Vice-Senior General Maung Aye receives Indian military attaches

YANGON, 3 Dec.—Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye this morning received Military Attaché of India to Myanmar Colonel Shakti Gurung who had completed his tour of duty and his succes-
sor Colonel Chopra Jasvinder Singh at Zeyarthiri Beikman on Kommyinttha here.

Also present were General Khin Nyunt, Military Adviser to the SPDC chairman, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Kyi Min and Com-
mander-in-Chief (Air) Maj-Gen Myat Hein. —MNA

Educational goals in knowledge age are to be implemented not only in schools but also in human society

Emergence of highly-qualified new generation youths becomes a major national need

Secretary-1 addresses concluding of Special Refresher Course for Teachers

YANGON, 3 Dec.—Vice-Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Secretary-1 of State Peace and Develop-
mament Council Li-Gen Soe Win delivered an address at the concluding of the Special Refresher Course No 20 for Basic Education Teachers held at Yadana Hall of Central Institute of Civil Service (Upper Myanmar) in PyinUlayTaw Township, Mandalay Division, yesterday morning.

Also present on the occasion were Minister for Cooper-
atives Maj-Gen Huay Oo, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Tha, Minister for Education U Than Aung, Deputy Minister for Industry-2 Li-Col Khin Maung Kyaw, Deputy Minister for Mines U Myint Thein, Deputy Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Devel-
opment Affairs Brig-Gen Than Tun, Deputy Minister for Transport Col Nyan Tun Aung, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo, Civil Service Selection and Training Board member U Hla Myint Oo, Deputy Chief Justice U Khin Maung Latt of Supreme Court (Mandalay), Central Com-
mand Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Nay Win and senior military officers, officials from the SPDC Office, depart-
mental heads, the rector of CICS (Upper Myanmar), the pro-rector, heads of departments, coaches and trainee teach-
ers.

Myanmar Education Committee Vice-Chairman Sec-
retary-1 Li-Gen Soe Win delivered an address on the
occasion. He said at a time when human resources neces-
sary for better future of the country are being nurtured the
roles of the teachers at basic education schools are of
prime importance. So, the special refresher courses for
teachers have been opened for the teachers to be more
skillful in their subjects and to be able to teach the stu-
dents more effectively.

To have the skills in a short period, it is needed to use
modern teaching/learning aids so that the objectives of
installation the aids will be realized. While performing
the duties of teaching, teachers are needed to bring out
the effectiveness of all-round education in respective
schools widely.

The whole world today is developing with momentum
due to rapid development of communication technologies.
At such a time, efforts are to be made carefully with
farsightedness in the interests of the country. Nowadays
it can be seen that some big nations with technological
advancement are taking advantage of their superiority in
technology to influence the developing nations ideologi-
cally and culturally through communication technolo-
gies. At this situation, the developing countries like the
Union of Myanmar are to try not to be influenced by the
big power nations but to stand tall in the inter-
national community. In making endeavours to ensure all-
round development of the State, the high standard of
knowledge and education of the citizens are pivotal. So,
the educational goals in knowledge age are to be imple-
mented not only in schools but also in human society.
They include literacy for all, promotion of national edu-
cation standard, an opportunity of constant learning re-
gardless of age and building of a modern developed na-
tion, he elaborated.

The MEC Vice-Chairman quoted Senior General Than
Shwe as saying that it is needed to strive for promotion of
knowledge and education for the national interests to be
firm. To be able to encounter this situation it is needed to
make efforts for promoting the national education standard.

In implementing national education promotion pro-
grammes, emphasis is placed on mental development with
the aim of promoting the students’ creativity to be well-
versed in every field, to be the ones with high morale who
respect and abide by the law, discipline and social ethics,
who value traditional customs and social value and to be

Emergence of highly-qualified new generation youths becomes a major national need. So, the State has been
making earnest efforts for the country to be able to keep abreast of the other nations and to stand tall in the inter-
national community. In making endeavours to ensure all-
round development of the State, the high standard of
knowledge and education of the citizens are pivotal. So,
the educational goals in knowledge age are to be imple-
mented not only in schools but also in human society.
They include literacy for all, promotion of national edu-
cation standard, an opportunity of constant learning re-
gardless of age and building of a modern developed na-
tion, he elaborated.

The MEC Vice-Chairman quoted Senior General Than
Shwe as saying that it is needed to strive for promotion of
knowledge and education for the national interests to be
firm. To be able to encounter this situation it is needed to
make efforts for promoting the national education standard.

In implementing national education promotion pro-
grammes, emphasis is placed on mental development with
the aim of promoting the students’ creativity to be well-
versed in every field, to be the ones with high morale who
respect and abide by the law, discipline and social ethics,
who value traditional customs and social value and to be

Emergence of highly-qualified new generation youths becomes a major national need. So, the State has been
making earnest efforts for the country to be able to keep abreast of the other nations and to stand tall in the inter-
national community. In making endeavours to ensure all-
round development of the State, the high standard of
knowledge and education of the citizens are pivotal. So,
the educational goals in knowledge age are to be imple-
mented not only in schools but also in human society.
They include literacy for all, promotion of national edu-
cation standard, an opportunity of constant learning re-
gardless of age and building of a modern developed na-
tion, he elaborated.

The MEC Vice-Chairman quoted Senior General Than
Shwe as saying that it is needed to strive for promotion of
knowledge and education for the national interests to be
firm. To be able to encounter this situation it is needed to
make efforts for promoting the national education standard.

In implementing national education promotion pro-
grammes, emphasis is placed on mental development with
the aim of promoting the students’ creativity to be well-
versed in every field, to be the ones with high morale who
respect and abide by the law, discipline and social ethics,
who value traditional customs and social value and to be
For brighter future of students

It goes without saying that higher educational standard of people plays a pivotal role in our drive for bringing about the all-round development of the Union. Strengthening the national forces through education will determine the future of a nation. In other words, development and perpetual existence of a nation and its people depend on educational standard of that nation. Therefore, the Government has placed a special emphasis on the successful implementation of national education promotion programmes and projects.

Education begins in the classroom but it does not end there. Education should never be “finished” so long as we live. It is not only in the classroom that education can be had. We can and should continue our education as long as we live. Therefore, the Government is taking all the necessary measures so that all the citizens can pursue basic education and learn constantly.

Basic education schools are the most important stage where education promotion programmes should be carried out. Education promotion programmes at the basic education level involve enhancement of students’ enterprise and effective teaching methods. Not only that, they should be taught to be able to lead a moral life and abide by the law and social ethics. They should also be trained to become youths with strong patriotism and Union spirit.

Successful implementation of education promotion programmes calls for close cooperation among teachers, students and parents. Out of them, the teachers play the most important role as they have to constantly deal with the students.

The closing ceremony of the Special Refresher Course No 20 for basic education teachers was held at the Central Institute of Development and perpetual existence of a nation and its people depend on educational standard of that nation. Therefore, the Government has placed a special emphasis on the successful implementation of national education promotion programmes and projects.

Premier League Soccer Tournament continues

Yangon, 3 Dec — Premier league Soccer Tournament 2003-2004 organized by Myanmar Football Federation continued at Aung San Stadium this afternoon. Yangon City Development Committee Team and Defence Service (Army) Team- A played 2-2 draw. Man of the match award went to Aung Chan Min of Defence Service (Army) Team- A. — MNA

World AIDS Day commemorative debate held

Yangon, 3 Dec — The Ministry of Health and Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association organized a debate to mark the World AIDS Day at the association at the corner of Thanthumar and Parami Roads in South Okalapa Township this morning.

Present on the occasion were Her Excellency Dr Daw Khin Than Nwe, the third prizes were presented to Thant Myo Aung and the deputy minister delivered speeches. Next, the guests viewed the photos of AIDS control activities carried out by the MMCWA.

After the debate, the MMCWA president presented the first prize to Sangyoung Township MCWA and the second to Mingaladon Township MCWA and Vice-Chairman Dr Kyi Soe, the third prizes to Thanlyin Township MCWA and Dagon Myothit (South) Township MCWA. — MNA

Development activities inspected in Matupi, Mindat

Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence inspects the farm of the Myanma Agriculture Service in Mindat. — MNA
Number of Philippine Internet users grows sharply in 2003

MANILA, 3 Dec—The number of Internet subscribers in the Philippines grew 131 per cent in 2003 to about 1.85 million from 800,000 last year, the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) reported.

The NTC did not give the factors behind the increase but said the number of digital subscriber line (DSL) service subscribers had hit 16,165 as of the third quarter of 2003, according to the Philippine Daily Inquirer on-line news service here.

Dominant telecom carrier Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co controlled 80 per cent of the local market, the NTC said.

The commission also noted that the increase in the Internet subscribers was quite “significant” compared to the previous years since 2000.—MNA/Xinhua

Indonesian Govt may not fulfil its target T-bond issuance

JAKARTA, 3 Dec—The government may hold back its target to issue some $3.7 billion US dollars’ worth Treasury bonds (T-bonds) by the end of this year if it considers unnecessary to do so, Finance Minister said here.

The 376 million US dollars’ worth T-bonds are part of the 1.3 billion US dollars T-bonds the government has planned to issue in 2003.

“It will depend on the market situation. There will be no problem if we cannot reach the target,” Boediono was quoted by the national news agency Antara as saying.

He said the 376 million US dollars T-bonds were a ceiling target for this year end so that if it was not reached it would not pose any problem.—MNA/Xinhua

Chinese economy to grow 8.5% this year

BEIJING, 3 Dec—China’s economy is expected to grow 8.5 per cent this year, said Ma Kai, minister in charge of the State Development and Reform Commission (SDRC), here.

Ma said at a national work meeting on development and reform that gross domestic product (GDP) was to top 11 trillion yuan (1.3 trillion US dollars) this year. The economy showed a good momentum that had been long expected over the past few years.

Noting China improved economic efficiency while maintaining a rapid growth, he predicted that profits of industrial enterprises would grow 40 per cent to 50 per cent this year.

Ma said that as the economy grew bigger in size, the economic structure also improved. He said high-tech industries contributed some 25.7 per cent to the growth of industrial output in China this year.

He said that as government policy continued to show its effect on stimulating economic growth, the economy had become more and more dependent on its own forces to grow.

According to SDRC figures, the total investment in fixed assets was to top 5.3 trillion yuan this year, 23 per cent more than last year. The majority of the investment was financed by corporate funds or bank loans, instead of government investment. The investment by collective and individual persons also saw a faster growth rate than last year.

Ma said the country had steadily pushed forward various reforms and opened wider to the outside world. According to the SDRC’s estimate, China’s exports would reach 820 billion US dollars this year, increasing more than 30 per cent over last year.—MNA/Xinhua

Spanish mily contingent returns home from Iraq mission

MADRID, 3 Dec—A group of 58 Spanish troops returned to their country Tuesday from a four-month mission in Iraq, saying their last days in Iraq were “very hard” as seven Spanish intelligence agents were killed in an ambush last Saturday.

The soldiers, including five women, were deployed in the Iraqi city of Dzwany for logistic support. They described their mission in Iraq as difficult but positive when arriving at the Zaragoza Air Base by an Air Europa airliner.

They said their last days in Iraq were very difficult, particularly after the bloody ambush on Saturday. They described their mission in Iraq as difficult but positive when arriving at the Zaragoza Air Base by an Air Europa airliner.

The death of the agents of the National Intelligence Centre caused concern among the Spanish troops deployed in Iraq. Corporal Maria Garvin told reporters that the other members of the military contingent, part of the logistic support unit, said the Iraqi area where the international Plus Ultra Brigade is deployed was generally calm.

Seven Spanish intelligence officers were killed and one was wounded in an Iraqi guerrilla ambush on Saturday in an area between Bagdad and Hilli, a city 100 kilometre south of the capital city. Spain deploys 1,300 troops in south and central Iraq.—MNA/Xinhua

US soldier killed by bomb near tense Iraqi town

BAGHDAD, 3 Dec—An American soldier was killed when a roadside bomb exploded near a convoy south of the tense Iraqi town of Samarra on Tuesday, the US military said.

A spokesman said a convoy from the US 4th Infantry Division was the target of the attack south of the town, where American troops said they killed 54 Iraqis in a bloody street battle at the weekend.

“A 4th ID convoy was attacked south of Samarra. One soldier died of his injures,” the spokesman said.

Samarra lies about 60 miles north of Bagdad. —MNA/Reuters

Annan forms advisory group on Iraq

UNITED NATIONS, 3 Dec—UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan has gathered a group of 17 countries to form an advisory body that some participants believe could help shape Iraq’s future.

The group, which held its first meeting on Monday, brings together Iraq’s neighbours and some of its UN Security Council members. Several envoys said members of the UN-appointed Iraqi Governing Council would probably be invited to the next meeting, although no date had been set.

Annan told the meeting, attended by 17 ambassadors, that he would soon place a report on the situation in Iraq on the UN website.

“We urged that the Secretary General appoint a special representative or an acting special representative as soon as possible,” US Ambassador John Negroponte told reporters after the meeting.

The Iraqi Governing Council... (has also) asked that a special representative be named as soon as possible,” he said.

Syria’s UN ambassador, Faysal Maqdad, said the meeting was “a step in the right direction.” “Certain ideas were raised but frankly speaking this is the first time for such a meeting,” he added. Annan is said to be toying with the idea of stationing political staff in Cyprus or Jordan until security conditions improve in Iraq. In the interim, a chief envoy would commute to the Iraqi capital.—Internet

Teheran protests to US over Iranian killed in Iraq

TEHERAN, 3 Dec—Iran has sent an official protest to the United States over the killing of an Iranian by US troops during a fierce firefight in Iraq on Sunday, the official IRNA news agency said here.

US troops said they killed 54 guerrillas in a battle to fight off coordinated ambushes on armoured convoys carrying large quantities of banknotes in the tense Iraqi town of Samarra.

Police said eight civilians were among the dead, including an Iranian pilgrim.

“Iran’s Foreign Ministry summoned the Swiss ambassador to Teheran on Monday to voice its strong protest over the killing of an Iranian by American forces,” the agency said.

Switzerland has looked after US interests in Iran since Washington cut ties with Teheran shortly after the 1979 Islamic revolution.

The Foreign Ministry called on Washington to investigate the Samarra incident and offer compensation to the dead Iranian’s family.—MNA/Reuters

MNA/Xinhua

US Army soldiers patrol the streets of a small village near the southern Iraqi town of Nastiriya, on Monday, 1 Dec, 2003. US forces repulsed two coordinated attacks by armed men in Samarra on Sunday.—Internet

US troops have been met with fierce resistance in Iraq on 2 Dec, 2003. —INTERNET

Number of Philippine Internet users grows sharply in 2003

MANILA, 3 Dec—The number of Internet subscribers in the Philippines grew 131 per cent in 2003 to about 1.85 million from 800,000 last year, the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) reported.

The NTC did not give the factors behind the increase but said the number of digital subscriber line (DSL) service subscribers had hit 16,165 as of the third quarter of 2003, according to the Philippine Daily Inquirer on-line news service here.

Dominant telecom carrier Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co controlled 80 per cent of the local market, the NTC said.

The commission also noted that the increase in the Internet subscribers was quite “significant” compared to the previous years since 2000.—MNA/Xinhua

Indonesian Govt may not fulfil its target T-bond issuance

JAKARTA, 3 Dec—The government may hold back its target to issue some $3.7 billion US dollars’ worth Treasury bonds (T-bonds) by the end of this year if it considers unnecessary to do so, Finance Minister said here.

The 376 million US dollars’ worth T-bonds are part of the 1.3 billion US dollars T-bonds the government has planned to issue in 2003.

“It will depend on the market situation. There will be no problem if we cannot reach the target,” Boediono was quoted by the national news agency Antara as saying.

He said the 376 million US dollars T-bonds were a ceiling target for this year end so that if it was not reached it would not pose any problem.—MNA/Xinhua
Samarra clash toll still a mystery

The only corpses at Samarra’s hospital were those of civilians, including two elderly Iranianvisitors and a child.

A top military commander acknowledged on Monday that the toll was based entirely on estimates gleaned from troop debriefings and that US soldiers had not recovered a single body from the scene of Sunday’s clashes.

Brigadier General Mark Kimmitt estimated the number of dead in Samarra at 54, along with 22 wounded, saying they were all resistance fighters. He also said one person was detained.

He admitted that the one resistance fighter now confirmed in custody was a sharp reduction on the 11 claimed captured by the commanding colonel in Samarra earlier.

“Some of those earlier reports might have been a bit off,” Kimmitt said.

“Are you asking me to produce (them)?” asked Colonel Fredrick Rudesheim, who heads the 3rd Combat Brigades that was involved in the clashes, when questioned by reporters about the absence of any fighters’ bodies at Samarra’s single hospital or on the city’s streets.

Senior Nicholas Mullen, who fired rounds from an Abrams tank, offered yet another explanation for the army’s inability to locate the corpses. “We don’t stick around,” he said.

Challenged about what happened to the bodies of the 54 said to have been killed, Kimmitt said: “I would suspect that the enemy would have carried them away and brought them back to where their initial base was.”

Asked about reports from senior police and hospital officials in the town of only eight civilians killed and dozens more wounded, the US general insisted: “We have no such reports whether from medical authorities or police.”

But a medic at Samarra hospital said the bodies of “eight civilians including a woman and a child” were received at the hospital.

Hospital director Abd Tawfiq said: “More than 60 people were wounded by fire and shrapnel from US rounds are being treated at the hospital.”

And ambulance driver Abd Momin Mohammad said he had ferried any fighters wounded or killed and wearing the black Fidayin outfit which US soldiers claimed their assailants wore.

“If I had seen bodies, I would have picked them up. It’s not like the Americans would have done it,” he said.

“If the death toll had reached that announced by the Americans, the atmosphere in Samarra would be quite different,” he added.

Kimmitt said: “We have no such reports whether from medical authorities or police.”

Another reduction on the 11 claimed carding the day before and exaggerating the clashes, when questioned by reporters.

Iran’s Foreign Minister Kamal Kharazi condemned what he called the “blind attacks” by US forces.

“America is responsible for the killing of the Iranian national in Samarra. It must account for this crime,” he said.

Theeran’s foreign ministry on Tuesday summoned the Swiss ambassador to Iran, who acts as the head of the US interest section office there, to protest against the deaths, reported a state news agency.

Iran demanded that Washington “clarify the circumstances leading to the incident,” and announce the results of its own investigation and provide compensation.

The bloodshed prompted members of Samarra’s tribal council to demand an immediate US pullout from the area.

Iraqis deny US account of biggest attack

Baghdad, 3 Dec — Residents in Iraq’s northern city of Samarra said here the US military was falsely reporting the firefighting the day before and exaggerating the casualties.

A US spokesman said on Sunday that the American forces had killed 46 attackers, wounded 22 and captured 18 in a battle on Monday without elaborating.

However, Qatar-based al-Jazeera TV channel quoted witnesses and medical sources as saying that only eight people were killed and two of them were Iranian pilgrims.

Showing two Iranian passports, the witnesses said the two were killed by US fire when they were on a bus driving in Samarra, 100 kilometres north of Baghdad, on Sunday afternoon.

The footage also showed the scene in a local hospital in which many wounded people, including a teenager, were receiving treatment.

The witnesses said the US soldiers fired randomly and used all weapons they could use during the clashes with alleged guerrillas.

Late on Sunday, US Lieutenant Colonel William MacDonald from the 4th Infantry Division told reporters in Tikrit that two US military convoys were ambushed simultane ously with homemade bombs, mortars, rocket-propelled grenades and machine guns.

The guerrillas shot from rooftops and alleyways and the US forces returned fire from numerous locations, destroying three houses used by the attackers, said MacDonald. MNA/Xinhua

Macao boasts best health status in Asia

Macao, 3 Dec — “The health situation in Macao is the best in Asia,” said Linda Milan, an official from the World Health Organization (WHO), who is on her inspection tour in China’s Macao Special Administrative Region (SAR) Tuesday.

The director of Building Healthy Communities and Populations of the WHO West Pacific Region just concluded her two-day visit in Macao on the condition of the city’s public health and the health system’s epidemic control ability.

“Macao’s quick restructuring of hospitals’ facilities and services in reaction to the control of severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) is highly commendable. The Macao SAR government is able to address other similar challenges in the future,” said Milan, who was contributing her expertise to Macao’s preparatory bidding for WHO-entitled “Healthy City” on her inspection.

She has got ready for the bidding at the suggestion of Shigeru Omi, the WHO Western Pacific Regional director. He suggested Macao apply for the “Healthy City” appraisal during his trip to Macao on July 30.

“In the right time for Macao to showcase its image as a healthy and safe tourist city,” he said when referring to the SAR’s effective containment of SARS, which broke out in Macao’s neighbouring regions of Guangdong and Hong Kong in the first half of this year. Macao only recorded one imported case.

China to enhance medical aid to developing nations

Beijing, 3 Dec — Chinese Vice-Premier Wu Yi said here Tuesday that her country will further enhance medical aid to developing nations and improve health cooperation with them.

In 1963, China sent its first medical team abroad to Algeria, when it was amid its hard struggle to tackle its own financial and economic problems.

After more than 20 years of economic reform, China has improved its economy greatly. “But our friendship with developing nations and sense of international responsibility won’t change,” said Wu at a commemoration to mark the 40th anniversary of its overseas medical programme.

Wu asked Chinese health and financial departments to attach great importance to the work with their foreign medical aid service and further improve relevant policies to ensure the smooth operation of the programme.

Gao Qiang, executive Vice-Minister of Health, said that China has sent over 18,000 medical staff for overseas aid programmes during the past four decades, covering 65 countries and regions in Africa, Asia, Latin America, Europe and Oceania.

“Six hundred and thirteen Chinese medical staff have been awarded honours by the countries they worked in and 45 members laid down their lives at their posts,” Gao said.

Macao, 3 Dec — “The health situation in Macao is the best in Asia,” said Linda Milan, an official from the World Health Organization (WHO), who is on her inspection tour in China’s Macao Special Administrative Region (SAR) Tuesday.

The director of Building Healthy Communities and Populations of the WHO West Pacific Region just concluded her two-day visit in Macao on the condition of the city’s public health and the health system’s epidemic control ability.

“Macao’s quick restructuring of hospitals’ facilities and services in reaction to the control of severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) is highly commendable. The Macao SAR government is able to address other similar challenges in the future,” said Milan, who was contributing her expertise to Macao’s preparatory bidding for WHO-entitled “Healthy City” on her inspection.

She has got ready for the bidding at the suggestion of Shigeru Omi, the WHO Western Pacific Regional director. He suggested Macao apply for the “Healthy City” appraisal during his trip to Macao on July 30.

“In the right time for Macao to showcase its image as a healthy and safe tourist city,” he said when referring to the SAR’s effective containment of SARS, which broke out in Macao’s neighbouring regions of Guangdong and Hong Kong in the first half of this year. Macao only recorded one imported case.

China to enhance medical aid to developing nations

Beijing, 3 Dec — Chinese Vice-Premier Wu Yi said here Tuesday that her country will further enhance medical aid to developing nations and improve health cooperation with them.

In 1963, China sent its first medical team abroad to Algeria, when it was amid its hard struggle to tackle its own financial and economic problems.

After more than 20 years of economic reform, China has improved its economy greatly. “But our friendship with developing nations and sense of international responsibility won’t change,” said Wu at a commemoration to mark the 40th anniversary of its overseas medical programme.

Wu asked Chinese health and financial departments to attach great importance to the work with their foreign medical aid service and further improve relevant policies to ensure the smooth operation of the programme.

Gao Qiang, executive Vice-Minister of Health, said that China has sent over 18,000 medical staff for overseas aid programmes during the past four decades, covering 65 countries and regions in Africa, Asia, Latin America, Europe and Oceania.

“Six hundred and thirteen Chinese medical staff have been awarded honours by the countries they worked in and 45 members laid down their lives at their posts,” Gao said.

Macao, 3 Dec — “The health situation in Macao is the best in Asia,” said Linda Milan, an official from the World Health Organization (WHO), who is on her inspection tour in China’s Macao Special Administrative Region (SAR) Tuesday. The director of Building Healthy Communities and Populations of the WHO West Pacific Region just concluded her two-day visit in Macao on the condition of the city’s public health and the health system’s epidemic control ability.

“Macao’s quick restructuring of hospitals’ facilities and services in reaction to the control of severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) is highly commendable. The Macao SAR government is able to address other similar challenges in the future,” said Milan, who was contributing her expertise to Macao’s preparatory bidding for WHO-entitled “Healthy City” on her inspection.

She has got ready for the bidding at the suggestion of Shigeru Omi, the WHO Western Pacific Regional director. He suggested Macao apply for the “Healthy City” appraisal during his trip to Macao on July 30.

“In the right time for Macao to showcase its image as a healthy and safe tourist city,” he said when referring to the SAR’s effective containment of SARS, which broke out in Macao’s neighbouring regions of Guangdong and Hong Kong in the first half of this year. Macao only recorded one imported case. MNA/Xinhua

Sri Lankan President calls for collective efforts to fight “AIDS”

Colombo, 3 Dec — Sri Lankan President Chandrika Kumaratunga on Monday called for collective efforts by all sectors of the society to contribute to the prevention of the deadly AIDS.

“Prevention efforts require a collective approach, we cannot be complacent,” the health sector alone cannot not be left to handle this catastrophe,” Kumaratunga said in a message to mark the World AIDS Day.

Other ministries and departments, covering finance, education, transportation, the police force, and the military, as well as NGOs, the private sector, and civil society organizations should contribute,” she stressed.

India, China to play significant role in East Asia development

New Delhi, 3 Dec — India and China can play a significant role in the economic development of eastern hemisphere, especially through bilateral cooperation in the areas of IT, textiles, agri food processing, infrastructure and automobiles, a senior government official said here.

“India and China, who are both members of WTO, worked very closely on several issues during the Cancun Ministerial meet,” said MNA/PTI
IRAQ UNDER US OCCUPATION

Residents in the town of Samarra inspect the shooting site, following a US Army attack on 1 December. At least one US soldier was killed when two almost simultaneous bomb attacks hit convoys near the Iraqi town of Samarra.

A child walks out through a bullet-riddled entrance hit during a US Army attack in the town of Samaraa. The US military upped its death toll from intense clashes with guerrillas in the Iraqi town of Samarra to 54 amid reports by Iraqi doctors that eight civilians were killed by US fire in the exchanges.

An Iraqi man argues with a British coalition soldier in the centre of Basra, southern Iraq, on 1 December 2003.

A US Army soldier secures the area as soldiers remove the body of a 4th Infantry Division soldier that died in an ambush outside the Iraqi town of Samarra, north of Baghdad, on Tuesday, 2 December, 2003.

Two US soldiers from the 2nd Battalion of the 173 Airborne Brigade take position next to a group of Iraqi youths during a raid in Hawijah, 45 kilometres (nearly 30 miles) west of Iraq's northern oil centre of Kirkuk.
**Annan organizes group of Mideast nations on Iraq**

United Nations, 3 Dec—Iraq’s neighbours, including Iran, and Security Council members, including the United States, came together in a new grouping some delegates hope will develop into an international conference on Iraq’s future.

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan formed the group of 17 countries as an advisory body that met for the first time on Monday after several nations hoped it would be able to take meaningful action in the future, participants said.

France, Russia and Germany have urged an international conference on Iraq but the United States so far is cool to the idea.

Annan told the 17 ambassadors he would present the Security Council with a report within a week on a role the United Nations could play in Iraq, the diplomats reported.

He also said he would name an interim chief representative for Iraq shortly and a new special representative early in the new year to replace Sergio Vieira de Mello, killed in the attack against UN headquarters in Baghdad on August 19 that cost 22 lives.

The Council has been split since the US invasion of Iraq, with key members wanting to bring the world body to a larger role. Annan has hesitated to send staff back to Iraq since the August 19 disaster. Several envoy’s reports of the US-appointed Iraqi Governing Council would probably be invited to the meeting, although no date has been set.

Annan is weighing whether to place political staff in Cyprus or in Jordan until security conditions improve. In the interim, a chief envoy would commute to the Iraqi capital.

“We certainly urged that the Secretary-General appoint a special representative or an acting special representative as soon as possible,” US Ambassador John Negroponte told reporters after the meeting.

“And that is also, as you know, the Iraqi Governing Council asked that a special representative be named as soon as possible,” he said.

Syria’s UN ambassador, Faysal Makdadi told reporters the meeting was “a step in the right direction”.

“Certain ideas were raised but frankly speaking this is the first time for such a meeting,” he said.

**US soldier shot dead west of Baghdad**

Baghdad, 3 Dec—An American soldier was killed west of the Iraqi capital Baghdad on Monday after his patrol came under attack from guerrillas, the US military said.

In a statement, the US said the soldier was wounded by small arms fire near the town of Habbaniya on Monday morning and died of his wounds later. The town is a hotbed of anti-American sentiment. Three Iraqis were captured during the clash and were being questioned, the statement said.

Since US President George W Bush declared an end to major hostilities in Iraq on May 1, 188 US soldiers have been killed in combat.

**China to reform investment system next year**

Beijing, 3 Dec—China is to carry out a reform of its regulatory system of investment next year, a major step taken to build a complete market system.

Chinese Minister in charge of the State Development and Reform Commission (SDRC) Ma Kai said at a national work meeting held here that the SDRC had already passed the draft reform plan to the State Council for approval.

Ma said under the reform plan, most non-government investment projects would no longer require government approval. Investors are allowed to make their own decision and have only to notify the government about the projects for records.

For large-scale, non-government-funded investment projects and those in the areas restricted for private investment, they have to pass government assessment only in terms of national security, rational utilization of resources, environmental protection, optimizing economic structure, safeguarding public interest and anti-monopoly requirements, Ma said.

Ma said the SDRC was drafting complementary rules and regulations for the reform plan so as to pave the way for implementation next year. The rules in the pipeline included regulations on assessment of corporate investment projects and regulations on management of investment by the central government.

Ma said the SDRC and its local branches would continue to sort out the projects requiring government approval next year. For those that no longer require approval, the government would develop new ways to monitor investment activities.

He said China would also accelerate the reform of the management of corporate bond issuance next year. He said the regulations on the management of corporate bonds would come into force as soon as possible, while other relevant regulations were also being drafted.

Ma said the government would abolish the practice of approving issuance of corporate bonds and instead, such issuance would only need to be registered with relevant authorities. The scope of the use of corporate bond money would also be expanded and the varieties of corporate bonds be increased, he said.

The government would adopt a stricter but simplified process of examining issuance applications, he said.

According to the SDRC’s estimate, China’s investment in fixed assets is to increase 23 per cent this year. In the first three quarters of the year, collective and individual investment grew at a rate of 9.6 percentage points faster in the same period of last year.

**Drug traffickers arrested at Nepali airport**

Kathmandu, 3 Dec—Police at the Tribhuvan International Airport in Nepali capital Kathmandu Monday arrested two persons with 426 kilos hashish, an airport official said here.

“The two men are alleged to be involved in trafficking drugs to Japan,” said Bimala Thapa, superintendent of the airport police office.

“Another man, suspected accomplice of the two arrested, is still at large,” Thapa said.

In this year alone, the Illegal Drugs Law Enforcement Unit of Nepal arrested 74 Nepali citizens and 13 foreigners in connection with drug trafficking, she noted, adding that the police confiscated over 374 kilos of hashish and 16 kilos of heroin at the same time. MNA/Xinhua

**US soldiers stand guard near an arrested Iraqi man during a massive raid in Hawijah, near Iraq’s northern oil centre of Kirkuk recently.**—INTERNET

**Vietnam urged to improve business environment**

Hanoi, 3 Dec—Over 300 foreign and local delegates gathered here at the 13th Vietnam Business Forum on Monday, discussing measures to improve business environment in the country.

At the one-day forum, delegates noted that it is high time Vietnam passed a new Investment Law, which applies to both domestic and foreign investors, to create a fair playing field for businesses.

Also to create a more equal competitive environment, the participants suggested that the country should pass a competition law soon. They also raised concerns regarding changes in the taxation regime, including the proposed Ordinance on Personal Income Tax.

“Under the draft, the taxable income level will increase to 258 US dollars from the current 193 dollars,” Deputy Minister of Finance Truong Chi Tung said, adding that the revised ordinance could take effect from January next year.

Along with investment and finance issues, delegates proposed that the government make legal documents more effective and transparent by actively consulting the public and business community before issuing them.

The forum is organized by the International Finance Corporation in collaboration with the Ministry of Planning and Investment and the World Bank.

**Iranian police seize 5 tons of drugs**

Teheran, 3 Dec—Iranian anti-drug police have seized about five tons of various kinds of illegal drugs throughout the country in recent operations, the official IRNA news agency reported.

Police have seized over 3,600 kilos of narcotics and arrested 45 drug smugglers and 31 distributors in Hormozgan, Kerman, Khorasan, Teheran, Qom, Yazd and Sistan-Baluchistan provinces, the report said.

In addition, some 1,346 kilos of various drugs were seized in eastern Iran during two separate operations, according to the IRNA report. Iran sits at the crossroads of a major drug trafficking route originating mainly from Afghanistan and linking markets in the Persian Gulf states, Central Asia, West Europe and other regions.

More than 3,000 Iranian anti-drug policemen have lost their lives in clashes with drug traffickers during the past over 20 years.
The study of world history shows that nations and civilizations emerged along the rivers. The ancient Egypt civilization originated in the Nile Basin. So, it would not be wrong to say that Egypt is the gift of the Nile. Moreover, the ancient Mesopotamian civilization also began in the basin of Tigris and Euphrates, Rome and its civilization at the Tiber, the Indian civilization at the Indus basin and the Chinese civilization at the Yellow River. The basins are fertile and water is easily available there and so they are very suitable for agriculture. Because of agriculture, trade developed. And the rivers created waterways for transportation of people and cargoes. Thus, villages, towns and nations came into existence and civilizations flourished.

We owe our gratitude to the Ayeyawady for the existence of our nation and civilization. Tagaung, Bagan, Sagaing, Inwa, Mandalay and Psey are situated along it. The history of Myanmar and the Ayeyawady are inseparable. The first Myanmar was founded at Bagan on the bank of the Ayeyawady. Myanmar civilization began there and Buddhism started flourishing in Myanmar from there.

On 11 November, 2003, the Chao Phraya River and the Mekong River joined the Ayeyawady near Bagan, metaphorically speaking. Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Agreement on Economic Cooperation Strategy was reached. We thank the Ayeyawady and Bagan for this unprecedented event.

The Chao Phraya River is situated in Thailand and the history of Thailand and its civilization developed along this river. Skothai, Ayutthaya and Bangkok emerged along it. The Mekong River flows through Laos and Cambodia. The social, economic and cultural sectors of these two nations are flourishing along this river.

The Chao Phraya River represents Thailand, the Mekong Laos and Cambodia. The prime ministers of these nations on 11 November arrived at Bagan, the Archaeological Zone of Myanmar to attend the Cambodian-Laos-Myanmar-Thailand Summit Meeting on Economic Cooperation Strategy.

Prime Minister of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt presided over the meeting and all the prime ministers from the four nations approved the Bagan Declaration. Moreover, five future work programmes were also approved. Included in these work programmes are (a) trade and investment, (b) agricultural and industrial cooperation, (c) transport linkages and (d) tourism cooperation and (e) human resource development.

I would like to explain the benefits to be gained from the four-nation economic cooperation. Only then will the people of Myanmar realize how it can contribute towards their social and economic life.

First of all, I would like to present some of possible results. Thailand will make more investments in our country. To facilitate trade and tourism at the border, one-stop service will be opened. Not only that, surveys will be carried out to establish retail and wholesale centres. Moreover, account trade will be implemented.

As the first phase of the sister city project, measures will be taken for increased relations between Yangon and Bangkok, Mandalay and Chiang Mai, Tachilek and Maesai, and Myawady and Maesot after designating them as sister cities. Moreover, plans are also under way to transport and sell products to Myawady after turning it into an industrial zone. For that project, Thailand will render financial assistance and technical loan.

As for the agricultural and industrial cooperation, efforts will be made to implement the Contract Farming Method with added momentum. There will also be an exchange of technologies and the conducting of courses in the agricultural and forestry sector.

In the energy sector, ways and means will be sought to enhance businesses, small and medium, through the promotion of cooperation. For these industries and joint-venture enterprises, common funds will be set up. Arrangements will be made to set up agricultural produce trading businesses at border areas and to establish special economic zones in Myawady and Maesot and industrial zones in Hpa-an and Mawlamyine. The Thalwin river hydel power project will be implemented along with other gas-powered electricity generation projects at Maesot, Myawady, Hpa-an, Thatlon and Yangon.

As for the transport sector, a second Tachilek-Maesai friendship bridge as well as a Maesot-Myawady-Hpa-an-Thatlon motor road will also be constructed speedily. Furthermore, arrangements will be made to improve the Myawady-Kawmareik-Mudon-Mawlamyine road along with Phaya Thonu-Thampyayzay-Mawlamyine road.

In the tourism cooperation sector, arrangements are also made for ‘Four countries, one destination joint tours’ and ‘Two countries, one destination joint tours’ together with ‘Caravan tours’ and ‘Cross country tours’. Measures will also be taken to run tourism industries including marine tourism at promising places in both countries. For tourism industries, plans have been drawn up to provide easy access to entry visas, enabling tourism entrepreneurs of Myanmar to participate in the tourism promotion programme in Thailand. Moreover, plans will also be made to promote the aviation sectors of both countries. Thailand receives nearly 11 million tourists annually earning US$ 7.5 billion from this business.

In the human resource development sector, there include the conducting of courses on the five projects mentioned in the future work programme, the presentation of prizes by Thailand, the providing of training to journalists and government employees, and the conducting of joint researches on businesses such as commercial tourism and practical cooperation.

People residing in border areas will enjoy the fruits of progress as priority will be given to border area development. With the economic boost, these regions will undergo prosperity with the prevalence of stability and peace leading to the end of armed insurgenacies and enabling Myanmar to enjoy the economic growth promising a higher living standard of its people. As a result, investment and export will be on the increase. So will the number of factories. It means that there will emerge job opportunities enough for the public with the prospect of increased income and higher living standard. What’s more, there will be better transport systems and further economic cooperation with neighbouring countries. As a result, the four countries will become the zones without boundary.

There are prospects of shifting agriculture and manufacturing works to suitable sites, thanks to friendly cooperation based on mutual benefit between the countries. It means that businesses will be conducted at the places where there is sufficient labour, instead of bringing in the labour from another country. This programme will promise regional economic development and put an end to social problems springing from working in foreign nations.

I wrote an article “Strategic Myanmar”, which appeared in the Kyemon issued on 2-7-2002, reflecting how strategic and important Myanmar is in Asia. To express my belief that Myanmar would become a modern and developed nation soon. I also wrote an article, “My gift of belief for Myanmar”, which appeared in the Myanmar Times issued on 24-10-2003. The two articles have everything in common with the Bagan Declaration. Therefore, I am in high spirit at the thought that my dreams will come true soon.

Translation: NN+KTY
Significant achievements making...

The tasks for uplift of morale of the disabled in the world who deserve sympathy, promotion of their dignity and enjoyment of equal social rights in the social development sector.

The government is also making efforts for all citizens to enjoy social happiness equally with peace of mind and for the disabled to fully enjoy the fruits of national development like average people, he said. Therefore the plans were laid down and are being implemented to raise the quality of life, he said.

In the implementation of social development activities, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement is taking charge of social life of disabled people. With respect to their socialization and participation in social organizations and international social organizations, he said. He said the government is carrying out the tasks for the disabled to stand in society with dignity, and to uplift their morale, adding that it is also undertaking the tasks not to be discarded people through the rehabilitation tasks including treatment.

He said the government is implementing the rehabilitation programmes that include formal education, vocational education, social relation and employment by opening schools for the blind, the deaf and the handicapped people. Similarly, the government has been rendering assistance to the schools for the blind and the deaf established by social organizations. Government departments in co-operation with social organizations are actively taking part in rehabilitation programmes including education and necessary training, he stressed.

He said the government established the Myanmar Disabled Sports Federation. The federation, a member of the international disabled sports committee, participated in disabled sports meets and won gold medals. Significant achievements have been made in the rehabilitation programmes due to the encouragement of the government, cooperation of volunteer social organizations and the people and efforts of the disabled themselves, he said. It is heartening to note that the disabled are actively taking part in the tasks that contribute towards the progress of their life and Myanmar society and the interest of the State.

With the success of the programmes, arrangements for training and nurturing the disabled can be made with greater momentum, upgrading the training school-based rehabilitation system to community-based rehabilitation one with the participation of the people and the disabled. At such a time, he urged the officials concerned to promote the life of the disabled and continue to raise the momentum of achievement for standing tall in society as humans with dignity and of great value and taking part in national development tasks together with other citizens in the respective roles.

In conclusion, he urged the officials concerned to continue efforts to raise their standard of life of all citizens, to fully assist the schools for the disabled who need social assistance, to provide all the people to provide assistance to the disabled with their potential, to offer their outstand- ing achievements making...

(footnote 16)

MNA

Cooperative products exhibition and market festival

YANGON, 3 Dec — The leader committee for organizing the cooperative products exhibition and market festival 2004 of the Ministry of Cooperatives held a meeting at the hall of the ministry on Bogyoke Aung San Street this afternoon, attended by patron of the leading committee, Minister for Cooperatives Maj-Gen Htun Oo. Present on the occasion were directors-general, the managing director and officials of the departments and enterprise under the ministry and members of the leading committee and subcommittees. On the occasion, the minister made a speech on measures for successful holding of the exhibition and the festival to be held at the Cooperative Commercial Centre (Saya San Plaza) from 13 to 19 January 2004. The chairman of the leading committee and officials reported on arrangements for holding the festival. The minister made closing remarks. MNA

Tailoring course concludes

YANGON, 3 Dec — A ceremony to conclude the tailoring course No 1/2003, opened by the Central Organization Committee for Myanmar War Veterans Organization at No 1 War Veterans Model Village, took place at the basis education high school in the village this morning. Secretary of COC and Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung spoke on the occasion and presented course completion certificates to trainees. Next, Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Aung Thein also presented gifts to two course instructors. After the ceremony, the commander and party viewed round the clothes made by trainees. A total of 49 trainees attended the course, which lasted 12 weeks. Later, the commander, the minister and party attended a road opening ceremony at the same village. On the occasion, the chairman of the leading committee for Thantamayut bus lines and a local authority formally opened Hsinphyushin road. The road is 2,700 feet long and 12 feet wide and is built of gravel. — MNA

Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win presents a model hotel best award to hostel No 1 through a trainer. MNA

Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thet Sein presents a prize to an outstanding disabled person. MNA

Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win presents a model hotel best award to hostel No 1 through a trainer.
Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects regional development tasks

YANGON, 3 Dec — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Magway Division Peace and Development Council Col Zaw Min and officials of the SPDC office, left Kyaukhtu by car yesterday morning and arrived at Path at 7.45 am.

First, Lt-Gen Ye Myint met with township level departmental officials at Shwe Paupkin Hall. The chairman of the Township Peace and Development Council reported to Lt-Gen Ye Myint on sufficiency of rice in the township and regional development tasks. Lt-Gen Ye Myint urged departmental personnel to participate in regional development tasks and extended cultivation of rice and fulfilled the requirements.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party proceeded to Hupokeyon Village in the township and inspected the fields of pulses and beans, potatoes, onions and land preparation works for cultivation of summer paddy. Lt-Gen Ye Myint also inspected the site chosen for construction of No 4 Kyaw Creek rural diversion weir on the near the village.

Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party went to Pyama Village and inspected the site chosen for construction of No 3 Kyaw Creek rural diversion weir. Lt-Gen Ye Myint viewed the harvest of monsoon paddy and fields of onion and other crops there.

Later, Lt-Gen Ye Myint arrived at Gwegon Village and inspected the fields to be irrigated by construction of a diversion weir near the village. Lt-Gen Ye Myint cordially greeted the farmers of the village and viewed round the fields of pulses and beans and onion.

At 10.30 am, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party proceeded to Zeepya Village and MINGAING Village and inspected the maintenance of a bridge in MINGAING Village.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected the site chosen for construction of No 1 Kyaw Creek Rural Diver-ision Weir and the hospital and the affiliated basic education high school of the village. Lt-Gen Ye Myint do-nated cash to the hospital and the school. Lt-Gen Ye Myint paid homage and pre-sented offerings to members of the Sangha led by Sayadaw Bhaddanta Nanda Vamsa at Aungzeya Pala Monastery at the village.

In the afternoon, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party left the village by special train and inspected the site chosen for construction of No 1 Kyaw Creek Rural Diver-ision Weir and inspected the site chosen for construction of a bridge in MINGAING Village. Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected the site for construction of a bridge near the village.

The minister and party attended the ceremony to mark the cent per cent cover of DOTS TB in the whole country held at the people’s hospital in Matupi Township on 30 November morning.

The minister viewed the giving of medical treatment to local patients and paid visits to the the hospital’s di-splay booth.

YANGON, 3 Dec — Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, together with Director-General of Health Department Dr Khin Maung Than and Aung and officials, inspected hospitals in Magway Division and Chin State beginning 28 November.

The minister and party arrived at the hospital in Pauk Township in Pakokku District. He provided the medicines to the hospital and gave necessary instructions.

In the evening, the minister inspected the hospital in the township and visited the site for construction of a diversion weir near the village.

The minister and party then gave polio vaccine to the local children at the sites where polio vaccine was being given to aged under-5 children at Matupi Township.

The minister inspected the site chosen for construction of No 1 Kyaw Creek Rural Diver-ision Weir and the hospital and the affiliated basic education high school of the village.

The minister and party then gave polio vaccine to the local children at the sites where polio vaccine was being given to aged under-5 children at Matupi Township.

Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint attended the ceremony attended to the needs of health in the location.

Later, Lt-Gen Ye Myint attended the ceremony attended to the needs of health in the location.

YANGON, 3 Dec — The opening ceremony of Great Wall National Badminton Championship of Myanmar Badminton Federation was held at Aung San Stadium this morning. It was attended by officials of the Ministry of Sports, executives of Myanmar Women Federation, patrons, the president and executives of MBB, and guests.

President U Kyi Nyunt of the federation made an opening speech, and first day matches of the championship commenced.

A total of nine contesting teams are taking part in the championship, which will continue till 7 Decem-ber.

MEDICAL RESEARCH DEPARTMENT

Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint gives polio vaccine to children at People’s Hospital in Matupi, Chin State. (HEALTH)

UMFCCI officials meet Indian guests

YANGON, 3 Dec — General Secretary of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Sein Win Hlaing, Joint Secretary Dr Maung Maung Lay and central executives this afternoon met with Indian delegation led by Mr Payavuelu Babu, Vice President & Head East Zone of the Larsen & Toubro Ltd, India, at the office of the federation. At the meeting, the two sides discussed matters relating to construction work and cooperation in trade in Myanmar. — MNA

Hospitals inspected in Magway Division and Chin State

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and the Popa rural health care centre and 16-bed Popa Sangha hospital and gave necessary instructions yesterday. The minister and party inspected the out patient ward, X-ray room, patient wards and medical stores of NyaungU People’s Hospital this morning. After fulfilling the requirements there, the minister arrived back here by air. — MNA

Patron of the Myanmar Badminton Federation U Kyi Nyunt makes an opening address at the Great Wall National Badminton Championship — MNA

Great Wall National Badminton Championship opens

YANGON, 3 Dec — The opening ceremony of Great Wall National Badminton Championship of Myanmar Badminton Federation sponsored by Great Wall Traditional Medicine Production was held at Aung San Stadium this morning.

It was attended by officials of the Ministry of Sports, executives of Myanmar Women Federation, patrons, the president and executives of MBB, and guests.

Patron U Kyi Nyunt of the federation made an opening speech, and first day matches of the championship commenced.

A total of nine contesting teams are taking part in the championship, which will continue till 7 December.
Letpan Dam Construction Project, a good investment

The government has been making a prudent investment on projects of water supply, the main requirement in the agriculture sector, the length and breadth of the nation. Especially, seeking all possible means and ways, it is building irrigation facilities in arid zones that have to mainly rely on the rain fall for agricultural purpose.

To boosting production of crops and greening of the regions, the government gives priority to small and medium dam construction projects, which can be completed in a short time. Having only an average annual rainfall of 22 inches, Myinmu Township in Sagaing Division does not get enough water for cultivating crops. The Irrigation Department thus carried out a feasibility tour and constructed an earthen embankment across Letpan Creek about one mile north of ChaungU Village in Myinmu Township for fulfilling the region’s requirement.

A new 12-mile road has been built from Alakappa Village to the Letpan Dam, resulting in better transport for local people.

The village is adjacent to the dam and so villagers have enjoyed higher income by extended cultivation of such crops as beans and pulses, corn, sesame and cotton.

In the division, so far 14 dams have been constructed benefiting over 360,000 cultivable acres of land. Three dams are being built and on completion, they can irrigate around 5,600 acres. And 11 more irrigation facilities will be constructed. On completion, they will benefit over 170,000 acres of land.

The dam has a water surface of 16 square miles with a 4,000-foot-long and 91-foot-high earthen embankment. Arrangements are being made for cultivation of paddy in nearby villages. Thanks to the construction of the dam, the villagers no longer suffer the problem of drinking water shortage.

We staff of Kyemon daily interviewed some farmers of Tawchaunggyi and TawchaungU Villages. According to farmers, it is learnt that in the past local farmers had to totally rely on the rain in growing crops and no crops could be grown in summer.

And it is expected to boost production of crops and they will launch cultivation only in monsoon and summer paddy. They have also enjoyed fruitful results of sufficient potable water. Local people are satisfied with the project.

Formerly, based on the rain fall, local farmers carried out only single or double cropping. The year in which the region was affected by drought, the farmers had to work single cropping with great difficulties. Thanks to the goodwill of the State, the region will be able to launch double or triple cropping and to cultivate paddy, contributing towards local rice sufficiency.

Translation: MS (Kyemon: 30-11-2003)

Myanmar trounces Cambodia 6-0

ANGON, 3 Dec — After Kyaw Thuya’s opening goal, the Myanmar team continued to dominate the match against Cambodia this evening in the XXII Southeast Asia Games in Yangon District and attended to the needs. At the station, officials concerned reported to the minister on arrangements for pumping river water in any season. Similarly, the minister saw over the Ngatha river water pumping project.

In the afternoon, he went to Pakokku Airport construction project. At the briefing hall, responsible officials reported on progress of the construction of runway and airport building and future tasks.

Afterwards, the minister inspected the construction project of airport building.

Delegates to MCDCCC visit meeting Mongyun

ANGON, 3 Dec — Delegates of the People’s Republic of China to Myanmar-China Drug Control Cooperation Meeting held at the Regina Hotel in Tachilek on 26 November were led by Deputy Secretary-General Mr Wang Quanrong of National Drug Control Commission, accompanied by Secretary of the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control of Myanmar Director-General of Myanmar Police Force Brig-Gen Khin Yi and officials, arrived at Mongyun in Shan State (East) on 27 November and visited the Hpyed Power Plant, rice mill and high-yield paddy fields there.

The delegation also visited Wan Hong Basic Education High School and Wan Hong Agriculture and Livestock Breeding Integrated Farm in the afternoon.

Local national race leaders led by Wa national race leader U Paau Yu Yi of Special Region-2 welcomed the delegation. U Li Win briefed the delegation on opium substitute development and assistance offered by the Government. The leader of the delegation and the director-general of the MPP spoke words of thanks.

Afterwards, they discussed matters related to drug elimination endeavors, future tasks and assistance programmes of the two countries. Later, the delegation viewed the products and foodstuff factory of the farm and left for home via Kengtung/Mogla on 28 November.

Li-Gen Aung Htwe inspected regional development in Panglong, Loilem and Maukmai townships

ANGON, 3 Dec — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Aung Htwe of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Shan State Peace and Development Council and Commander of Eastern Command Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint, Vice-Chief of Armed Forces Training Maj-Gen Aung Kyi and officials, arrived at the construction site of Maha Thaung Bhu Ma Pi go da in Panglong on 30 November.

At the briefing hall, the project in-charge U Chris Than Aung also gave necessary instructions on forest conservation.

A total of 1,440,000 pine trees have been grown on over 2,400 acres of land by Forest Department in Panglong in 1993-2003 and 780,000 on over 1,300 acres in Loilem beginning 1997. In 2004-2005, over 800 acres of land will be put under pine trees.

Li-Gen Aung Htwe and party went to Maukmai where they inspected round the Maukmai Township People’s Hospital.

Next, they arrived at the construction site of town hall. Executive Officer U Thaung Than Zaw of the township development committee reported on fund raising for construction of the hall and work done.

Li-Gen Aung Htwe gave instructions on meeting the set standard and ensuring work site safety. Later they inspected round the site.

Next, member of the State Peace and Development Council Li-Gen Aung Htwe inspected the pine trees grown by the Forest Department and national pine forest in Panglong and Loilem. He also met with officials concerned and gave instructions on forest conservation.

The dam has a water surface of 16 square miles with a 4,000-foot-long and 91-foot-high earthen embankment. Arrangements are being made for cultivation of paddy in nearby villages. Thanks to the construction of the dam, the villagers no longer suffer the problem of drinking water shortage.

We staff of Kyemon daily interviewed some farmers of Tawchaunggyi and TawchaungU Villages. According to farmers, it is learnt that in the past local farmers had to totally rely on the rain in growing crops and no crops could be grown in summer.

And it is expected to boost production of crops and they will launch cultivation only in monsoon and summer paddy. They have also enjoyed fruitful results of sufficient potable water. Local people are satisfied with the project.

Formerly, based on the rain fall, local farmers carried out only single or double cropping. The year in which the region was affected by drought, the farmers had to work single cropping with great difficulties. Thanks to the goodwill of the State, the region will be able to launch double or triple cropping and to cultivate paddy, contributing towards local rice sufficiency.

Translation: MS (Kyemon: 30-11-2003)

Transport Minister inspects river water pumping stations, Pakokku Airport construction

ANGON, 3 Dec—Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint, accompanied by Deputy Director-General U Soe Myint of the Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems, yesterday inspected the pumping of river water at Latpanchepaw river water pumping station in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, and scored five more goals for his team.

In the early minutes of the match Cambodia team was on the attack, threatening the Myanmar defence and the goalkeeper. But failed to produce any goal.

Myanmar will meet Malaysia in its last group match.

Delegates of the Myanmar-China Drug Control Cooperation Meeting paid obeisance at Sayadaw U Htwe and party paid homage and inspected round the new school building and learning of students.

Member of the State Peace and Development Council Li-Gen Aung Htwe gave instructions on supply of drinking water for the school, durability of new building and construction of sports ground and fulfilled the needs.

On arrival at Homein, Li-Gen Aung Htwe and party paid reverence and offered prayers to Sayadaw U Ponnya and members of the Sangha of the monastery in the town and fulfilled the requirements for the monastery. — MNA

The control tower of the Letpan Dam under construction. — THIRW AYE (KYEMON)
Infrastructures for the aviation sector

As a result of upgrading Kawthoung Airport and the airport building, jet planes carrying passengers can now use it.—Photo: MNA

Magway Airport and airfield will significantly contribute towards progress of the transport sector of Magway Division. The photo taken on 6 June 2003 shows the building of Magway airport.—Photo:MNA

While taking measures for building new airports, the old ones are being upgraded. The photo shows Tachilek Airport which was upgraded in 1999.—Photos: Htay Aung (Kymon)

Mandalay International Airport in TadaU Township in Mandalay Division equipped with modern facilities. Photo: MNA
China mobilizes whole society to fight against “AIDS”

BRUNSWICK, 3 Dec — China is marking the 16th World AIDS Day, by mobilizing the whole society to participate in the fight against AIDS, with Ma Xiaowei, Vice-Minister of Health, highly praising China’s AIDS prevention and control work.

Speaking Monday at the awarding ceremony of the “121 joint action”, China’s AIDS donation plan, Ma said the government was pleased to see the formation of an anti-AIDS force, led by the central government, with all levels of governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the public as participants.

“The support from scientists and enterprises is particularly significant for AIDS-related education and publicity,” Ma said.

China has one million HIV carriers today, and the number is increasing at a high speed. In face of the severe situation, Ma said the government was pleased with the “121 joint action”, China’s AIDS donation plan.

The Stamp issued in commemoration of World AIDS Day is the “AIDS” stamp, and the first of the series of a stamp collection issued by China to commemorate World AIDS Day.

The stamp, with the design of a heart-shaped red ribbon, symbolizes the care and support given by the society to HIV carriers and AIDS patients. Ma Xiaowei, Vice-Minister of the Chinese Health Ministry, said at the issuance ceremony that stamps are like “the name cards” of a nation.

The new stamp shows the Chinese Government’s support and active participation in AIDS prevention, and it will play an active role in AIDS control efforts.

The commemorative stamp is worth 80 cents (about 10 US cents) with a circulation of 9.13 million copies.
WHO authorizes new medicines for “AIDS” treatment

GENEVA, 3 Dec — The World Health Organization (WHO) added three new generic products for first-line AIDS treatment to its list of medicines meeting WHO standards of quality, safety and efficacy on Monday, the World AIDS Day.

The new products are fixed-dose triple therapy combinations containing lopinavir, stavudine and nevirapine, the WHO said in a statement.

The introduction of these medicines in the list of quality medicines will increase choice and competition, thus contributing to making AIDS treatment more affordable, the statement said.

The WHO and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), on Monday launched a “3 by 5 strategy” to treat three million people living with AIDS by 2005, and a WHO expert said there was already substantial progress in one key area.

“The 3 by 5 strategy recommends simplified AIDS treatment regimens so that countries can quickly expand access to antiretroviral medicines,” WHO Assistant Director-General for Health Technology and Pharmaceuticals Vladimir Lepakin explained.

“These new products will help the countries hardest hit by the AIDS epidemic get easy-to-take AIDS medicines to the people who need them most urgently,” Lepakin said.

MNA/Xinhua

WHO report says one death from “AIDS” every minute in 2003

MANILA, 3 Dec — More than half a million people in the Asia-Pacific region died of AIDS in 2003, which makes one death from AIDS every minute, according to a report published by the World Health Organization (WHO).

In a statement, the WHO regional office for the Western Pacific said the WHO warns that, without major investments in prevention and care, similar annual death tolls can be expected until the end of the decade.

The report, HIV/AIDS (human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immune deficiency syndrome) in Asia and the Pacific Region 2003, highlights a number of disturbing trends, which indicate there are more than seven million people living with HIV/AIDS in Asia and the Pacific (of the global total of 40 million). The report says India has the highest number of people in Asia living with HIV/AIDS, an estimated 3.8 million to 4.6 million people, while China accounts for about 840,000 HIV infections.

The trends also include that high HIV infection rates can be found in Cambodia, Papua New Guinea, Thailand, and parts of China and India, according to the report.

In Cambodia, there is 2.6-per-cent prevalence among the general population, which indicates a generalized epidemic. Cambodia still has the highest estimated HIV/AIDS prevalence rate in Asia and the Pacific.

Figures for Vietnam show HIV infection rates of more than 20 per cent among injecting drug users in most provinces. Disturbingly, the high rates of HIV infection among sex workers previously noted in the south of the country have now been found in the north (15 per cent of sex workers in Hanoi are estimated to be HIV-positive).

MNA/Xinhua

Illegal immigration helps “AIDS” spread in S Mexico

MEXICO CITY, 3 Dec — Increasing immigration in southern Mexico has caused an increase of HIV/AIDS, Dagoberto Garcia, a health services officer in the southeastern state of Quintana Roo, said on Monday.

Because of illegal immigrants from Central America, such as Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador, about 150 new cases were reported each year.

Lorena Careaga, the leader of the non-governmental organization, Punto de Encuentro con la Comunidad, also blamed the increase on the arrival of patients from Central American countries. The state of Quintana Roo had reported 1,394 cases already this year, and 405 deaths, added Careaga.

On Monday, the 16th World AIDS Day, representatives from Mexico and Central America met in the city of Chetumal on the prevalence of HIV/AIDS in southern Mexico.

According to the National Registry of AIDS Cases, 72,337 cases had been reported, of which 14,000 were found in the Federal District. — MNA/Xinhua

UN plans to rush “AIDS” therapy to world’s poor

Nairobi, 3 Dec — The United Nations unveiled plans on Monday to rush life-saving anti-retroviral AIDS drugs to three million of the world’s poor in a $5.5-billion US-dollar emergency strategy to fight a disease now killing 8,000 a day.

The UN’s World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that six million people in poor countries need the anti-retroviral (ARV) treatment that many victims in the rich world now take for granted, but less than 300,000 actually receive it.

“AIDS has become the premier disease of mass destruction,” WHO Assistant Director-General Jack Chow said at the launch of a strategy on World AIDS Day aiming to get ARV treatment to half of the six million by the end of 2005.

“This year alone three million people have died of AIDS. These are people whose lives have been saved through provision of ARVs,” he said.

The WHO announced last week that 40 million people around the world were infected with HIV, and that the global AIDS epidemic shows no signs of abating. It says the aim of the new strategy is to ensure that all people living with AIDS, even in the poorest settings, have access to treatment.

It also hopes that better access to treatment will encourage those with HIV/AIDS to come forward, something which is difficult for many countries in where the stigma of having AIDS often condemns sufferers to social isolation.

“Experience in Brazil and Haiti has shown that where people can get treatment they have the courage to come forward for testing,” Chow said.

“It is my desire that the three million goal is not a ceiling but a floor and that we start today to provide universal access.” UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan says many political leaders still simply do not care enough to fight the disease, which has killed 28 million people since it was first reported among homosexual men in the United States in 1981.

MNA/Reuters

Chinese Premier shakes hands with “AIDS” patients

BEIJING, 3 Dec — Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao Monday shook hands and had a face-to-face conversation with three AIDS patients at a hospital in Beijing, as various activities were launched nationwide to mark the World AIDS Day.

It was the first time that a Chinese Premier has visited AIDS patients.

Wen called on the governments at all levels to strengthen AIDS prevention and treatment, when paying a visit to Ditan Hospital, the most-advanced AIDS hospital in China, which has treated more than 600 AIDS patients.

Wearing a red ribbon shown care about the AIDS patients, the Premier shook hands with three patients one by one, asking them about their treatment, family and competition, thus contributing to making one death from AIDS every minute, according to a report published by the World Health Organization (WHO).

MNA/Reuters

Central America has highest “AIDS” rate in Latin America

SAN ANDRES, 3 Dec — Belize, Honduras, Panama and Guatemala are four of the six Central American countries with the highest AIDS rate in Latin America, “Canada”’s Anette Armitage, director of the World Bank for Central America, has said.

Armitage was quoted on Monday by local Press as saying that the epidemic in Central America is worsening day by day. He said in Honduras alone, at least 13,500 children became orphans because of the disease, which is now the second major cause of death, only after street violence.

Honduras has the highest percentage of AIDS cases in Central America, accounting for nearly 60 per cent of the total. At least 19,200 people in Honduras have died of AIDS since 1985, and it is estimated that some 25,600 children and teenagers will be infected with the deadly virus by 2005.

In Costa Rica, the epidemic rate is 66 per cent of the adult group. Since 1983, 2,500 AIDS cases have been reported and 1,500 individuals have died of the disease. — MNA/Xinhua

Scottish Woodlands worker Roddy McTavish carries a Nordman Fir on a Christmas tree farm near the village of Bigger, in Scotland, on 2 Dec. The farm has sold trees to the Harrods department store in London and has clients throughout the UK, France and Croatia. — Reuters

A container vessel enters the Singapore port. Singapore said it would like to complete a new transshipment terminal by 2008. — Reuters

MNA/Reuters
Hakan keeps Galatasaray hopes alive against Juve

DORTMUND (Germany), 3 Dec—Hakan Sukur scored twice as Galatasaray beat Juventus 2-0 in the Champions League on Tuesday, keeping alive the Turkish team’s hopes of qualifying from Group D.

Hakan grabbed the opener two minutes after the restart with a fine header and then sealed the victory with an injury time strike after being put through by Hasan Sas.

The result moves Galatasaray above Olympiakos into third place on six points, but leaves them two points behind their next opponents — second-placed Real Sociedad.

Fatih Terim’s side must win that match in Spain next week if they are to go through to the knock-out stage of the competition.

The match against the Italian champions had been postponed by a week and switched to Dortmund’s Westfalen Stadion by UEFA following the recent terrorist attacks in Istanbul.

But there was no doubt that Galatasaray enjoyed home advantage. The ground was packed with Turkish supporters, so many that the start was delayed for 15 minutes due to traffic congestion.

With little at stake for Juve, coach Marcello Lippi rested big names such as Pavel Nedved, David Trezeguet and Alessandro del Piero but, from the outset, it was clear that the Italians were keen to beat Terim’s side.

Galatasaray keeper Feryd Mondragon was busy from the start and was out quick to foil Marco di Vaio in the 11th minute. Shortly afterwards, the Turks tested Juve keeper Antonio Chicentti, playing instead of the rested Gianluigi Buffon, with a well-struck effort from Berkant Goktan.

Fatihrzu Ilicic, another Juve player given a run start, struck the post with a 20-metre free-kick in the 29th minute but it was to no avail as the Turks dominated from start to finish.

Socceroo’s, who ran Real so close for the title last season but have struggled so far this term, had two goals disallowed in the first half and enjoyed a host of scoring opportunities in the second, but were unable to clinch the win they deserved. The result leaves Valencia a point clear of Real Madrid, but the champions can regain top spot if they beat city rivals Atletico in Wednesday’s Madrid derby.

Valencia missed a chance to stretch their lead at the top of the Primera Liga when they were held to a 0-0 draw by a dominant Real Sociedad at the Al Nahyan Stadium in Abu Dhabi on 2 Dec, 2003.

Germany won the game 3-1 —INTERNET

Arsenal and Southampton into League Cup quarterfinals

LONDON, 3 Dec—Arsenal cruised into the quarterfinals of the English League Cup on Tuesday as a virtual reserve team thrashed a full strength Wolverhampton Wanderers 5-1 at Highbury.

In the night’s other fourth round tie Southampton deservedly beat local rivals Portsmith 2-0 with goals by England striker James Beattie. Arsenal, who beat Southampton in last season’s FA Cup final, advanced with ease in the lesser competition despite resting almost all their first team squad.

French striker Jeremie Aliadiere got the opening goal from the edge of the box in the 24th minute and Nwankwo Kamu, who looked dangerous but wayward all night, finally found the target from close range in the 68th.

Arsenal then turned on the style as Aliadiere curled in his second three minutes later and Sylvain Wiltord weighed in with his first goal since August.

Alex Rae pulled one back for Wolves in the 81st minute with a spectacular finish but Arsenal had the last word as 16-year-old Spanish forward Francesc Fabregas became the club’s youngest ever scorer two minutes from time. There was further good news for manager Arsene Wenger as midfielder Patrick Vieira came through unscathed in his first full game since he suffered a thigh injury at the end of September.

Portsmouth’s first appearance at St. Mary’s Stadium — the first south coast derby for almost eight years and only the 30th meeting of the two teams in almost a century of rivalry — proved to be something of a damp squib.

Last season’s First Division champions were never really in the game as their more experienced rivals had the edge throughout without creating too many clear chances.

Both teams had been in poor form in the league in recent weeks and that was reflected in a scrappy match.

The opening goal came in the 33rd minute when defender Chris Marsden clapped in a low cross from the left and Beattie dived into the six-yard box to poke the ball past Pavel Srnicek.

Portsmouth laboured without ever threatening an equalizer but their Dutch defender Arjan de Zeeuw was unfortunate to be sent off for an injury time trip on Beattie that allowed the English man to settle the match from the penalty spot — MNA/Reuters

Joe Cole banned and fined for West Ham dust-up

LONDON, 3 Dec — Chelsea midfielder Joe Cole was banned for two matches and fined 15,000 pounds (25,780 US dollars) on Tuesday after a fracas as a West Ham United player in April.

Cole was suspended for two games, starting from December 22, and fined 10,000 pounds for improper conduct and using abusive and insulting language to a match official during West Ham’s Premier League game at Bolton Wanderers last season.

The 22-year-old, who joined Chelsea in the close season after West Ham were relegated to the First Division, was fined a further 5,000 pounds for improper conduct in a mass confrontation on the pitch, a Football Association spokesman said.

Cole, now an England regular, was also warned about his future conduct. —MNA/Reuters

Ricardo Clark, of the United States, left, and Ioannis Masmanidis, of Germany, challenge for the ball during a Group F match at the World U20 Soccer Championship at the Al Nahyan Stadium in Abu Dhabi on 2 Dec, 2003.

Hakan Sukur of Galatasaray Istanbul runs to score his second goal against Juventus Turin’s goalkeeper Antonio Chimenti (bottom) and Edgar Davids (L), during their Champions League Group D first phase match at the Westphalia Stadium in Dortmund, western Germany, on 2 Dec, 2003. Galatasaray won the match, 2-0. —INTERNET
Wednesday, 3 December, 2003

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST; During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in the whole country.

Night temperatures were 4°C below normal in Rakhine State, 6°C below normal in Shan State, upper Sagaing, Mandalay and Bago Divisions, 4°C to 5°C below normal in Kayin State and Tanintharyi Districts and about normal in the remaining areas.

Maximum temperature on 1-11-2003 was 34°C (93°F). Minimum temperature on 3-12-2003 was 16°C (61°F).

Relative humidity at 9.30 hrs MST on 3-12-2003 was 72%. Total sunshine hours on 2-12-2003 was (8.7) hours approx.

Rainfall on 3-12-2003 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2003 was 2211 mm (87.05 inches) at Yangon Airport, 2315 mm (91.14 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 2394 mm (94.25 inches) at central Yangon.

Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 18 mph from Northwest at (12:55) hours MST on 1-1-2003.

Bay influence: Weather is cloudy in the South Bay and partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of the 4-12-2003: Expect the possibility of isolated light rain or thunder showers in Tanintharyi Division, weather will be partly cloudy in the whole country. Degree of certainty is (40%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Continuation of decrease of night temperatures are likely in Eastern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 4-12-2003: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 4-12-2003: Generally fair weather.
Educational goals…

(from page 1)

the patriots fully equipped with firm nationalistic spirit and Union Spirit, he added.

Success of the education promotion programmes depends on the cooperation of teachers, students and parents and the public. Only when teachers, students and parents cooperate, will the programmes achieve success as expected. Teachers should take a leading part in successful implementation of the programmes. He continued to say that border areas have their distinctive characteristics. As colonialists sowed discord among national brethren living together, there existed suspicion and distrust among them and armed insurgencies broke out. Due to armed conflicts, many lives were lost and education, health, social, economic and transportation sectors lagged behind in development. In the time of Tatmadaw government, confidence, understanding and cooperation have been built up between the government and armed groups. Border area development projects have been laid down and implemented and emphasis has been placed on all-round development tasks. He urged the teachers at the border areas to make efforts with goodwill and national outlook for development of the national peoples’ knowledge, for strengthening of Union Spirit, he added.

He also urged the teachers from other regions to nurture the students to equip them with knowledge, high efficiency, right outlook and thoughts and to enable them to realize and choose their own future. In conclusion, he said in nurturing the youths who will shoulder the duties of the State, the teachers are to adopt the right view, aim high and strive for the better future of the country.

Afterwards, prizes and completion certificates were presented to the trainee teachers. The Secretary-1 presented the best trainee awards to SAT U Chit Ngwe of Homalin BEHS in Sagaing Division and JAT Daw Ei Ni Ni Swe of Linmyint BEPS-116 in Magway Township, Magway Division, the awards for diligence to Schoolhead U Kan Thaung of Myintha BEMS in Homalin Township, Sagaing Division, JAT Daw Khaing Khaing of BEPS-4 in Myitkyina Township, Kachin State and JAT Daw Khin Cho Han of Hkamti Township BEHS in Sagaing Division. He also presented the best hostel awards and completion certificates to trainees.

The trainees then presented K 50,000 for religious, education and social affairs to the Secretary-1 who accepted the donation and presented certificate of honour. After the ceremony, the Secretary-1 greeted the trainee teachers.—MNA

Significant achievements made in rehabilitation programmes for the disabled due to encouragement of government, cooperation of social organizations and the public

International Day of Disabled Persons observed

Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Li-Gen Thein Sein views the performance of children of school for disabled person at a ceremony to mark the International Day for Disabled Persons. — mna

The New Light of Myanmar Thursday, 4 December, 2003

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Four political objectives</th>
<th>Four economic objectives</th>
<th>Four social objectives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order</td>
<td>Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well</td>
<td>Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National reconciliation</td>
<td>Proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system</td>
<td>Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution</td>
<td>Development of the economy inviting participation in terms of technical know-how and investments from sources inside the country and abroad</td>
<td>Uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution</td>
<td>The initiative to shape the national economy must be kept in the hands of the State and the national peoples</td>
<td>Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

YANGON, 3 Dec — The International Day of Disabled Persons was observed at a ceremony held at the International Business Centre on Pyay Road here this morning, with an address by Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Li-Gen Thein Sein.

It was also attended by the ministers, the deputy ministers, members of Myanmar National Working Committee for Women’s Affairs, departmental heads, officials, NGOs, members of the panel of judges, wellwishers and guests.

In his address, the Secretary-2 said the United Nations designated the 3rd of December as the International Day of Disabled Persons. Since then the Union of Myanmar has been celebrating the International Days of Disabled Persons for 11 years. This shows that Myanmar has actively been participating in the noble functions of the UN for humans, he said.

He said the objectives of the International Day of Disabled Persons — promotion of understanding upon the disabled, implementation of the practical assistance programmes for the disabled and uplifting the standard of life of the disabled based on equal rights — have emerged as good results of social development activities regarding the disabled in Myanmar due to the efforts with national determination under the leadership of the government.

He said the government is systematically implementing (See page 8)