society.

The society has already performed a comprehensive investigation into the section built during the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644).

The section built during Qin Dynasty, built more than 2,000 years ago, is experiencing extreme man-made and natural destruction. The section is poorly understood or protected, Dong said.

China's first Emperor, Qinshihuang, founder of Qin Dynasty, had the Great Wall built as a defence against attack by the Xiongnu, an ancient nationality in north China. Researchers believed that the vast project was built by over one million workers in 12 years.

MNA/Xinhua

## Wildfires kill four in southern US

WASHINGTON, 30 Dec — Wildfires have left at least four people dead and about 100 homes destroyed in southern US states of Texas and Oklahoma, US media reported on Wednesday.

In the hardest-hit town of Cross Plains, Texas, about 50 homes were destroyed and two elderly women were killed.

In Callisburg, Oklahoma, another woman apparently fell and broke her hip and could not get out of her home before it was destroyed. All together, the wildfires destroyed 78 homes in Texas and two dozens more in Oklahoma. Since Monday, at least 73 blazes have been reported in Texas and dozens more in Oklahoma.

MNA/Xinhua

## UNSG hails China's constructive role on World Stage

UNITED NATIONS, 30 Dec — UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan on Wednesday sent his sincere wishes to the Chinese people for the coming New Year, praising China's contribution to the international community in fields of security, development and human rights.

The United Nations must adapt to new realities in the 21st Century, and be equipped to deal with new challenges, the Secretary-General said in a New Year's message for *Xinhua*.

"As we tackle the challenges ahead, what China does, and how China fares, will have an increasing profound effect," he stressed.

"This is true of our ability to reach the Millennium Development

Goals (MDGs), as well as our capacity to provide multilateral solutions to international peace and collective security," Annan added.

The Secretary-General noted that "China's ongoing transformation, its growing constructive global leadership, and its dynamic engagement with the United Nations give us real cause for optimism."

On issue of development, he stressed

that China is already on its way to meeting most of the MDGs.

"I am particularly heartened by the close synergy between the MDGs on the one hand, and China's Xiaokang vision of balanced development and putting people first on the other," the secretary-general said.

MNA/Xinhua



A Christmas tree and the GUM department store, decorated for New Year and Christmas celebrations, are reflected in melted snow on Red Square in Moscow, on 29 Dec, 2005.—INTERNET

## Cold snap to tighten grip on Britain

LONDON, 30 Dec — A cold snap will grip Britain for a third day on Thursday, with temperatures plunging as low as minus 7 degrees Celsius (19.4 Fahrenheit), forecasters said.

The Met Office issued severe weather warnings for large parts of eastern England and Scotland and said snow and freezing fog threatened to make the roads treacherous.

"Untreated roads and pavements will be icy and

the public is advised to take care," the Met Office said.

The weather has caused severe disruption on trains and roads, especially in eastern and southeast England where there were reports of up to 0.3 metres (12 inches) of snow.

Delays and cancellations on the rail network meant many commuters were unable to return to work after the Christmas break on Wednesday.

Police closed roads in Kent and Sussex after heavy snow showers. However, motoring

organizations said traffic was light on many routes after drivers followed their advice to stay at home during the icy weather.

The Highways Agency said motorists should watch out for patches of freezing fog and snow showers overnight on Thursday.

MNA/Reuters

## 2,000 evacuated in California

### Disneyland Hotel fire

LOS ANGELES, 30 Dec — More than 2,000 guests were evacuated from the Disneyland Grand Californian Hotel, at the world-famous amusement park in Anaheim, on Wednesday after a Christmas tree caught fire in the lobby.

Two minor injuries were reported in the blaze, which broke out about 3 a.m. local time (6am EST) on the artificial, 35-foot (10.5-metre) tree at the 745-room hotel.

"It was electrical in nature. It was the lights on the Christmas tree," Anaheim Fire Department spokeswoman Maria Sabol told reporters. She said the hotel sustained moderate water and smoke damage, and guests were allowed to return to their rooms within a few hours.

"It was scary and cold and I didn't have shoes on

or anything," guest Jillian LaPolla told local KNBC-TV.

A Disney spokesman could not immediately be reached for comment.

MNA/Reuters

## Two US soldiers wounded as vehicle runs over mine in Afghanistan

KABUL, 30 Dec — Two US soldiers were injured as their vehicle hit a mine in southern Helmand Province on Thursday, a local official said on condition of anonymity.

"The incident took place in Grishk district on Herat-Kandahar Highway this morning," an intelligence official told *Xinhua* but refused to be named.

This is the second attack on the US military in Afghanistan over the past two days. Early attack on the American forces in eastern Kunar Province left one dead and two wounded on Wednesday.

Over 80 US soldiers have been killed in the post-Taliban Afghanistan throughout the outgoing year.

The clashes between Taliban-led militants and government troops and US-led coalition forces have claimed the lives of more than 1,500 people, mostly militants, since the beginning of 2005. —MNA/Xinhua

## Bangladeshi RMG products seeking duty-free access to US market

DHAKA, 30 Dec — Bangladeshi readymade garment (RMG) exporters and experts are conducting research on ways to ensure duty-free access of some less important RMG products to the US markets.

Local daily The Financial Express quoted exporters and experts as saying on Thursday that under the new World Trade Organization (WTO) deal, there is no chance of duty-free access for the major RMG products of Bangladesh to the United States, but if the US buyers relax their import approach, there could be some chances of getting duty-free access of less important garment items.

Hoping against hope, the RMG exporters and experts are taking preparation to select the suitable digits under which Bangladeshi garment

products can still get duty-free access to the US market to a limited extent, the daily said.

"We are doing homework to select the digits that may be suitable for the Bangladeshi RMG products for entering into the US market under duty-free category. Both eight and 10 digits may be suitable for Bangladesh, as the matter is still under consideration," Research Director of the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) Mustafizur Rahman was quoted by the daily as saying.

He said after concluding the research, Bangladesh would

propose its suitable digit to the US authorities for getting duty-free access at the first follow-up meeting of the WTO Hong Kong Ministerial, which is scheduled to be held in Geneva next year.

Former President of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) Anisul Huq was quoted as saying that the higher numerical digit like 10-digit might be suitable for Bangladesh as there is still a chance for duty-free access of some less important RMG products to the US market under this category.

MNA/Xinhua



An Afghan policeman stands near the site of a bombing incident in the Afghan town of Spin Boldak bordering Pakistan on 29 December, 2005. Two would-be suicide bombers blew themselves up while strapping on explosives in an Afghan town bordering Pakistan on Thursday, police said.—INTERNET

## US soldier killed in bomb attack in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 30 Dec — One US soldier was killed when a roadside bomb hit his patrol in eastern Baghdad on Thursday, the US military said in a statement.

The statement did not provide further details about the attack, saying the incident is under investigation.

The name of the soldier is being withheld pending notification of next of kin, it added.

The death brought to more than 2,170 the number of US military personnel killed in Iraq since the US-led invasion in March 2003, according to media tally.

MNA/Xinhua



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win seen at Motion Picture Academy awards presentation ceremony for 2004 (News on page 1).—MNA

**CEC member tours...**

(from page 16)

On 26 December, they attended the opening ceremony of Basic Vocational Course No 23 at Vocation Training School in Ye.

In the afternoon, the CEC member met with local people, social organizations members at BEPS in Setse Model Village of Thanbyuzayat Township. In the evening, the CEC member called on departmental officials and executives at Thanbyuzayat Township USDA Office, and gave instructions on rural development, health and education matters, realization of the seven-point Road Map, and participation for achieving success in holding the National Convention. — MNA

**Wanetkon model village...**

(from page 16)

The commander and party also inspected YaungchiU library and contributed various journals to the library.

On arrival at Moethaukkye pre-primary school of village MCWA, the commander and wife presented toys to the children.

The membership applications presentation ceremony of MCWA took place at the post-primary school of the village.

Daw Saw Shwe, chairperson of District MCWSC handed 8000 membership applications to Chairperson of Division MCWSC Daw Khin Thet Htay.

The commander donated K 100,000 to the model village through chairman U Thein Lwin of village PDC for the development tasks.

Chairperson Daw Khin Thet Htay presented MCWA uniforms to Daw Htwe Yi, chairperson of village MCWA.

For village development tasks, the wellwishers donated K 1.7 million to the village.

In his speech, the commander said that the model village is one of the five villages, which have

been opened in Yangon Division in 2005. The progress of education, health, economy and transportation sectors of the village could be witnessed through the endeavours of the State and the people.

The village now has the quality of a model village.

MCWA Chairperson Daw Khin Thet Htay expressed gladness for opening the model village and the ceremony ended.

MNA



Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan presents the best actor award to Lwin Moe. — NLM



Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan presents the best director award to Zin Yaw Maung Maung.

NLM



Information Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan presents the best supporting actress award to Soe Myat Nanda.—NLM



A scene from "Hlyohwat-thaw-hnin (Mystery of Snow Story)".

NLM

Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan presents the best actress award to Eindra Kyaw Zin.

NLM



## HAILING THE 58TH ANNIVERSARY INDEPENDENCE DAY

# Perpetuation of Myanmar independence and sovereignty — 1

Thiha Aung

The national races of Myanmar are people with fine traditions and lineage and Myanmar is their home since time immemorial. They have the glorious history of never yielding to any intruders in defending their motherland.

The people have evolved from a single stock of family within the territory which we now called Myanmar. Thus we all should take lessons from the long history for perpetuation of the race and the country.

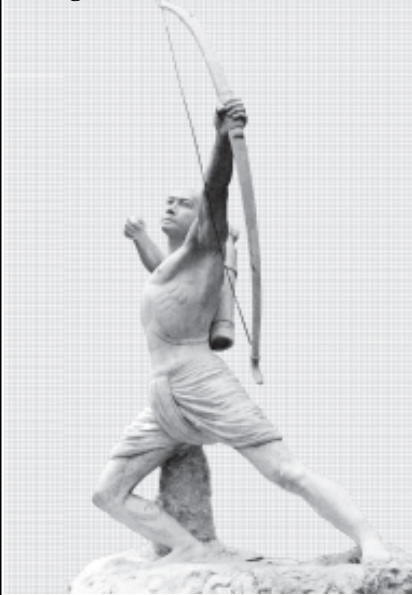
Throughout history, Myanmar were able to build a strong country during the times when they could foster unity and preserve and promote national prestige. The Bagan period, the Toungoo period and the Konbaund period bear witness to the fact. But Myanmar lost her independence and sovereignty when unity broke down, national prestige got neglected and some people began to think highly of foreigners. The nation was under enslavement for over 100 years.

Concerning the perpetuation of independence and sovereignty of Myanmar, Head of State Senior General Than Shwe once said, **“What every citizen should carry out without fail is ensuring of perpetuity of national sovereignty. The task of ensuring national sovereignty, in other words, means defending and safeguarding the independence so that it may never be lost again. If taken for granted, independence can be lost all of a sudden to alien subjugation. The struggle to regain it, however, may cost much blood, sweat and life. We must never lower our vigilance and must always be watching the steps of the foreign enemies and their lackeys.**

**“In this modern age the neo-colonialists do not use the method of openly occupying the land or the country as in the old colonial days but they use the subtle method of gradually swallowing up the target nation through ideological means and if the people are not vigilant and clever enough, then they would relapse into servitude.”**

He made the speech at the ceremony at which

**Cherish the Independence,  
safeguard it at the risk of lives**



116 teachers trained by Academy for Development of National Groups sought guidance from him, for the entire nation to take lesson from history.

History saw the domination of the capitalist British on the feudal countries with its superior firepower. The British that colonized India ignited the First Anglo-Myanmar War in 1824 to initiate plans to put Myanmar into its empire.

The war broke out because the colonialists seized the Myanmar-owned Shinma Phyu Island in addition to interfering in the Myanmar's affairs in connection with Assam and Manipur that were included in Myanmar territory then. The then British governor-general of India declared war on Myanmar on 5 March 1824. The first war lasted for two years from 1824 to 1826.

Myanmar lost the war gradually because of the superior firepower of the colonialists. The war ended with Yandabo Agreement, and Myanmar had to give Rakhine and Taninthayi regions to the colonialists. But local patriots fought back the colonialists till 1843. But the enemy was too strong. Thus, Myanmar was unable to take back her lost territories.

their French rivals.

At that time, unity was lost in the royal palace of Myanmar. Some royal family members were trying to enable the motherland to be on a par with the world nations, while some wished to loyally serve British colonialists, and some wrongly believed that the intruders would handle the internal affairs of Myanmar in a just and fair way. Taking advantage of Myanmar's waning strength in various aspects, British colonialists declared war on Myanmar on 11 November 1885. Myanmar forces launched defensive attacks on the invaders step by step, but Myanmar was defeated as it could not effectively mobilize the strength of the people.

**On 28 November the same year, the troops of the British placed the Mandalay Royal Palace a siege and dethroned King Thibaw. The war was very short, and it lasted only 18 days. It can be said that Myanmar lost its independence in a very short time. On 1 January 1886, the entire Myanmar fell under servitude of the British colonialists.**

The policy of the colonialists was to send into exile the Myanmar king, to completely get the entire

**Myanmar lost its independence all of a sudden but it took more than one hundred years for her to regain it. To regain the independence, a variety of national political movements had to be launched stage by stage. Myanmar had to sacrifice a lot of lives, blood and sweat of its national people by launching the Peasants' Uprising, the Myanmar Year 1300 Uprising, and anti-Fascist resistance. Then, the Myanmar Tatmadaw fully equipped with Union Spirit was formed with the youths of national races. Hand in hand with the Tatmadaw, the entire national people took part in the national liberation campaign.**

According to their scheme to seize Myanmar part by part, the colonialists launched an undeclared war against Myanmar in April 1852. The Second Anglo-Myanmar War lasted only nine months. The colonialists announced that they had occupied lower Myanmar on 20 December 1852.

But the colonialists who seized lower Myanmar by force faced the struggle of Myanmar locals to drive them out of all the occupied territories. The colonialists had to crush the struggles launched against them by Mon, Kayin and Bamar patriots led by Bo Myat Tun and Bo Gaunggyi for six years with many casualties.

The Second Anglo-Myanmar War was like dividing Myanmar into two parts. The upper Myanmar was a feudal state, while the colonized lower Myanmar began to taste capitalism. During 30 years of occupation from 1852 to 1885, the colonialists suppressed the lower Myanmar with their administrative, economic and cultural tools to enforce their rule all over it.

At the same time, the colonialist spies were penetrating the court in Mandalay in upper Myanmar and were recruiting stooges. The colonialist spies tried to drive a wedge in the court to cause cracks in the palace.

During the time the French, the rival of the British, were dominating some parts of Southeast Asia. Geographically, Myanmar is located between the two most populous nations — China and India. The British who occupied India tried to penetrate China through Myanmar. The British launched the Third Anglo-Myanmar War to stay one jump ahead of

national people under their thumb, and to reduce the Myanmar king and people to utter misery. It was too late when the entire national people realized the ulterior motive of British colonialists, and they came under the yoke of the colonialists.

There had been firm evidences that since the time prior to the Third Anglo-Myanmar War, the colonialists had interfered intentionally in the internal affairs of Myanmar and tarnished her image using the method as a propaganda weapon. The colonialists misled Myanmar as well as international community into their slanderous fabrications. The British colonialists made Myanmar nationals with fine traditions get dazzled momentarily, and colonized the country in a short time.

Due to the clever ways of the colonialists, some nationals were even in a daze. But, those equipped with patriotic fervour did not yield to the wicked. There were many national patriotic soldiers who stayed hidden after giving up their arms despite the order of their superiors to surrender to the intruders in the battles between the colonialists and Myanmar. There were also many national patriots who refused to receive the incentives of the colonialists and sacrificed their lives in the fight against the troops of the colonialists.

Patriotic nationals living in the plains or hilly regions launched anti-colonialists battles. The anti-colonialists battles lasted for about five years till 1890. The anti-colonialists battles launched region-wise lasted for ten years.

(See page 9)



# Communication sector witnesses sustained progress

## Development of communication in the time of the Tatmadaw government

### Every region enjoying better and more communication services

Communication is essential for a nation today, an ever-changing period. That is proved vividly in the areas with poor transport. So, the government has placed emphasis on the development of the communi-

cation sector and establishment of a communication network covering the entire nation.

With smooth transport, communication services are making progress dramatically in Myanmar. National people have an

easy access to modern communication systems apart from the means of post, telegraph and telephone.

Now, each and every region in Myanmar has been served with microwave stations and local ground satellite stations in addition to post offices, telegraph offices, and auto exchange stations. A citizen can communicate another in rural regions through microwave stations. The regions where there are no auto exchange sta-

tions have been facilitated with DOMSAT stations, VSAT stations, and PSTAR stations through local ground satellite stations.

Better transport in the time of the Tatmadaw Government has helped promote trade and enhance mutual assistance and amicable relations between national races. The following table shows an increase in the number of communication services.

*Microwave tower of Myanma Posts and Telecommunications in Taunggyi, Shan State (East).*



#### Progress in communication services

Sr	Subject	1988	2005	Progress
1	Auto exchange	67016	464971	397955
2	Microwave station	71	226	155
3	Microwave link	21	111	80
4	Internet	-	76	76
5	e-Mail	-	6000	6000
6.	Ground satellite station	-	15	15

## Hands clasped in Independence Let's be united forever

- \* Myanmar once Independent  
Got into the quagmire, and enslaved  
That it should not happen again  
Nationalist blood, discuss and confer  
According to our programme  
For all Myanmar, to prosper always  
The great Convention is being held  
And is now being implemented.
- \* United is now, Myanmar nation  
Be thoughtful, and helpful  
During that time, ancient  
We banished our wrong thoughts  
We proved by our blood,  
We were our own kin  
And proved with our blood  
Had our hands clasped for Myanmar  
And proved ourselves strong.
- \* Myanmar nation proved herself strong  
The building rising sky high  
With these high-rises  
And spanned with bridges, snaking rivers  
Also tunneled through high mountains  
Building our new modern nation  
To be prettier and more beautiful  
We've been able to construct.
- \* Because Myanmar nation is independent  
We've made it more prosperous,  
And achieved what we have.
- \* Because Myanmar nation is independent  
Vying in strength with the world  
We've shown ourselves equal to others.
- \* O, hands that were clasped for Independence  
Only if we're united forever  
Myanmar's pride will be lofty  
And will be bright as the sun and the moon.

(Hailing the 58<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Independence Day)

Khun Ye Thway (Ayethaya) (Trs)

## Perpetuation of Myanmar...

(from page 8)

Although it took the colonialists only a short period to make Myanmar lose her independence, they had to take 15 years to suppress the anti-colonialists battles launched by the national people fully imbued with nationalistic fervour. Later, the colonialists came to be convinced well that they could not suppress the patriotism of Myanmar nationals and could not easily break the strength of unity of the people. Then the colonialists introduced the divide-and-rule policy to quell the patriotic spirit and nationalistic spirit of national people.

Indeed, the national races living in the Union are armed with nationalistic spirit. There has been a tradition in Myanmar that national people protect and safeguard the motherland at risk to their lives if necessary in times of emergency. The colonialists plotted schemes in a very clever way to get rid of such a fine tradition of national races. Myanmar nationals did not give up their struggles in launching battles against the colonialists even though their strength was much inferior to that of the colonialists. In the early 1990s, the patriots regenerated the patriotic

fervour and fine traditions of national people and put them on an alert. With flourishing patriotism and Union Spirit, Myanmar nationals went on anti-colonialist combats on a wider scale through the might of sheer unity.

Myanmar lost its independence all of a sudden but it took more than one hundred years for her to regain it. To regain the independence, a variety of national political movements had to be launched stage by stage. Myanmar had to sacrifice a lot of lives, blood and sweat of its national people by launching the Peasants' Uprising, the Myanmar Year 1300 Uprising, and anti-Fascist resistance. Then, the Myanmar Tatmadaw fully equipped with Union Spirit was formed with the youths of national races. Hand in hand with the Tatmadaw, the entire national people took part in the national liberation campaign.

Myanmar managed to regain her independence on 4 January 1948 that she lost for more than one hundred years. The entire national people could thus celebrate such a sweet result.

In fact, the national political leaders and patriotic people brilliantly performed to regain independence and sovereignty, which Myanmar once

lost owing to hegemony of the British colonialists, and handed down independence and sovereignty to their posterity as invaluable heritage. Therefore, today's national people are to be capable of safeguarding the mother country in order that neo-colonialists cannot have an advantage to manipulate the independence and sovereignty of the nation again.

The onus is therefore on each and every citizen to constantly have political, economic and cultural awareness so that Myanmar will never fall under alien subjugation and never become a lackey nation of colonialists. In this regard, it is important to constantly keep a watchful eye on the steps of the neo-colonialists and their minions and to protect the nation from such grave dangers. Ensuring perpetuation of Myanmar's independence and sovereignty is a national duty to which today's entire national people must see without fail.

(I will soon continue to present fine traditions of preserving Myanmar independence and sovereignty for ensuring its perpetual existence.)

Translation: TMT + MS  
(Myanma Ailin: 30-12-2006)

\* \* \*



Secretary-1 Li-Gen Thein Sein attends the Motion Picture Academy Awards Presentation Ceremony, and Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan gives an address.—NLM

**Motion Picture Academy Awards...**

(from page 1)

I would like to also thank you for being with us on the occasion. On this occasion, outstanding artists and technicians

tion, some of Myanmar films were shown at Africa Cape Town Film Festival and Golden Cock Film Festival held in the People's Republic of

Now it is heartening to see that Myanmar film world has made a significant progress due to the coordinated efforts of executives of the Asiayon. I have often briefed on the five objectives that those

studios individually or in groups with the assistance of the State within its framework, (2) to operate editing machines that can edit stereo sound system, (3) to strive to have video cameras of international standard and modern film equipment, (4) to upgrade private-owned and rented cinemas in the nation and (5) to build cinema halls of international standard in Yangon and Mandalay.

Therefore, all of the film world as well as Myanmar Movie Asiayon are urged to realize above-mentioned objectives with added momentum for the development of Myanmar movie industry.

As mentioned at last year's Academy Awards Ceremony, foreign movies and CDs are flooding into Myanmar and they outnumber domestic films. They are a threat to Myanmar film and video industries as well as to national culture, nationalism, patriotism and Union Spirit. Only when this threat is removed will there be improvement in Myanmar film and video industries. National culture, nationalism, patriotism and Union Spirit will flourish and can be preserved for keeps as well. Besides, Myanmar movie industry still has its weaknesses in various sectors. Only when there are some modifications will the standard of Myanmar film world improve and it will be able to deal with media challenges. This is why I have often mentioned the 12 other points that should be adopted by the film world at the previous ceremonies and in meeting with movie artistes and technicians. In doing so, no doubt we can achieve the success of the film

world if we have vision, fairness, diligence, unity and patience. The ministry on its part will render its assistance in developing the film world. In selecting outstanding artistes and technicians, Myanmar Motion Picture Award Selecting Committee has systematically scrutinized based on the seven principles of motion picture law. Awards have been selected out of twenty seven films made during the year of 2004 after thorough scrutiny. I would like to urge those who are awarded this year to make efforts for more awards and those who have not been awarded to try to become outstanding ones.

It is found that film artistes and technicians actively participated in Myanmar's independence struggle, safeguarding the independence, ensuring peace and stability of the State and national development drive in the past. And they are found to continue their participation in these tasks. In the future also, you, films artistes and technicians, are to lend yourselves to the building of a discipline-flourishing democratic nation in accord with the seven-point Road Map of the State by

upholding Union Spirit and Our Three Main National Causes.

In conclusion, emphasis is to be placed on the realization of the five objectives and five tasks as have been mentioned above. Measures are to be taken for the improvement of Myanmar movie standard and widening of film market. Film artistes and technicians are to strive for the development of Myanmar film world under the leadership of Myanmar Motion Picture Asiayon. They are to safeguard Myanmar cultural heritage, national characters by doing their bit in respective roles. They are to join hands with the government and national people in building a peaceful, modern and developed democratic country.

Next, the list of Academy Award winners was announced. Best Film Editing Award to Zaw Min(Hanthamyay) for his work in "Hlyo-hwat-thaw-hnin"; Best Scriptwriter Award to Nyein Min for his work in "Hlyo-hwat-thaw-hnin (Mystery of the Snow Story)", Best Cinematography Award to Ko Ko Htay (Htaiktan) for his work in "Hlyo-hwat-thaw-hnin", Best

(See page 11)



Actor Lwin Moe. — NLM



Actress Eindra Kyaw Zin. — NLM

for Myanmar movies made in 2004 will be awarded. The State has presented Myanmar Academy awards since 1952 with a view to developing Myanmar film world. In doing so, genres of academy award have been extended and now there are a total of 11 genres. So far 279 awards have been presented. Besides, measures are being taken to raise the quality of Myanmar films and to ensure the participation of Myanmar in foreign film festivals and the penetration of Myanmar films into foreign nations. Myanmar films of high standard were shown and Myanmar artistes and technicians participated at Myanmar Film Festival held in Singapore this year and the festival held to mark the 30th establishing anniversary of Myanmar-Korea diplomatic relations. In addition,

China. Myanmar films could be introduced in Malaysia and Australia. Now the Ministry of Information is giving all necessary assistance for the Myanmar movies to participate in the film festivals of France, India and Japan. It is also taking measures to upgrade machines and equipment used for film-shooting. These are the efforts of the government to ensure the development of Myanmar film world and Myanmar movie standard. That is why I would like to urge those of Myanmar film world to keep in mind that raising the standard of Myanmar films and expanding the market are instrumental for the development of Myanmar film world and to keep the development momentum.

For the development of Myanmar film world, the State has reconstituted Myanmar Movie Asiayon.

of the film world shall have to realize. Taken an opportunity on this occasion I would like to brief on these five objectives again. They are: (1) to strive for the development of Myanmar film and video industry so as to raise socio-economic life of film artistes and technicians, (2) to strive for the development of Myanmar film and video production technology, (3) to strive for the enhancement of Myanmar film and video production standard, (4) to strive for the penetration of Myanmar films and videos into foreign market and (5) to discharge national duties in cooperation with the government.

Moreover, I have mentioned there are also five tasks that movie proprietors shall have to implement under the leadership of Myanmar Movie Asiayon. They are: (1) to try to establish modern

Actress Soe Myat Nanda poses with academy awards. NLM



## Motion Picture Academy...

(from page 10)

Music Award to Sein Mutta (Mandalay) for his work in "Pann-dannar-yi", Best Sound Award to Aye Myint for his work in "Hlyo-hwat-thaw-hnin"; Best Supporting Actor Award to Nyunt Win for his performance in "Hlyo-hwat-thaw-hnin"; Best Film Award to



Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan presents the best supporting actor award to Nyunt Win. — NLM



Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan presents the best director award to Zin Yaw Maung. — NLM



Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan presents the best scriptwriter award to Nyein Min.—NLM



Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan presents the sound award to Aye Myint.—NLM

Zin Yaw Film Production with "Hlyo-hwat-thaw-hnin"; Best Supporting Actress Award to Soe Myat Nandar for her performance in "Chit-chin-nge-pyaing"; Best Actress Award to Eindra Kyaw Zin for her performance in "Myat-nar-myar-te-maung"; Best Director Award to Zinyaw Maung Maung for his work in "Hlyo-hwat-thaw-hnin" and Best Actor Award to Lwin Moe for his performance in "Takh-ar-ga-Ayeyawady-nya-mya". Some good scenes that helped them win the awards were shown. Next, Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan presented motion picture award for 2004 and K 100,000 each contributed by Super Coffee Mix and Laser Toothpaste to the winners.

The award winners spoke words of thanks and the ceremony came to an end. After the ceremony, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and party cordially greeted the award winners. — MNA

## Development of rural areas...

(from page 16)

Affairs Organization, Maternal and Child Welfare Association, and rural health care centre.

The opening of the school building of Larpot Basic Education High School (branch) took place. The chairman of District PDC, Col Soe Hlaing of No 3 Military Engineering Unit, Division Education Officer U Toe Maung cut the ribbon to open the facility.

The commander and the minister and party inspected the multimedia teaching centre and domestic science room.

Next, they inspected health care services given at the halls of the school by specialists led by the medical superintendent of the division people's hospital.

They watched entertainment programmes presented by the schoolchildren at the music room and presented cash awards to the performers.

Afterwards, they viewed the focus group discussions on the women's affairs organization and maternal and child welfare association, objectives, social, education, and health care sectors, and rural development tasks held by Chairperson of Division WAO Daw San Myint and party with local womenfolk.

They viewed jatropa curcas saplings, fruits, seeds and oil, production of jatropa curcas oil, and demonstration of paddy winnowing with Leya-16 brand power-tillers run with the use of diesel-substitute jatropa curcas oil.

The commander and party held a meeting at the pavilion in the school compound with members of social organizations, townelders and local people.

In his speech, the commander expressed his pleasure to witness the rapid development of Larpot model village. The government is now building a peaceful, modern and developed democratic nation with flourishing discipline.

In its drive for national development, the government is implementing border areas and national races development plan, rural development tasks and the 24-special development regions project. The development of rural areas where 70 per cent of the nation's population live means the development of the entire nation. The tasks for the development of urban regions in which 30 per cent of the nation's population live have been completed. Measures are being taken for reduction of the development gap between urban and rural areas.

The government is investing heavily in the building of irrigation facilities for supply of water that plays an important role in the agricultural sector.

With the emergence of Monywa-Yagyi-Kalewa Road and boosting production of crops, local farmers have enjoyed a high living standard.

The government, local people and wellwishers have fulfilled the requirements for the development in the transport, health and education sectors.

Now, rural areas have enjoyed the fruit of higher living standard with better economy thanks to the farsightedness of the Head of State, and harmonious cooperation of the government, the people and the Tatmadaw.

He said he would like to recognize the enthusiastic participation of local people in the drive for upgrading



Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan presents the best editing award to Zaw Min (Hantamyay). — NLM



Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan presents the best music award to Sein Mutta (Mandalay). — NLM



Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan presents the best cinema to graphy award to Ko Ko Htay (Hteiktan Film). — NLM

of Larpot village to a model village with all-round development, calling for preservation of the fine traditions to maintain the already-achieved momentum.

Larpot village being upgraded to a model one, the villagers on their part are to enhance their moral conduct, reasoning power, and conceptions.

In conclusion, he called on the officials, village elders and local people to continue to carry out development tasks collectively and to use the facilities efficiently for the development of the village and raising the standard of living of the people.

The minister called on local people to cooperate harmoniously with the officials concerned in the development tasks, and elaborated matters on the successful convening of the National Convention by the government for the drafting of the State Constitution in accord with the State's seven-point Road Map for the emergence of a peaceful, modern, developed and discipline flourishing democratic nation.

The commander and the minister presented TV sets, exercise books, sports gear and publications to the villages through the officials.

Organizer of the village USDA U Moe Nyo presented 1,200 membership applications to the CEC member.

## Boeing to sign \$10m offset agreement with Hungary

**BUDAPEST, 29 Dec**— Boeing, the main contractor for modernizing NATO's fleet armed with the Airborne Early Warning and Control System, or AWACS, is expected to sign an offset agreement worth 10 million US dollars with Hungary in the first quarter of 2006, a Hungarian official said on Wednesday.

The amount contains 2.5 million dollars worth of purchases from the American aircraft manufacturer dating to 2001, when Hungary decided to acquire *Gripen* fighter planes from Sweden instead of US *F-16 fighters*, said Sandor Szabo, head of the Economics and Transport

Ministry's offsetting department.

The accord will be a follow-up to the December 22 agreement under which Hungary joined the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)'s Airborne Early Warning and Control Programme Organization.

According to the new offset trade principle, the new offset agreement will prioritize projects designed to boost the development of the Hungarian defence industry, the Economics and Transport Ministry noted in a document released on Wednesday.

MNA/Xinhua



People stroll at the 'Tuilleries' gardens following a snowfall in Paris, on 28 Dec, 2005. —INTERNET

## Bangladesh's urban population to reach 99m by 2030

**DHAKA, 29 Dec** — The World Bank (WB) forecast urban population in Bangladesh would increase to 99 million by the year 2030 from existing 29 million.

The WB development database indicators mentioned the population density in four city corporations including Dhaka, Chittagong (in southeastern Bangladesh), Khulna (in southwestern Bangladesh) and Rajshahi (in western Bangladesh), increased from 42 to 52 per cent over the last three decades, local daily *The Financial Express* reported on Wednesday.

The report revealed that during the last two

decades in an urbanization process, urban population has rapidly been increasing in few large cities, whereas in Dhaka city, the agglomeration of urban population increased between 1981 and 2001 from 25 to 34 per cent.

The report predicted high concentration of urbanization process in urban areas may lead to reductions of GDP (Gross Domestic Product) by 1 per cent owing to more population in the low

income group.

The report said several features of the urbanization process which is responsible for rising concerns about the regional balance for congenial economic development. According to last population census in 2001, the urban population in the country was estimated at 29 million, while it was only five million in 1970.

According to the report, most entrepreneurs want to locate in the major

industries places where they have easy access to regulatory agencies, licencing and private sector function such as advance financial services.

Easy access to major infrastructure service and exports linkage along with skilled workers may fall into a concentration especially for the country's garments industry mostly in Dhaka and Chittagong, the report observed.

MNA/Xinhua

## Turkey discovers new H5 bird flu cases

**ANKARA, 29 Dec**—The Turkish Ministry of Agriculture reported Tuesday that some dead chickens had tested positive for an H5 variant of avian flu, and that parts of an eastern town had been put under quarantine.

The virus was found on Monday in samples taken from the town of Aralik, in the Igdır Province bordering Armenia, where deaths of chickens have been reported in recent days, the ministry's statement said.

The authorities have culled about 360 chickens to prevent the virus from spreading, saying that all necessary measures were being taken. The samples would be sent to laboratories in Europe to see if the virus is H5N1, the ministry also reported, adding that neighbouring countries and international bodies would be notified. It was thought that the virus had been brought to Turkey by birds migrating from the Caucasus region. — MNA/Xinhua

## Spanish police capture Italian Mafia's finance chief

**MADRID, 29 Dec**— The Spanish police arrested the finance chief of the Naples Mafia in the Canary Islands after a two-year search, the Interior Ministry said on Wednesday.

Peitro Nocera, 47, is the front man for Camorra boss Angelo Nuvoleta and he has been on the run for two years from Italian police.

Nocera was first detected in 2004 in the

Canary Islands, a popular tourist destination off the northwestern coast of Africa, but the police were not able to capture him then, said the ministry.

He was again tracked down to the Spanish

archipelago this year, but he managed to dodge police by frequently changing abode and occasionally hiding on a boat he owned, said the Interior Ministry.

MNA/Xinhua

## 5,000 houses completed for tsunami survivors in Sri Lanka

**GENEVA, 29 Dec**— A year after the Indian Ocean tsunami, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) said Tuesday that it has completed the construction of over 5,000 transitional houses and over 25,000 tsunami survivors now live in them.

"Working closely with the government, IOM and other agencies have kept up a frantic pace in the past months to provide relief and lay the foundations for a full recovery," Chris Gascon, chief of IOM's mission in Sri Lanka, said in a

statement.

IOM houses are designed to last up to two years, and the beneficiaries are expected to live in these houses until permanent housing is built by the government and non-governmental agencies involved in

reconstruction efforts, said the statement.

Besides constructing transitional houses, IOM has also been involved in upgrading emergency shelters provided by various agencies soon after the tsunami.

MNA/Xinhua



A US soldier carries a 105mm round to members of his firing team at their station at Camp Liberty, Iraq, on 28 Dec, 2005. — INTERNET

## China attaches no strings to Africa aid

**BELING, 29 Dec**— China's increasing presence and investment in Africa are motivated by nothing more than goodwill towards Africans, Chinese state media said on Tuesday, though the West might say otherwise.

China was determined to deepen ties with African nations and increase already unprecedented investment "in an effort to improve African people's living standards", the *Xinhua* news agency reported.

"China has never attached any political conditions to its aid in Africa," it said.

Foreign governments, however, are wary of China's methods and motives in its Africa drive.

China supported African revolutionary movements struggling for independence in the 1960s and 70s, and today, with its expanding economy ever more thirsty for oil and raw materials, is working to turn that history of cooperation

into concrete energy and investment deals.

By focusing on Africa, China has gained allies for its claim to self-ruled Taiwan and support on the world stage from a corner of the globe where the influence of the United States and former European colonial powers is on the wane.

MNA/Reuters

ပညာရေးဖြင့် ဒေသစီမံပြီးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်ဖို့

### Study shows vitamin D lowers cancer risk

Washington, 29 Dec— Cancer researchers urged people on Wednesday to take more Vitamin D to lower their risk of colon, breast and ovarian cancer, saying studies showed a clear link.

"Our suggestion is for people to increase their intake," through diet or a vitamin supplement, Dr. Cedric Garland said in a telephone interview.

Garland's research team reviewed 63 studies, including several large long-term ones, on the relationship between Vitamin D and certain types of cancer worldwide between 1966 and 2004.

He said the benefit of Vitamin D was as clear as the harmful link between smoking and lung cancer.

"There's nothing that has this ability to prevent cancer," he said, urging governments and public health officials to do more to fortify foods with Vitamin D.

Garland is part of a University of California at San Diego Moores Cancer Centre team that published its findings this week online in the American Journal of Public Health.

The paper concluded

that Vitamin D deficiency may account for several thousand premature deaths from colon, breast, ovarian and other cancers annually. Vitamin D is found in milk, as well as in some fortified orange juice, yogurt and cheeses, usually at around 100 international units (IU) a serving. People might

want to consider a vitamin supplement to raise their intake to 1,000 IUs per day, Garland said, adding that it was well within the safety guidelines established by the National Academy of Sciences.

The authors said that taking more Vitamin D could be especially

important for people living in northern areas, which receive less Vitamin D from sunshine.

African Americans, who do not produce as much of the vitamin because of their skin pigment, could also benefit significantly from a higher intake, the authors said. —MNA/Reuters



The former French aircraft carrier Clemenceau is docked at the Toulon military harbour, southern France, on 29 Dec, 2005.—INTERNET

### Expert says China was the first to collect dinosaur fossils

GUIYANG, 29 Dec— China was probably the first country in the world to collect dinosaur fossils, a scientist has said.

"The Yue Kingdom in today's southeastern China had dinosaur fossils in 494 BC," said Sun Erhu, a research fellow with the Chengdu Institute of Biology under the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

In that year, the invading Wu Kingdom sieged Yue Kingdom's capital Kuaiji and captured a "mammoth skeleton" that had to be carried with a cart, according to "Shi Ji", or Historical Records, compiled by famous Chinese historian Sima Qian.

"I bet the skeleton was

actually a dinosaur fossil," Sun said after years of research.

"The kingdom of Wu thought it was priceless and asked the most knowledgeable people to evaluate it".

Sun said he read about such "mammoth skeletons" in earlier historical documents, too, and guessed these were the world's earliest collections of dinosaur fossils. "Most of them were captured during wars and were collected by the kings as treasures".

MNA/Xinhua

### Malian, Moroccan archaeological objects seized in France

PARIS, 29 Dec — More than 17,600 smuggled archaeological objects from Morocco and Mali were seized in November and December in south France, French Economy Ministry announced on Wednesday.

The first seizure was made in Arles on 15 November and contained great valued fossils from south Morocco and other African art objects hidden in a Moroccan-registered car heading for Germany.

Among the fossils are trilobites dating from some 250 millions years ago, a marine dinosaur maxilla of Mesozoic Time and some skulls of tortoises and crocodiles dating to the tertiary period (60 million years ago), said the ministry in a statement. Many small statues, earthenware and Malian jewellery of the Gao region, dating to some 1,500 BC were also in the seizure. The second seizure, made by Perpignan Customs on 14 December, contained 124 objects dating to the Neolithic era between 6,000 and 5,500 B.C. including arrowheads, axes and pearl necklaces, "proofs of neolithic rupestrian art of today's Sahel", according to the French ministry. — MNA/Xinhua

### Study says blood-thinner dose errors can cause bleeding

CHICAGO, 29 December 29 — Some heart patients are given too large a dose of blood thinner at the hospital, which can lead to excessive bleeding, researchers said on Tuesday.

The dosing errors found in 42 per cent of more than 30,000 cases stemmed from factors including physicians using a "one size fits all" dosing criteria, underestimation of the importance of using the right dosage or a lack of information about a patient's weight or other indicators.

The dosing errors with three classes of blood

thinners — unfractionated heparin, low-molecular-weight heparin and glycoprotein IIb/IIIa inhibitors — most often affected patients more vulnerable to bleeding such as the elderly, women, low-weight patients, diabetics, or patients with diminished renal function, the study said. The purpose of quickly

administering blood thinners, or antithrombotic therapy, is to prevent another heart attack or stroke, the report published in the Journal of the American Medical Association said.

Lead author Karen Alexander of Duke University in Durham, North Carolina, wrote that experts recognize that most drugs must be

administered within a "therapeutic window" — too much or too little can do harm.

Of the patients at 387 US hospitals studied over nine months, up to 15 per cent of those who received excessive doses of blood thinners had major bleeding events likely attributable to the too-large dose.

MNA/Reuters

### Moderate drinking may lower kidney cancer risk

NEW YORK, 29 Dec — Moderate alcohol intake appears to be associated with a decreased risk of kidney cancer in middle-aged and older women, according to a study conducted in Sweden.

Dr Alicja Wolk, of the Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, and colleagues examined data on 59,237 women who were 40 to 76 years of age and cancer-free between 1987 and 1990.

The women had completed a food-frequency questionnaire that included questions about alcohol intake.

A total of 132 cases of

kidney cancer — specifically a common type called renal cell carcinoma — were diagnosed by 2004, according to a report published in the International Journal of Cancer.

Overall, the women who drank at least one serving of alcohol per week had a 38-per-cent lower risk of renal cell

carcinoma than those who drank less. For women over 55 years old, the risk was reduced even more — by 66 per cent.

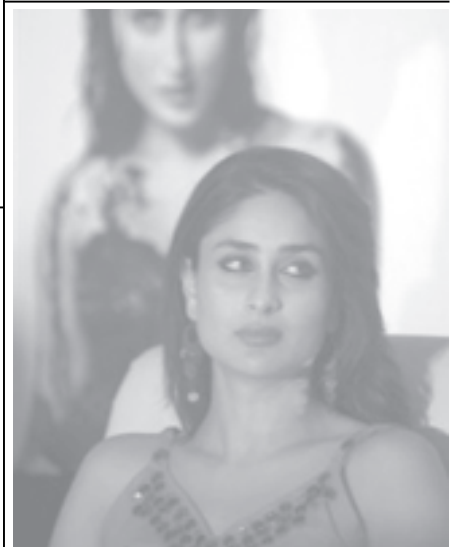
"The nature of the association between alcohol consumption and renal cell carcinoma is not well understood," Wolk and colleagues note.

"In postmenopausal women, moderate

consumption of alcohol was associated with decreased triglyceride concentrations," they point out.

"Thus, alcohol consumption has similar effects as cholesterol-lowering statin drugs ... use of which has been associated with a 20-per-cent decrease of renal cell carcinoma risk."

MNA/Reuters



Bollywood actress Kareena Kapoor sits next to her photograph during an event to celebrate 75-years of Lux in India, Mumbai, India, on 29 Dec, 2005. Lux, a personal wash brand was launched in India in 1929. —INTERNET

## SPORTS



Uruguay's Adrian Sarkissian (C) fights for the ball with Galicia's Pablo Alvarez during a friendly soccer match at San Lázaro Stadium in Santiago de Compostela, Spain, December 29, 2005. —INTERNET

### Solskjaer returns to action after 19 months

LONDON, 30 Dec — Manchester United's forgotten striker Ole Gunnar Solskjaer returned to action after a 19-month absence on Wednesday when he came on as a late substitute in the 2-2 draw at Birmingham City.

The 32-year-old's seven-minute cameo ended a long battle to recover from a serious knee injury that threatened to end the career of the player whose goal clinched the Champions League for United against Bayern Munich in 1999.

The Norway international now hopes to relaunch his stalled United career and begin adding to the 115 goals he has scored since joining as a virtual unknown from Molde in 1996.

"It's great to be back. It was fantastic," he told United TV station MUTV. "I proved to myself I can be involved in a Premiership game again.

"Hearing the fans when I came on was a fantastic feeling. That feeling has driven me on. That's why I went to the fans to wave to them at the end because they have been fantastic to me."

He added: "It's been a bit surreal — being injured for so long and still having everyone wanting you to get back. The fans have been great. They've seen me back, but hopefully they will see more, and some better performances from me.

MNA/Reuters

### Former world champion Fenech charged with shoplifting

MELBOURNE, 30 Dec — Former world boxing champion Jeff Fenech will appear in a Queensland court on Friday charged with shoplifting, Australian media said on Thursday. Queensland police confirmed a 41-year-old man from Sydney and a 58-year-old man also of Sydney were charged for allegedly stealing three watches worth a total of 400 Australian dollars (292 US dollars) from a shop on Queensland's Gold Coast on Wednesday.

Fenech, 41, was inducted into the International Boxing Hall of Fame in 2002 after holding world titles at bantamweight, super-bantamweight and featherweight in a 12-year professional career starting in 1984.

One of his most famous fights was against Ghana's Azumah Nelson in Las Vegas in June 1991, with the fight ending in a controversial draw after many thought the Australian had comprehensively won.

It later transpired Nelson had not fully recovered from a bout of malaria and he knocked out Fenech in the eighth round of their rematch in Melbourne in March, 1992.

Fenech, nicknamed the "Marrickville Mauler" after his childhood home in Sydney's inner-western suburbs, trained

former undisputed heavyweight champion Mike Tyson for the American's last fight in June.

Tyson, 39, was stopped by Kevin McBride in the sixth round and immediately retired.

MNA/Reuters



Former world No 1 Martina Hingis of Switzerland at practices in preparation for her return to competitive tennis at the Mondial Australian Women's Hardcourts Championships on the Gold Coast, on 29 Dec, 2005. The tournament will begin 1 Jan, 2006. —INTERNET

### LuaLua charged with improper conduct

LONDON, 30 Dec — Portsmouth striker Lomana LuaLua has been charged by the Football Association with improper conduct after criticizing a referee.

"It does not help when the referee is playing for the other team," LuaLua told reporters after Portsmouth's 3-1 defeat at Tottenham Hotspur on 12 December.

Referee Uriah Rennie awarded Tottenham a penalty when a free kick by Andy Reid struck Portsmouth defender Gary O'Neil on the arm. The score was 1-1 at the time.

LuaLua has until 17 January to respond to the charge.

MNA/Reuters

### Basinas to join Everton

ATHENS, 30 Dec — Greece midfielder Angelos Basinas is to join English Premier League club Everton, Greek media reported on Thursday.

Everton declined to comment on the reports which said that Basinas, a member of the 2004 European Championship-winning side, underwent a medical in Liverpool on Wednesday.

Basinas, who has been without a club since his contract with Panathinaikos expired in September, has previously been linked to Birmingham City and West Ham United.

MNA/Reuters

### Bowyer to serve ban after dismissal appeal fails

LONDON, 30 Dec — Newcastle United midfielder Lee Bowyer will serve a three-match ban after his claim for wrongful dismissal against Liverpool was rejected on Thursday.

Bowyer had appealed to the FA's disciplinary commission after being red-carded in Monday's Premier League defeat — with his ugly challenge on Spanish midfielder Xabi Alonso leading to a melee. The three-match ban starts with immediate effect, ruling Bowyer out of this weekend's league game against Tottenham Hotspur. —MNA/Reuters

### Growing optimism in Germany over World Cup chances

BERLIN, 30 Dec — Germans are becoming steadily more optimistic about their national side's chances at the World Cup with 39 per cent of them now believing Germany can take the title, according to a survey released on Thursday.

But 58 per cent of Germans still think coach Juergen Klinsmann's team will not win the trophy, *Bildwoche* TV listings magazine found in the poll conducted by Emnid on December 16-17. However, optimism is far greater than in previous polls.

Only 18 per cent of Germans thought the national side would be crowned world champions according to a poll conducted immediately after the World Cup draw on 9 December.

Two months ago, after a 2-1 loss to Turkey and an unimpressive 1-0 victory over China, only 3 per cent of Germans

backed the national side.

*Bildwoche* found women were more optimistic than men and that older people put more faith in Germany than the young.

Germany will host the month-long tournament from 9 June and are in a manageable opening group with Poland, Costa Rica and Ecuador.

According to online betting operator BetandWin, Brazil are favourites to retain the title they won by beating Germany in the 2002 final, followed by England, Germany and Argentina.

Trinidad and Tobago are rank outsiders at 1,000-1. —MNA/Reuters

### Galatasaray players threaten training boycott

ISTANBUL, 30 Dec — Players at financially troubled Galatasaray have threatened to boycott the club's training camp at a southern resort in early January because of unpaid wages, Turkish media said on Thursday. The Milliyet website said the club had pledged last week to pay players who had not received wages since the start of the season. The cheques could not be cashed at the bank, however.

The players then decided to boycott the camp beginning on January 4 in the holiday resort of Antalya if they were not paid by January 3, Milliyet said.

Heavily-indebted Galatasaray decided at a general meeting at the weekend to put on hold the chairman's plan to sell land belonging to the club in Istanbul to raise funds. —MNA/Reuters

### Di Stefano recovering after heart bypass surgery

MADRID, 30 Dec — Real Madrid's record goal scorer Alfredo Di Stefano was recovering well in a Spanish hospital on Thursday after undergoing quadruple heart bypass surgery.

A statement from Valencia's La Fe hospital said the 79-year-old Argentine was talking and had begun to take food a day after undergoing the five-hour operation. It said Di Stefano was "progressing favourably" and a ventilator had been removed.

MNA/Reuters



Ski jumper Okabe Takanobu soars above spectators during the Four Hills ski jumping tournament in Oberstdorf, southern Germany, on 29 Dec, 2005.

Takanobu took the fourth place with 130.5 meters. —INTERNET



A Russian Soyuz rocket carrying a Galileo satellite blasts off from Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan on 28 Dec, 2005. A European Union consortium on Wednesday took the first step to creating a hoped-for global navigation system when its satellite went into orbit after blast-off on a Russian rocket.—INTERNET

### Rowdy air passenger cast away on remote Atlantic isle

LONDON, 30 Dec— A drunken passenger on a holiday flight from England to Spain was dropped at a tiny island off the African coast after he swore at the cabin crew, a newspaper reported on Friday.

The plane's captain decided to leave the man at Porto Santo, a volcanic outcrop in the Atlantic, after he became abusive when he was refused more alcohol, the *Daily Mail* said.

The Airbus plane, heading from northern England to the Spanish holiday island of Tenerife, diverted to the Portuguese island, which is just 10 miles long and four miles wide.

Police met the man at the airport. He is due to appear in court in mainland Portugal in January, the newspaper said.

The island's airport is a legacy of the Cold War when NATO considered making Porto Santo a frontline base to guard Europe's southern approaches.

With only half a dozen hotels and a few sandy beaches, Porto Santo is little known to most tourists who flock to the nearby, larger island of Madeira, a two-hour ferry ride away.

The Monarch Airlines plane landed nearly four late in Tenerife. The passenger had a belated start to his holiday after going to Madeira to take another flight, the *Mail* said. No one at Monarch could be reached for comment. — MNA/Reuters



### WEATHER

**Friday, 30 December, 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) below normal in Magway Division and (6°C) below normal in Chin State, (3°C) above normal in Rakhine and Mon States and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Haka (-2°C), Pinlaung and Mindat (4°C) each.

Maximum temperature on 29-12-2005 was 89°F. Minimum temperature on 30-12-2005 was 58°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 30-12-2005 was 78%. Total sunshine hours on 29-12-2005 was (8.3) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 30-12-2005 were nil at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were (106.14) inches at Mingaladon, (105.47) inches at Kaba-Aye and (109.92) inches at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (4) mph from Southeast at (14:30) hours MST on 29-12-2005.

**Bay inference:** Weather is generally fair in the Bay of Bengal.

**Forecast valid until evening of 31-12-2005:** Isolated light rain are possible in Taninthayi Division and weather will be generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (40%).

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

**Outlook for subsequent two days:** Fair weather in the whole country.

**Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 31-12-2005:** Generally fair weather.

**Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 31-12-2005:** Generally fair weather.

**Weather outlook for first weekend of January 2006:** During the coming weekend, weather will be generally fair in Yangon and Mandalay Divisions.



### Saturday, 31 December

- View on today**  
**7:00 am**  
 1. ကျေးဇူးရှင်မင်းထွန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး၊ နိုင်ငံတော်သံယာ ဟောနာယကအဖွဲ့အကျိုးတော်ဆောင်ချုပ်အဘိဓမ္မဟာရဋ္ဌ ဂုဏ်၊ အဘိဓမ္မအဂ္ဂမဟာသဒ္ဓမ္မဇောတိက၊ တီပီဒကဓရ၊ မွေ့ဘဏ္ဍာဂါရိက၊ ဆရာတော် ဘဒ္ဒန္တဝိမိတ္တသာရာဘိဝံသ၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်
- 7:25 am**  
 2. To be healthy exercises
- 7:30 am**  
 3. Morning news
- 7:40 am**  
 4. Nice and sweet song
- 7:55 am**  
 5. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 8:10 am**  
 6. ပေါင်းစည်းအင်အား ရောဝတီ မြစ်ကူးတံတားများ
- 8:20 am**  
 7. တေးဂီတအစီအစဉ်
- 8:30 am**  
 8. International news
- 8:45 am**  
 9. Grammar Made Easy
- 11:00 am**  
 1. Martial song
- 11:15 am**  
 2. Musical programme
- 11:30 am**  
 3. News
- 11:45 am**  
 4. Games for children

- 12:05 pm**  
 5. Round up of the week's TV local news
- 12:30 pm**  
 6. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "နေပြည်နေ့နေ့" (အပိုင်း-၁၈)
- 1:05 pm**  
 7. ကြားမြင်သူတို့ ပြည်ဝေရာ စာပဒေသာ
- 1:15 pm**  
 8. "ရအောင်ယူ မြဲအောင်ထိန်း" (ထွန်းထွန်းဝင်း၊ ညီညီနေ့နှင့်၊ ဆုပြန်ချစ်စင် သူသူဟံသာ) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-သက်တင်)
- 1:40 pm**  
 9. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 1:45 pm**  
 10. Dance of National Races
- 2:05 pm**  
 11. "အားနာလိုက်တာ" (မောင်၊ ကျော်စာအုတ်လှိုင်၊ နန်းကလျာလှိုင်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-စောစောလှိုင်)
- 2:15 pm**  
 12. နဂါးရေလှောင်တံ
- 2:30 pm**  
 13. International news
- 4:00 pm**  
 1. Martial song
- 4:15 pm**  
 2. Song to uphold National Spirit
- 4:30 pm**  
 3. English for Everyday Use
- 4:45 pm**  
 4. Musical programme
- 5:00 pm**  
 5. အဝေးသင်တန်းအဖွဲ့အစည်းများ ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ - ဒုတိယနှစ် (ရုက္ခဗေဒ၊ သတ္တဗေဒအထူးပြုများ) (ရုက္ခဗေဒ)

- 5:15 pm**  
 6. နားဝင်စိတ် သူ့လက်သံ
- 5:25 pm**  
 7. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 5:30 pm**  
 8. မြန်မာစာ၊ မြန်မာစာတေး
- 5:45 pm**  
 9. "စက်မှုတပ်ဆင် လုပ်ငန်းတွင်" (အကယ်ဒမီ စင်စီဦး၊ အကယ်ဒမီ မင်းမော်ကွန်း၊ အကယ်ဒမီ မိုးမိုးမြင့်အောင်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-ဝင်းထွန်းထွန်း)
- 5:50 pm**  
 10. Games for children
- 6:10 pm**  
 11. Musical programme
- 6:20 pm**  
 12. အရာတော်ရေလှောင်တံ
- 6:30 pm**  
 13. Evening news
- 7:00 pm**  
 14. Weather report
- 7:05 pm**  
 15. Musical programme
- 7:20 pm**  
 16. (၅၀)နှစ်မြောက် လွတ်လပ်ရေးနေ့ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်
- 7:35 pm**  
 17. အချုပ်အခြာအာဏာ ရွန်၊ ရှည်ကြာ နိုင်စာအဖွဲ့ ဒီဂျစ်ရှယ် "နှစ်ဆယ်လေးမည် ရောင်စုံ ပွင့်လန်း အလှပန်း" (အပိုင်း-၂)
- 8:00 pm**  
 18. News
- 8:45 pm**  
 19. International news
- 9:00 pm**  
 20. Weather report
- 9:15 pm**  
 21. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ချစ်မိပြီဆိုရင်" (အပိုင်း-၉)
- 9:30 pm**  
 22. The next day's programme



### Saturday, 31 December

- Tune in today**
- 8:30 am** Brief news
- 8:35 am** Music:  
 -I wanna be with you
- 8:40 am** Perspectives
- 8:45 am** Music:  
 -Deeper shade of blue
- 8:50 am** National news + 12 Objectives & People's Desire
- 9:00 am** Music:  
 -All together now
- 9:05 am** International news
- 9:10 am** Music:  
 -Girl power  
 -Together forever  
 -Will it ever
- 1:30 pm** News & Slogan
- 1:40 pm** Music at your request  
 -Together again  
 -Cut both ways  
 -You're still the one
- 9:00 pm** Asean Review  
 -Special feature for 58th Independence
- 9:10 pm** Article  
 M y a n m a r culture
- 9:20 pm** Souvenirs  
 -Music, music  
 -My love, sweet love  
 -Kissing you
- 9:45 pm** News & Slogan
- 10:00 pm** PEL

Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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

# Wanetkon model village, self-reliant rural health care centre open in Hlegu Township

YANGON, 30 Dec — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Lt-Gen Myint Swe and wife Daw Khin Thet Htay, Chairperson of Yangon Division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee attended the opening ceremony of Wanetkon Model village in Hlegu Township, Yangon North District held at the village this morning.



Commander Lt-Gen Myint Swe unveils the signboard of Wanetkon model village in Hlegu Township.— MNA

Commander Lt-Gen Myint Swe and Chairperson Daw Khin Thet Htay formally opened the signboard of the village.

The commander and party then viewed round the village.

At the opening cer-

emony of self-reliant rural health care centre, chairperson Daw Khin Thet Htay inaugurated the centre. The commander

and party then observed it. Daw Khin Thet Htay donated assorted medicines to medical superintendent Dr Daw Tin Nyo

Nyo Latt of Township Hospital and provided iron tablets for the expectant mothers. The commander and party looked round

paddy and vegetables produced by village MCWA at health care centre compound.

Commander Lt-

Gen Myint Swe formally opened the new village-tract PDC office and looked over it.

(See page 7)

## Development of rural areas where 70 per cent of the nation's population live means that of entire nation

### Larpot model village in Kani Township, Monywa District, opened

YANGON, 30 Dec — The opening of Larpot model village on Monywa-Yagyi-Kalewa Road in Kani Township, Monywa District, Sagaing Division, was held at the village on 28 December

morning. Member of the Central Panel of Patrons of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Com-

mander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye, and USDA CEC Member Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, officials and local people planted commemorative jatropa

curcas plants near the village and viewed nurseries and tree plantations.

The commander and the minister formally opened the rural development hall and viewed the hall and rural market.

District PDC Chairman Lt-Col Kyi Sein, Head of Division Information and Public Relations Department U Tin Than Win, and Chairman of the committee for establishment of the library U Mya Thwe formally opened the facilities.

The commander and the minister and party viewed the library. U Tin Than Win donated publications to the library. They also inspected Win Thuzar Shop (branch), the village PDC office, Women's (See page 11)



Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye and Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint visit the tailoring workshop conducted by Larpot village WAO.— MNA

## CEC member tours Mon State

YANGON, 29 Dec — CEC Member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Brig-Gen Ohn Myint In-Charge of Mon State USDA addressed the ceremony to present prizes for outstanding performance in all-round sectors, organized by Mon State USDA at Yamanya Hall of Mon State Peace and Development Council in Mawlamyine on 24 December.

Next, the CEC member attended the blood donation ceremony at Mawlamyine Township Hospital and presented cash and gifts to the blood donors.

On 25 December, Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing and the CEC member joined the ceremony to open the golden jubilee hall at Paung BEHS.

In Khawza, the commander and the CEC member met departmental officials, social organizations, USDA members and local people. In the evening, they met local authorities at the office of Ye Township PDC.

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On 28 November 1885, the troops of the British placed the Mandalay Royal Palace a siege and dethroned King Thibaw. The war was very short, and it lasted only 18 days. It can be said that Myanmar lost its independence in a very short time. On 1 January 1886, the entire Myanmar fell under servitude of the British colonialists.