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

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

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

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and Daw Mya Mya San attend ceremony to hoist Shwehtidaw atop Mahateza Dhipati Pagoda in Mongpan, Shan State (South)

YANGON, 8 Dec.—A ceremony to enshrine religious objects into and hoist Shwehtidaw atop Mahateza Dhipati Pagoda on Yadana Hill in Mongpan, Loilem District, Shan State (South) was held in conjunction with the consecration ceremony at the pagoda this morning, attended by 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 and wife Daw Mya Mya San.

Also present on the occasion were State Sangha Nayaka Sayadaws led by State Ovadacariya Nagahnakaung Kyaungtik Sayawad Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Dhaja Bhuddanta Dhammasri, member Sayadaws of State Central Working Committee of the Sangha, member Sayadaws of Shan State and township Sangha Nayaka Committees, Secretary Sayadaws and invited Sayadaws and members of the Sangha numbering 108, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Li-Gen Soe Win, Secretary-2 Li-Gen Thein Sein, members of the State Peace and Development Council Li-Gen Aung Htwe, Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and Lt-Gen Kyaw Win, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Kyi Min, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Maj-Gen Myat Hein, Chairman of Shan State Peace and Development Council Commander of Eastern Command Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint, ministers, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, Brig-Gen Nyunt Hlaing of Mongpan Station, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of department, local authorities and departmental officials, national race leaders and local people, wellwishers, members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association, social organizations and religious associations and others. Before holding the Hindaw Hoisting ceremony, the ceremony to offer Shwekyathingan and emerald bowls to the four Buddha Images kept at the four archways of the pagoda was held at 6.45 am.

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 and wife Daw Mya Mya San offered Shwekyathingan and emerald bowls to the Buddha Image kept at the eastern archway of the pagoda.

Secretary-1 Li-Gen Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe offered Shwekyathingan and emerald bowls to the Buddha Image kept at the western archway of the pagoda.

Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Aung Kyaw Swe kept in the hands of the State and the national peoples.

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
PERSPECTIVES
Tuesday, 9 December, 2003

Strive for durability of infrastructures

The Government of the Union of Myanmar, in its bid for continued development of all states and divisions, has given top priority to the tasks for ensuring better transport, especially in the regions like Chin State that are hard of access due to their geographical positions.

The Tapyin Bridge constructed by Public Works under the Ministry of Construction on Pakokku-Kyauktu-Mindat road was opened on 27 November and member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint attended the opening ceremony. The bridge is situated in Saw Township, Gangaw District, Magway Division.

In his address on the occasion, Lt-Gen Ye Myint said that the Government had been implementing the five rural development tasks, that there were delays in transportation of goods and passengers in the past, especially in the rains, because of frequent floods and that the local authorities and people should take responsibility for the maintenance of the bridge.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party also attended the opening ceremony of the Pauk-Kyauktu section of Pakokku-Pauk-Kyauktu-Mindat road. Sixty-one miles and one furlong of the 97-mile Pakokku-Pauk-Kyauktu-Mindat road has been tarred. Similarly, the Pakokku-Pauk section and the Pauk section of the Pakokku-Pauk-Kyauktu-Mindat road and the Pakokku-Mindat-Matupi road have also been opened.

The improvements in transport infrastructure will surely contribute a lot to trade, education and health sectors of Southern Chin State.

The Government, on its part, has been building roads and bridges wherever necessary in the entire Union for parallel development of each and every state and division. Therefore, local authorities and people should cooperate in maintaining the infrastructures for the long-term interest of their respective regions.

Objectives of the 56th Anniversary of Independence Day

— All the national people to collectively safeguard the national independence and ensure perpetuation of sovereignty
— All the national people to be united to ensure non-disintegration of national solidarity
— All the national people to strive for the emergence of enduring State Constitution and for the building of a new modern and developed nation
— All the national people to participate with full sense of Union Spirit and Patriotism in the successful implementation of the seven-point roadmap of the State.

Executive officer leaves for India

YANGON, 8 Dec — Executive Officer Daw Moe Yee Oo of Myanmar Medicine and Medical Equipment Entrepreneurs Association being seen off at the airport — II

Buddhism and BA;

Buddhist degrees conferred on monks

YANGON, 8 Dec — Organized by the Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana, the Ministry of Religious Affairs, the Sula Convocation ceremony of the State Pariyatti Sasana University (Yangon & Mandalay) to confer the ninth Sasana Takkasila Maha Dhammacariya titles (MA; Buddhism and BA) was held at the State Pariyatti Sasana University (Yangon) Kaba Aye Hillock this morning.

Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander Maj-Gen Myint Myint Swe attended the ceremony and presented offertories to Sayadaws. Present on the occasion were State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee member Sayadaw, Theravada Buddhist Missionary Ovada-cara Sai Saydaw, the chairman Sayadaw of the State Pariyatti Sasana Universities Administration Central Committee and Sayadaws, Tipitaka Ovada-cara Sayadaw, Tipitaka Dha-ra ti recipient Sayadaw, the rector Sayadaw of the International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University. Sayadaws and members of the Sangha, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko, departmental heads, local authorities and lay persons.

Ninth convocation of State Pariyatti Sasana Universities (Yangon) and (Mandalay) in progress.— MNA

MA; Buddhism and BA;

YANGON, 8 Dec — The 75th birthday ceremony of Dagon Pariyatti Sarthintaik Sayadaw in Myoma Kyuang Street, Dagon Township member of State Central Working Committee of the Sangha Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Gunananda was held at the Sarthintaik this morning, attended by Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan.

Also present on the occasion were members of the

World AIDS Day lecture given

YANGON, 8 Dec — The World AIDS Day commemorative lecture, organized by Myanmar Dental Association, was given at the hall of MDA.

Present on the occasion were the chairman of MDA (Central) and executive committee members, dental surgeons and students of the Dental Institute.

Acting project manager (HIV/venereal disease) Dr Min Thoe of the Health Department, Dr Hin Aung Saw of North Okkalapa Hospital (Wabagyi) and lecturer Dr Swe Swe Win of the Department of Plastic and Maxilla Facial and Oral Surgery, the Dental Institute (Yangon) gave the lectures. — MNA

Minister attends 75th birthday of Dagon Pariyatti Sarthintaik Sayadaw

YANGON, 8 Dec — The 75th birthday ceremony of Presiding Sayadaw of Dagon Pariyatti Sarthintaik on Myoma Kyuang Street, Dagon Township member of State Central Working Committee of the Sangha Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Gunananda was held at the Sarthintaik this morning, attended by Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan.

Also present on the occasion were members of the

Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan donates provisions to a Sayadaw at 75th birthday of Dagon Pariyatti Monastery Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw Bhaddanta Gunananda. — MNA

Sanga, departmental heads of the ministry, wellwishers, disciples of the Sayadaw and invited guests.

Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan and the congregation received the Five Precepts from the Sayadaw.

Afterwards, the minister, departmental heads and wellwishers presented offertories to the Sayadaw, followed by singing of merits gained for good deeds.

Staff families of the ministry presented 65 mosquito nets worth K 409,500 million including the provisions were donated. — MNA

Minister attends 75th birthday of Dagon Pariyatti Sarthintaik Sayadaw

YANGON, 8 Dec — The 75th birthday ceremony of Dagon Pariyatti Sarthintaik Sayadaw in Myoma Kyuang Street, Dagon Township member of State Central Working Committee of the Sangha Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Gunananda was held at the Sarthintaik this morning, attended by Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan.

Also present on the occasion were members of the

World AIDS Day lecture given

YANGON, 8 Dec — The World AIDS Day commemorative lecture, organized by Myanmar Dental Association, was given at the hall of MDA.

Present on the occasion were the chairman of MDA (Central) and executive committee members, dental surgeons and students of the Dental Institute.

Acting project manager (HIV/venereal disease) Dr Min Thoe of the Health Department, Dr Hin Aung Saw of North Okkalapa Hospital (Wabagyi) and lecturer Dr Swe Swe Win of the Department of Plastic and Maxilla Facial and Oral Surgery, the Dental Institute (Yangon) gave the lectures. — MNA

Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan donates provisions to a Sayadaw at 75th birthday of Dagon Pariyatti Monastery Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw Bhaddanta Gunananda. — MNA

Santha, departmental heads of the ministry, wellwishers, disciples of the Sayadaw and invited guests.

Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan and the congregation received the Five Precepts from the Sayadaw.

Afterwards, the minister, departmental heads and wellwishers presented offertories to the Sayadaw, followed by singing of merits gained for good deeds.

Staff families of the ministry presented 65 mosquito nets worth K 409,500 million including the provisions were donated. — MNA

Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan donates provisions to a Sayadaw at 75th birthday of Dagon Pariyatti Monastery Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw Bhaddanta Gunananda. — MNA

Sanga, departmental heads of the ministry, wellwishers, disciples of the Sayadaw and invited guests.

Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan and the congregation received the Five Precepts from the Sayadaw.

Afterwards, the minister, departmental heads and wellwishers presented offertories to the Sayadaw, followed by singing of merits gained for good deeds.

Staff families of the ministry presented 65 mosquito nets worth K 409,500 million including the provisions were donated. — MNA

Sanga, departmental heads of the ministry, wellwishers, disciples of the Sayadaw and invited guests.

Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan and the congregation received the Five Precepts from the Sayadaw.

Afterwards, the minister, departmental heads and wellwishers presented offertories to the Sayadaw, followed by singing of merits gained for good deeds.

Staff families of the ministry presented 65 mosquito nets worth K 409,500 million including the provisions were donated. — MNA
**Strikes against oil pipelines continue in Iraq**

Baghdad, 8 Dec — Long gas lines and lengthy power outages are again plugging the capital city, the result of continued sabotage of all pipelines and attacks on contractors. "We are in a security clampdown," Army Corps of Engineers spokesman Mike McAlear said. Some reconstruction has been halted while officials examine the threat to workers. Gas supplies and electricity have been a problem in the capital since Baghdad fell in April. Over the summer, however, the coalition made progress in rebuilding infrastructure. Gas lines dwindled and electricity reached a level of at least 12 hours of power every day in Baghdad. But stepped-up attacks on contractors in recent weeks have slowed down infrastructure rebuilding. "Electricity production depends on the stability of fuel supplies and security," said Kareem al-Kabest, general director of the Iraqi Electricity Distribution Company. In the past week insurgents struck pipelines three times, Iraq Oil Ministry spokesman Assam Ihab said.

**Chinese Vice-President meets Oman guests**

Beijing, 8 Dec — China is ready to raise relations with Oman to a new level, Chinese Vice-President Zeng Qinghong said here. Zeng made the remark during a meeting with Oman Minister responsible for Foreign Affairs Yousef bin Alawi bin Abdullah in Beijing. "We welcomed Alawi, who is on his fourth visit to China. I hope the visit will help push forward the development of bilateral relations. Though the two countries are far apart, they share long-standing friendship and used to be closely linked together by the maritime Silk Road. Zeng said the two countries had seen continuous development of bilateral links since they established diplomatic relations. He said the two sides had conducted fruitful cooperation in such fields as politics, trade and economy. They had maintained regular exchanges of visits of high-ranking officials and deepened mutual understanding and trust. Zeng said. He said the trade and economic links between the two countries developed rapidly, with trade volume growing and cooperative projects expanding. The two sides had always supported and cooperated with each other in the international arena, Zeng said. Zeng said China places importance on developing the friendly relations with Oman. Alawi conveyed the greetings from Sultan Qaboos Bin Said of Oman to Chinese President Hu Jintao. He said during his visit, he saw great achievements China made in its development and held good talks with his Chinese colleagues. He said the visit was fruitful. He expressed the wish that Oman would continue to expand cooperation with China in all areas, including energy. The two sides exchanged views on other international issues. — MNA/Xinhua

**India, Pakistan to offer preferential market access**

Kathmandu, 8 Dec — India and Pakistan have agreed to open market access to each other’s products under the South Asian Preferential Trade Agreement (SAPTA). This was decided during a two-day meeting between the officials of the two countries which concluded at the SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) Secretariat here. "The two countries successfully concluded bilateral substantive lists of additional items on which they agreed to offer preferential treatment under SAPTA," the SAARC Secretary said in a statement. The meeting was authorized by the fourth Special Session of SAARC Standing Committee held here in July 2003. India and Pakistan agreed on further inclusion of about 500 tariff lines in the SAPTA basket of tariff concessions, which though bilaterally negotiated, will also be available to all other member states, the statement said. The depth of preferential tariff concessions extended by both sides ranges from 10 to 25 per cent. These concessions will form part of the fourth round of trade negotiations under SAPTA. — MNA/PTI

**Indonesia to launch micro-satellite in 2005**

Jakarta, 8 Dec — Indonesia is set to launch its first imagery view micro-satellite in 2005 to carry out remote sensing of the territory and its natural resources. With its remote sensing capability, the micro-satellite will operate in a polar-orbiting system, measure climatic temperature and humidity, record topography, including forests, and monitor cloud cover and water boundaries. It will also have the capability to receive, measure, process and transmit data from around the world. "The satellite will prevent the Basawan incident from recurring," Air Force Chief Marshall Chappy Hakim was quoted Saturday by The Jakarta Post as saying. — MNA/Xinhua

**Beijing trembling amid strong wind, coldest weather this winter**

Beijing, 8 Dec — Strong winds battered Beijing Saturday and kept people from the street as the daytime temperature dropped to minus 1 degree Celsius, the coldest day recorded by the meteorological station in the Chinese capital this winter. The local weather forecast said the temperature would plummet to minus 10 degrees late Saturday night but the wind scale would weaken to gentle or light breeze from strong breeze during Saturday daytime. Few people were seen on the street and most people who ventured out wrapped themselves up in thick overcoats and mittens. "The cold weather would continue for two or three days under the influence of the powerful cold front from Mongolia," said Zhou Xingang, a senior engineer at Beijing Municipal Observatory. Zhou said the temperature would rise to above zero after the chilly weather and clear weather would appear over the coming week. He said it was still too early to tell whether this winter would be warmer or colder than the previous winters as the current temperature was at about the same level compared to the past years. — MNA/Xinhua

**Indonesia to launch micro-satellite in 2005**

**Beijing trembling amid strong wind, coldest weather this winter**

Beijing, 8 Dec — Strong winds battered Beijing Saturday and kept people from the street as the daytime temperature dropped to minus 1 degree Celsius, the coldest day recorded by the meteorological station in the Chinese capital this winter. The local weather forecast said the temperature would plummet to minus 10 degrees late Saturday night but the wind scale would weaken to gentle or light breeze from strong breeze during Saturday daytime. Few people were seen on the street and most people who ventured out wrapped themselves up in thick overcoats and mittens. "The cold weather would continue for two or three days under the influence of the powerful cold front from Mongolia," said Zhou Xingang, a senior engineer at Beijing Municipal Observatory. Zhou said the temperature would rise to above zero after the chilly weather and clear weather would appear over the coming week. He said it was still too early to tell whether this winter would be warmer or colder than the previous winters as the current temperature was at about the same level compared to the past years. — MNA/Xinhua

**Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao (L) shakes hands with United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan (R) just before their meeting, which Annan described as ‘very constructive and stimulating’. He said that discussions had focused on China-UN relations, Iraq, the Korean Penins.
Catastrophic housing shortage threatens Iraq, says official

Baghdad, 8 Dec—Iraq is verging on a catastrophic shortage of housing for its people, a senior housing ministry official said.

"The need for housing has developed from a shortage, to a problem, to a crisis, and probably now it is a catastrophe," Saad Al-Zubaidi, a councillor to the interior minister of construction and housing, told AFP in an interview.

Neglect of the housing sector under Saddam Hussein has been compounded recently by the US-led war that toppled the former regime in April, and subsequent rent hikes by landlords, Zubaidi said.

"A lot of landlords have asked to sharply increase the rent, and if they (the tenants) can’t afford it then they just kick them out," he said.

The evictors then move into empty government buildings. "They are in the thousands, and it is becoming a humanitarian issue of not being able to kick them out, and not being able to keep them in," said the London-educated architect and planner.

AFP found several families on Sunday living in squalid conditions at a former Iraqi Air Force office building.

"Eight people live in this room," said Sadake Hamad, a toothless old woman who did not know her age.

The room with a blue tile floor measured about three metres by four (nine feet by 13), or the size of a small bathroom. It’s only comfort was a thin, worn mat along one wall.

At night, the family makes room to sleep by moving their cooking utensils outside.

The family said they became squatters just after the war when their landlord increased the rent on their Baghdad home.

Zubaidi said close to half of Iraq’s population of about 27 million are considered to be living below the poverty line and cannot afford decent housing.—Internet

Iraq attacks ‘likely to increase’

Baghdad, 8 Dec—A top US military commander in Iraq has said he expects more attacks as the US prepares to hand over power to Iraqis. "We expect to see an increase in violence as we move toward sovereignty at the end of June," General Ricardo Sanchez told reporters on Sunday.

He added the hunt for Saddam Hussein was continuing, but that it was like looking for a needle in a haystack. His comments came shortly after a US soldier was killed by a roadside bomb in the northern city of Mosul.

General Sanchez said the US assumed that Saddam Hussein was still in Iraq, "Clearly we haven’t found the right haystack. We’re all focused on finding that needle," he said.

But he said he did not expect attacks on coalition troops to end if Saddam Hussein was found.

"The killing or capturing of Saddam Hussein will have an impact on the level of violence, but it will not end it," he said.

General Sanchez said the number of military engagements was down to less than 20 a day, compared to almost 40 a day in early November.

Saddam ‘alive’

A tribal chief told the French news agency AFP that the ousted leader was directing attacks against the coalition.

"The Iraq president is commanding the military operations against the American forces," said the loyalist who called himself Abu Mohammad.

He said the former leader was "in good health and living in the west of Iraq," AFP reported.—Internet

Britain provides counter narcotics training for Afghans

London, 8 Dec—The British Government on Friday announced a project that would provide training and equipment to detect and disrupt drug trafficking within Afghanistan.

I am delighted to be able to announce today this practical package of support. Afghan police will get the training and equipment they desperately need to detect and disrupt the drug traffickers’ routes and attack the drugs trade at source," the British Foreign Office Minister Bill Rammell said in a statement, following the official presentation of the equipment to the Afghan interim government in Kabul on Friday.

According to the Foreign Office, the equipment including two vehicles and searching equipment, totals approximately 100,000 pounds (about 170,000 US dollars). "During my visit to Afghanistan this summer I witnessed first hand the need for international assistance on the drugs war. I met determined detection officers positioned at the checkpoints on the outskirts of Kabul who had received no training to search for the drugs that are trafficked in such large quantities by road," Rammell said.

China works out e-paper prototype

Chongqing, 8 Dec—A different wallpaper every day in your house? It may soon be a possibility, as electronic paper and ink will soon make it easier and cheaper, just like the way you change the wallpaper on your desktop.

Researchers with the Southwest China Normal University announced earlier this week their success in building the country’s first e-paper prototype, which combined organic transistors with an e-ink that could be sprayed at very low cost on virtually any material: plastic, metal, cloth and conventional paper.

"E-paper, as an ideal alternative to traditional paper, consumes little power and ambient light. It can be read under strong light by replacing conventional paper with e-paper, we can protect our ecological environment by cutting less trees and minimizing pollution brought by the traditional paper mills," said Professor Fu Xiangkai with the university’s Applied Chemistry Institute.

E-paper could be used widely in publication, advertising, commerce and many other sectors and would "make your life easier and more colourful," said Fu, head of the research team.

"You can bring a library with you all the time when you travel, your textbooks and novels are printed on a portable little screen," he said. "And you’ll have clothes, dresses, wall-

Dengue kills nine in Bangladesh

Dhaka, 8 Dec—A total of nine people have been killed by the disease dengue since its outbreak in Bangladesh late October.

Among the attacked, eight died in hospitals and clinics in the capital and one in Chittagong Medical College Hospital, according to The New Nation Sunday. On the other hand, the number of dengue affected patients have already crossed 1,000 mark, though the control room of the government is showing the number at 409 till Friday, the newspaper said.

Dengue normally breaks out between July and September in the country. But this year it broke out suddenly during the last week of October causing deep concern among the people.

The first case of dengue in Bangladesh (former East Pakistan) was recorded in 1963. It broke out in the country in an epidemic form in 2000. A total of 93 people died out of 5,232 persons affected in that year.

In 2001, about 44 patients died out of 2,080 affected. In 2002, 58 deaths were recorded while 6,318 were treated in different hospitals and clinics. —MNA/Xinhua

Russian tiger handler mauled to death

Kiev, 8 Dec—A 24-year-old female handler of a Russian circus troupe was mauled to death by the tiger performing with her Thursday night in the Ukrainian city of Odessa on the coast of the Black Sea.

The tragedy happened when the troupe was on a performing tour in Ukraine. The handler was attacked by the tiger and died on the platform, a Ukrainian news agency said.—MNA/Xinhua

Protesters march in a street in downtown Tokyo, opposing dispatch of Japanese troops to Iraq on 7 Dec, 2003. —Internet
IRAQ UNDER US OCCUPATION

A US tank secures the area of a derailed freight train, foreground, after an explosive device went off on Saturday evening, on the northern outskirts of Samarra, 120 miles north of Baghdad, on Sunday 7 Dec, 2003. On background is the remain of another train which derailed by an explosion on 15 Nov, 2003. — INTERNET

A US soldier from 2nd Battalion, 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment orders an Iraqi woman and her kids to leave the room as they raided her house Saturday southeast of Baghdad. — INTERNET

A US soldier of the B-Co 2-325th Air 82nd Airborne Division, leads his platoon during a search in the south suburbs of Baghdad, on Saturday, 6 Dec, 2003. — INTERNET

A soldier of US Army’s 4th Infantry Division checks an Iraqi man with a metal detector before he enters an office building in Tikrit, on 29 Nov, 2003. — INTERNET

Italian soldiers of the ‘Sassari Brigade’ drive towards flames and thick black smoke coming from a damaged oil pipeline near the southern Iraqi town of Nasiriyah, on Saturday, 6 Dec, 2003. — INTERNET

US troops block a highway on the outskirts of Baghdad after a roadside bomb attack on 7 Dec, 2003. Guerrillas blew apart a US Humvee with a roadside bomb in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul, killing one American soldier and wounding two in the latest deadly strike on occupying forces. — INTERNET
Nine children among 10 dead in US Afghan raid

KARZAI, 8 Dec—Aircraft from the US-led military force killed nine children in an attack in the south of Afghanistan on a “known terrorist” responsible for the deaths of two road contractors, the military said on Sunday.

The children were the latest civilians killed accidentally by US-led forces in Afghanistan, who are pursuing remnants of the Taliban regime overthrown in late 2001 and allied Islamic militants.

Colonel Bryan Hilferty said in a statement at the US military’s Afghan headquarters that the incident happened on Saturday morning south of the town of Ghazni and the intended target was killed in the attack.

He said the US-led force regretted the loss of innocent life and the incident was under investigation.

Ground troops of the US-led force found the children’s bodies near that of the intended target after the attack by planes with gunfire, he said.

“Coalition forces follow stringent rules of engagement to specifically avoid this type of incident, while continuing to target terrorists who threaten the future of Afghanistan.”

In November, six Afghans civilians were killed in an aerial bombardment by US-led forces hunting Islamic militants in the eastern province of Paktika, the provincial governor there said.

And nearly three weeks before that in the province of Nuristan, eight members of the same family were killed in an aerial bombardment, according to witnesses.

Raul Castro says Cuba ready if US attacks

HAVANA, 8 Dec— Cuban Defence Minister Raul Castro said on Sunday that should the Communist state’s arch-enemy the United States invade Cuba, its forces would pay a far heavier price than the US troops occupying Iraq.

“Our people will pay a terrible price, but we will exact from the aggressors a high cost, be they the Yankee alone or with their cousins the British or Spanish,” Castro told reporters after attending a Veterans Day ceremony.

The Bush Administration
denies it plans to attack Cuba but since the US-led invasion of Iraq in March Cuban officials have expressed concern that they might be targeted too. Western diplomats say the government has used the prospect of such an invasion to rally Cubans.

Raul Castro, President Fidel Castro’s younger brother and designated successor, said the Bush Administration’s doctrine of preemptive strikes and accusation that Cuba may have weapons of mass destruction amounted to direct military threats.

“The price they pay will be much higher (than in Iraq) and they are not going to dominate this country,” Castro said. Nearly 450 Americans have been killed in combat and non-combat incidents in Iraq since the March 20 invasion.

“For any invader who sticks a boot here, at the very least the boot with the foot inside will remain,” he said, adding there would be a mine and an ambush awaiting foreign troops every square metre of the country.

First winter storm of season socks northeast US

BOSTON, 8 Dec—The season’s first major winter storm blanketed the northeastern United States on Saturday with a foot of snow that continued to pile up, grounding hundreds of planes and making driving hazardous across the region.

The slow-moving storm, on track to become the heaviest December storm to hit Boston in nearly three decades, barreled up the eastern coast early Saturday after brushing the US capital, Maryland and northern Virginia overnight.

At least two people were reported killed in snow-related traffic accidents in New Jersey. Hundreds of flights at Logan International Airport, the region’s busiest, were cancelled or delayed.

“We’ve gone through the hors d’oeuvres of this storm but the main course is still to come. The ugly part will get us tonight,” warned Peter Judge, public affairs officer at the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency. Snow, wind and icy conditions also hampered travellers. At Logan, where 850 flights were scheduled to arrive and depart on Saturday, 325 had been cancelled by early afternoon, said Barbara Platt, an airport spokeswoman.

Continental Airlines said it had cancelled 120 flights for the day, mainly out of its hub in Newark, New Jersey. At Newark Liberty International Airport, flight delays of up to three hours were being reported. Airports in Maryland and New Jersey were closed briefly for snow removal and flight delays and cancellations were reported at airports from New Hampshire to New York.

Rockets explode in Pakistan near US quarters

MirAN ShAh (Pakistan), 8 Dec— Four rockets exploded near a US housing US security personnel in the remote western region of Pakistan but there was no damage or reports of casualties, officials said on Sunday.

A witness told Reuters residents of the village Miran Shah, in Pakistan’s North-West Frontier Province, were shaken out of their beds at night by the blasts.

Three rockets exploded a few hundred metres away from the school building where a few US security personnel are temporarily stationed to check the movement of Taliban and Qaeda members in Pakistan’s tribal rim.

Another exploded closer to the compound but did not cause any damage, said one local official who did not want to be named. Police and paramilitary border forces have detained at least 25 members of a local tribe from whose village the rockets were believed to have been fired, the official said.

25 killed as overcrowded Indian bus crashes into gorge

JAMMU (India), 8 Dec— Twenty-five people were killed and 18 injured when an overcrowded bus skidded off the road and fell into a deep gorge in India’s Kashmir State on Sunday, police said.

The accident happened at Magarkote in Doda District, 110 miles east of Jammu, the winter capital of Jammu and Kashmir state.

“The bus was negotiating a curve when the driver lost control and it fell about 200 metres into the valley,” an official told Reuters by telephone. “Nine are in a critical condition.” — MNA/Reuters
Border area development: The rain at Mawpha

Mawpha region development tasks

In 1989, primary schools were opened in Metman, Kaunglang, Ayeikyant, Hungtaygaung, Weingaung, Sutwwe, Mawpha, and Takawlay villages. Later primary schools were opened in Mulu, Manwein, Aikalaung, Pankhu, Nanmah, and Sutwwe. In 1990, 1,000 viss of dried fish, 5,000 viss of salt, sugar, and biscuits to national brethren in Mawpha region. Similarly, the Work Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races was created. The work involved the construction of a community hall in Sutwwe. The ordination hall of the Min Yanaung Pagoda and a monastery were built. The ordination hall of the monastery is the very first one in the region. Local people did not have a chance to take shelter of the monastery.

As such a time, under the aegis of the commanding officer of local battalion and the active participation of local staff, a novitiation ceremony was held on a grand scale and 100 boys were novitiated. On their last day, they were transferred to different places and at last arrived back there as the director-general of Department for Development of Border Areas and National Races.

People's Desire

* Use daylight as the main source of light
* Use the least possible amount of electricity only if there is not enough natural light
* Use the least possible amount of electricity required in production and service enterprises
* Preventing waste of electricity benefits the user and others

Efficient use of electricity

* Using daylight as the main source of light
* Using the least possible amount of electricity only if there is not enough natural light
* Using the least possible amount of electricity required in production and service enterprises
* Preventing waste of electricity benefits the user and others

Efficient use of fuel

* Saving one gallon of fuel per car per month will save the nation one US dollar
* Thus, a total of 455,822 cars in Myanmar can save US$ 5.5 million in a year
* The amount, US $ 5.5 million, can build a major bridge across Ayeyawady River

All this needs to be known

* Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
* Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
* Do not be softened whenever appeased

Dispensaries were later opened in Wansalaung, YaungU, Weinnaung, Pankwe, Kunkaunggyi, Twenauk, and Ngahaung village. Were opened in Mulu, Manwein, Aikalaung, Pankhu, Nanmah, and Takawlay villages. Later primary schools were assigned duties. Some had to walk three or four days. They were very disappointed. When they had to go to Mongpyin on duty, they did not come back instantly. When the direct-general and the commander arrived, the Min Yanaung Pagoda and the monastery were built. The ordination hall of the monastery is the very first one in the region. Local people did not have a chance to take shelter of the monastery.

As such a time, under the aegis of the commanding officer of local battalion and the active participation of local staff, a novitiation ceremony was held on a grand scale and 100 boys were novitiated. On their last day, they were transferred to different places and at last arrived back there as the director-general of Department for Development of Border Areas and National Races.

Pleasant Metman where staff are happy

When the development tasks began to be undertaken, service personnel were in great troubles. They had to hitchhike or walk from Mongpyin to the places where they were assigned duties. Some had to walk three or four days. They were very disappointed. When they had to go to Mongpyin on duty, they did not come back instantly. When the direct-general and the commander arrived, the Min Yanaung Pagoda and the monastery were built. The ordination hall of the monastery is the very first one in the region. Local people did not have a chance to take shelter of the monastery.

As such a time, under the aegis of the commanding officer of local battalion and the active participation of local staff, a novitiation ceremony was held on a grand scale and 100 boys were novitiated. On their last day, they were transferred to different places and at last arrived back there as the director-general of Department for Development of Border Areas and National Races.

Pleasant Metman where staff are happy

When the development tasks began to be undertaken, service personnel were in great troubles. They had to hitchhike or walk from Mongpyin to the places where they were assigned duties. Some had to walk three or four days. They were very disappointed. When they had to go to Mongpyin on duty, they did not come back instantly. When the direct-general and the commander arrived, the Min Yanaung Pagoda and the monastery were built. The ordination hall of the monastery is the very first one in the region. Local people did not have a chance to take shelter of the monastery.

As such a time, under the aegis of the commanding officer of local battalion and the active participation of local staff, a novitiation ceremony was held on a grand scale and 100 boys were novitiated. On their last day, they were transferred to different places and at last arrived back there as the director-general of Department for Development of Border Areas and National Races. Development of Border Areas and National Races.

Mawpha is not popular like other regions. Moreover, it is not included in well-known towns and villages. But in this less-known region, many lives were sacrificed and many service personnel discharged duties facing difficulties. But, the goodwill of the State, “equitable development of all regions” project, has been implemented many years in advance to the other places. Thanks to the loving- kindness of the State, truthfulness of those who sacrificed their lives for the region and the goodwill of the staff, the Mawpha region will be peaceful and pleasant forever.

Translation: KKK
(Kyemon: 7-12-2003)
Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San received the Fice Precepts from member of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma-jotika Ditta Nyanuswbe Township Showbontha Kyaung Sayadaw Bhaddanta Vepull-abhivamsa. Next, members of the Sangha recited the precepts.

Vice-Chairman of State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San presented the Seinhudaw to be hoisted atop the pagoda and Patima Buddha image to be enshrined into the pagoda to Joint Secretary of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Pyay Jotikayon Sayadaw. Then, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San presented eight requisites to the Sayadaw.

Next, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win and wife Daw Than Nwe presented Hguetmyatnadaw and eight requisites to members of the Sangha.

Next, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win presented Kukusandha Buddha image, silver bodhi plant and eight requisites to members of the Sangha.

Next, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung performed rituals.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye presents provisions to a Sayadaw at Htibaw hoisting ceremony of Maha Tezadipati Pagoda in Mongpan. — MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San donate alms and ‘soon’ to Sayadaws at Maha Tezadipati Pagoda in Mongpan. — MNA

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win and wife present eight requisites to a Sayadaw. — MNA

Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and wife offer eight requisites to a Sayadaw. — MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye convenes the Seinhudaw round Maha Tezadipati Pagoda in Mongpan. — MNA
Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San offer Seinbudaw to a Sayadaw.

—from page 8—

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San went round the pagoda conveying the Seinbudaw and Hngetmyatnardaw. Vocalist U Tun Shwe sang Dhamma songs and Mingala royal drum troupe and national race troupe played Dhamma songs.

At the auspicious time 8:30:25 am, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San sprinkled scented water on bells, Shwekya Thingan (lotus robe) and religious flag and conveyed them to the top of the pagoda through the decorated carriage.

The Secretary–1 offered Shwekya Thingan (lotus robe) to the pagoda. Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and Daw Mya Mya San, wellwishers and local people donated provisions to the members of the Sangha. Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and Daw Mya Mya San and party offered "soon" to 108 members of the Sangha.

Next, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and Daw Mya Mya San and party performed rituals of golden and silver showers to mark the success of the Htidaw hoisting ceremony.

The Saddhama Viçathini ordination hall and the Buddha images in Bodh Garden were built in north-east of the pagoda, lake in the north, monasteries in south-west, Sasana Beikman in the south and a hall where Shin Upagutta resided in the lake.
Commander, Minister attends…

YANGON, 8 Dec — Minister for Cooperatives Maj-Gen Hay Oo, accompanied by departmental officials, yesterday afternoon inspected the piano training centre, opened by the Cooperatives Department at Thaungmaing junction in Mayangon Township and gave instructions on maintenance of the training centre.

After hearing reports from the centre, the minister gave instructions on efforts to promote the quality of products in conformity with the market-oriented system.

Later, the minister and party looked into the products manufactured by the centre and production process at the factory.

The minister also inspected the shop of the cooperatives Ltd of Mayanmye chemical cooperatives society in Shwepyitha industrial zone in Shwepyitha township. At the meeting hall, officials concerned reported on tasks being carried out by their societies.

Thai Trade Fair on 10-13 Dec

YANGON, 8 Dec — Under the programme of the economic promotion between Myanmar and Thailand, the 8th Thailand Trade Fair, jointly conducted by the Import and Export Promotion Department of the Ministry of Trade and the Department of the Thai Embassy in Myanmar, will be held in the Yangon Trade Centre in Mingala Taungnyunt township from 10 to 13 December.

Entry tickets will be required to trade visit on 10 and 11 December, and it will be kept open to all free of charge on 12 and 13 December.

Coop societies inspected in Shwepyitha township

YANGON, 8 Dec — Minister for Cooperatives Maj-Gen Hay Oo, accompanied by departmental officials, yesterday afternoon inspected the piano training centre, opened by the Cooperatives Department at Thaungmaing junction in Mayangon Township and gave instructions on maintenance of the training centre.

After hearing reports from the centre, the minister gave instructions on efforts to promote the quality of products in conformity with the market-oriented system.

Later, the minister and party looked into the products manufactured by the centre and production process at the factory.

The minister also inspected the shop of the cooperatives Ltd of Mayanmye chemical cooperatives society in Shwepyitha industrial zone in Shwepyitha township. At the meeting hall, officials concerned reported on tasks being carried out by their societies.

Earthquake report

YANGON, 8 Dec — An earthquake of slight intensity 4.6 Richter Scale with its epicenter inside of Myanmar about 151 miles north of Kaba Aye seismological observation was recorded at 05 hrs 23 min 06 sec MST today. — MNA

Earthquake report

YANGON, 8 Dec — An earthquake of slight intensity 5.2 Richter Scale with its epicenter inside of Myanmar about 158 miles north of Kaba Aye seismological observation was recorded at 02 hrs 52 min MST today. — MNA

Teacheryship of Teachership Ceremony

ANGON, 8 Dec — Minister for Cooperatives Maj-Gen Hay Oo, accompanied by departmental officials, yesterday afternoon inspected the piano training centre, opened by the Cooperatives Department at Thaungmaing junction in Mayangon Township and gave instructions on maintenance of the training centre.

After hearing reports from the centre, the minister gave instructions on efforts to promote the quality of products in conformity with the market-oriented system.

Later, the minister and party looked into the products manufactured by the centre and production process at the factory.

The minister also inspected the shop of the cooperatives Ltd of Mayanmye chemical cooperatives society in Shwepyitha industrial zone in Shwepyitha township. At the meeting hall, officials concerned reported on tasks being carried out by their societies.

Bronze winners in SEA Games

Maung Kyin — Myanmar

Hun Khan Kurt — Myanmar

ASEAN Children’s Prize

YANGON, 8 Dec — The Management Committee for Observance of the 57th Anniversary Union Day meets to consider efforts for successful implementation of the seven-point future policy programme.

Management Committee for Observance of 57th Anniversary Union Day meets

YANGON, 8 Nov — The Management Committee for Observance of the 57th Anniversary Union Day held its first meeting at the Pyithu Hluttaw building on Pyay Road this morning, with an address by Chairman of the Management Committee for Observance of the 57th Anniversary Union Day Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe.

Present were Chairman of Subcommittees deputy ministers, the vice-mayor, the deputy commander of police, senior police officers and heads of departments, officials and guests.

In his address, the commander said Myanmar is a Union and various national races have been living in the country. He said the subcommittees are to implement the tasks for holding of the Union Day on a grand scale in accord with the 57th Anniversary Union Day objectives — for all national races to safeguard the national policy, non-discrimination of the Myanmar, non-integration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty.

To keep the Union spirit alive, the commander said among the national people, for all national people to defend and safeguard the Union for its perpetual existence, to prevent the danger of internal and external destructive elements undermining peace and stability of the State and national development through national solidarity and all national races to make concerted efforts for the consolidation of the national solidarity.

Secretary of the Management Committee Director-General of the Pyithu Hluttaw Office Myint Swe on Thursday reported on the formation of 13 Subcommittees for observance of the Union Day and their arrangements.

Next, chairmen of various Subcommittees reported on work to be done. The meeting came to a close with the concluding remarks by the commander. — MNA

Drug dealers sentenced

YANGON, 8 Dec — In connection with the case, action was taken against Hla Htoo, son of U Thaung Nyunt of Ywatha village, Phaungpyin Township and seized him with 0.1796 kilo of raw opium. In connection with the case, action was taken against Hla Htoo, son of U Thaung Nyunt of Ywatha village, Phaungpyin Township and seized him with 0.1796 kilo of raw opium. In connection with the case, action was taken against Hla Htoo, son of U Thaung Nyunt of Ywatha village, Phaungpyin Township and seized him with 0.1796 kilo of raw opium.
Myanmar Railways’ nation-building endeavours

With better transportation, there will be more contacts among national brethren and friendship among them will be further consolidated. With this end in view the government is building new roads, railroads and bridges across the country. The photo taken on 25 November 2003 shows a train of MR carrying local people starts travelling on the Ye Bridge after the opening ceremony of the bridge. Ye River crossing bridge was built by Myanmar Railways under the Ministry of Rail Transportation in Ye Township, Mawlamyine District, Mon State. — MNA

Without sparing its energy, Myanmar Railways under the Ministry of Rail Transportation is taking various innovative measures to manufacture new coaches for travellers’ convenience. The photo shows the products — DMU 302 and DMU 303 coaches — of Ywahtaung Loco-Shed under MR.

PHOTO: YE CHAN MYINT

Tatmadaw men are engaged in nation-building endeavours. The photo shows Tatmadaw men building railroad at Namsam-Punchaung railroad section, part of Namsam-Saikkaung railroad in Shan State. The section is 55 miles long between Namsam and Punchaung.

PHOTO: YE CHAN MYINT
CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV KOTAMUTIARA VOY NO (061)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTAMUTIARA
Voy No (061) are here by notified that the vessel will be
arriving on 9-12 03 and cargo will be discharged into the
premises of A.W.P.T, where it will lie at the consignee’s
risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions
of the Port of Yangon.
The vessel will be discharged into the premises of the
Port of Yangon.
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the
Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: MS ADVANCE CONTAINER
LINE

tel: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV MAS SUTRA VOY NO (048)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV MAS SUTRA Voy
No (048) are here by notified that the vessel will be
arriving on 9-12 03 and cargo will be discharged into the
premises of M.I.P, where it will lie at the consignee’s risk
and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of
the Port of Yangon.
The vessel will be discharged into the premises of the
Port of Yangon.
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the
Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: MS PREMIER SPECTRUM
LINE

tel: 256908/378316/376797

UNICEF to procure HIV/“AIDS” drugs for Zambia

LUSAKA, 8 Dec — The United Nations Children’s
Fund (UNICEF) has offered to procure HIV/AIDS drugs
on behalf of the Zambian Government, local newspaper
Daily Mail reported Saturday.
The drugs would be procured using the World Bank’s
42.5-milion-US-dollar Global Funds given to Zambia.
UNICEF Country Representative Stella Goings disclosed
that this exercise would be done under the international
organization’s Procurement Services plan.
Goings said UNICEF would have no stake in the
process but merely help the government acquire the
needed Anti-Retro Virals (ARVs).
The offer came after Zambia qualified for the Global
Funds meant to fight malaria, tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS.
Until Zambia was able to produce its own ARVs, it
needed a partner like UNICEF in accessing the drugs.

Swiss dog lover protests alleged Athens killings

BERLIN, 8 Dec — A Swiss animal rights campaigner
was found guilty of illegally transporting hundreds of
Chinese and Asian dogs in a dog costume to Athens.
He was spotted by a four-metre-high crucifix at the Greek
Embassy on Friday to protest the alleged killing of stray
dogs in Athens before the Athens Olympics.

The dog lover draped a banner bearing the slogan “No blood for
the Olympics”, 23-year-old Max Sarrote — a perfor-

mance artist and stunt man — said he would stay on the
court of justice in the Dutch

The New Light of Myanmar

Thailand Exhibition

Warmly Welcome to

THAILAND EXHIBITION

Tel: 256908/378316/376797

UNICEF.

— MNA/Xinhua

Dutch court convicts
11 Chinese people smugglers

BRUSSELS, 8 Dec — A court of justice in the Dutch
port city of Rotterdam has handed down jail sentences of
up to four years to 11 Chinese people smugglers.
Radio Netherlands reported Friday.
The smugglers were said to have been found guilty of
electronically transporting hundreds of Chinese nationals
to European countries. Some of these illegal immigrants

were held in two buildings in Rotterdam before being
shipped to other destinations, the report said.
The Dutch authorities regard the gang as the succes-
sor to the organization behind the infamous trans-
port to the British port of Dover in 2001, during which
58 Chinese immigrants suf

fected in the back of a Dutch truck.

MNA/Xinhua

The budget, which totals
up to 608.18 million US dol-

was tabled Thursday
before Rwanda’s national
cabinet approved it.

The local government
ministry took a lion’s share of
56.06 million dollars, fol-
lowed by the Ministries of
Education, Infrastructure,
Defence, and Health.

The minister said the
economy registered a growth
in the 2003 financial year
with 3.5 per cent real GDP
growth.

Inflation in the ending
financial year also rose from
last year’s 3.2 per cent to 10
per cent.
The government debts decreased with exter-

unauthorised use of the said

Trade Mark will be

WELCOME FOREIGN CITIZENS

To have a successful communication in Union of
Myanmar, we are offering you a wonderful opportu-

ly to learn local language. You will be instructed
by well-experienced teachers. Time and place negoti-

Please contact phone number 542123 between 10:00 to
12:00 during week days.

(Charges in Kyats)

TRADING MARK CAUTION
SUMITOMO RUBBER INDUSTRIES, LTD.
of 6-9, 3-chome, Wakinohama-cho, Kobe-shi, Hyogo, Japan, is the owner of the following
Trade Marks:

TOUR SPECIAL
Reg. No. 1722/1997

PRO SPECIAL
Reg. No. 1728/1997

in respect of “Bags, pouches, vanity cases, trunks, umbrel-

las and parasols; Clothing, footwear and headgear; Gymnastic and sporting arti-
cles”

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

Win Mu Tin, M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L

for SUMITOMO RUBBER INDUSTRIES, LTD.
P.O. Box 60, Yangon.
Dated: 9 December 2003

Read Junior Leader to improve your English.
Uganda to get $137m from Global Fund against “AIDS”

KAMPALA, 8 Dec — The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria has finally approved 137 million US dollars to fight the diseases in Uganda.

This was disclosed by visiting US Secretary for Health and Human Services Tommy Thompson, when he visited Uganda’s eastern district of Tororo, accompanied by Ugandan Minister of Health Jim Muwewezi, according to local newspaper Sunday Vision to be published on Sunday Thompson, who is also the chairman of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, said the United States would increase funding to supplement Uganda’s globally acclaimed success story against the HIV/AIDS pandemic that has affected more than 40 million people worldwide. “I can assure you that we shall increase funding to supplement Uganda’s efforts,” he added.

Thompson is currently paying a three-day working visit to assess Uganda’s progress against the killer HIV/AIDS scourge.

Argentina says Britain should apologize for Falkland nukes

GENERAL PICO, 8 Dec — Argentine President Nestor Kirchner demanded an apology from Britain on Saturday for the “monstrous” act of arming its warships with nuclear depth charges during the 1982 Falklands War.

Britain admitted for the first time this week that warships in the task force sent to repel Argentine forces that invaded the disputed archipelago were armed with type WE177 nuclear depth charges.

“It is regrettable and monstrous,” Kirchner told reporters who accompanied him on a visit to the town of General Pico in La Pampa Province, deep in Argentina’s farming heartland 400 miles west of Buenos Aires.

“Britain should never have usurped sovereignty over the Malvinas. I am simply demanding the rights of Argentines and I hope (Prime Minister) Tony Blair understands that and is listening,” Kirchner said.

“What Argentina needs is for Britain to have the decency to make a necessary apology.”

Kirchner said he had not yet had the chance to talk personally to Blair about the matter.

British Defence Ministry said the nuclear weapons could have had “huge consequences for the inhabitants, natural resources and environment of the region.”

Argentina, which has a centuries-old claim to the islands, invaded the Falkland Islands on 2 April, 1982. By June 14, Argentine forces had surrendered to British troops.

The war claimed around 1,000 lives — most of them Argentine.

More than half a million people in France, including many children, have contracted flu, gastro-enteritis or bronchitis in recent weeks. Meanwhile, two big flu vaccine makers said on 6 December, 2003 that their entire production had been sold to hospitals and other providers as Americans rushed to get shots in an outbreak that has killed 57,000, the Labour Department said on Friday, saying the number of workers will increase funding to supplement Uganda’s efforts, he added.

Thompson is currently paying a three-day working visit to assess Uganda’s progress against the killer HIV/AIDS scourge.

Three young singers win China Gold Record Awards

BEIJING, 8 Dec — Three young Chinese singers won the fourth China Gold Record Awards here and were awarded a Passat and two Polo cars financed by the Shanghai Volkswagen Corporation.

Sources with the organizer said the China Gold Record Awards, since they were established in 1989, have been held three times with more than 100 domestic and overseas artists awarded.

Zhao Daxin, director of the organizing committee, said the songs entered in the competition ranged from 1995 to 2003, covering a wide range of artistic styles, including pop music, folk music and local operas.

“The competition this time is actually a comprehensive show of the achievements in China’s music circle,” said Zhao, adding that specific awards for records from Hong Kong and Taiwan have been set up for the first time.

US Democrats fault Bush, Republicans on jobs

WASHINGTON, 8 Dec — Democrats on Saturday faulted President George W Bush and the Republican-led Congress for not doing enough to create new jobs after data showed US employers hired far fewer workers than expected last month.

“Nationwide, a total of nine million Americans remain unemployed,” Oregon Democratic Representative Darlene Hooley said in the party’s weekly radio address.

“In the ‘People’s Choice’ category, in which cinema-goers throughout Europe voted via the Internet and ballots at cinemas, Bruehl won another award for best actor while his co-star Katrin Sass won best actress and ‘Good Bye, Lenin!’ and Becker won the public’s prize for best director.

“The film may be local to Berlin but its message and the emotions can be understood around the world — a son’s love for his mother,” Becker said at a news conference.

“It’s more than just a story about German unification. ‘The film’s producer Stefan Arndt said “Good Bye, Lenin!” proved a good story can have a ‘It’s just incredible to make a necessary apology.”

Kirchner said he had not yet had the chance to talk personally to Blair about the matter.

British Defence Ministry said the nuclear weapons could have had “huge consequences for the inhabitants, natural resources and environment of the region.”

Argentina, which has a centuries-old claim to the islands, invaded the Falkland Islands on 2 April, 1982. By June 14, Argentine forces had surrendered to British troops.

The war claimed around 1,000 lives — most of them Argentine.

More than half a million people in France, including many children, have contracted flu, gastro-enteritis or bronchitis in recent weeks. Meanwhile, two big flu vaccine makers said on 6 December, 2003 that their entire production had been sold to hospitals and other providers as Americans rushed to get shots in an outbreak that has killed 57,000, the Labour Department said on Friday, saying the number of workers will increase funding to supplement Uganda’s efforts, he added.

Thompson is currently paying a three-day working visit to assess Uganda’s progress against the killer HIV/AIDS scourge.

Three young singers win China Gold Record Awards

BEIJING, 8 Dec — Three young Chinese singers won the fourth China Gold Record Awards here and were awarded a Passat and two Polo cars financed by the Shanghai Volkswagen Corporation.

Sources with the organizer said the China Gold Record Awards, since they were established in 1989, have been held three times with more than 100 domestic and overseas artists awarded.

Zhao Daxin, director of the organizing committee, said the songs entered in the competition ranged from 1995 to 2003, covering a wide range of artistic styles, including pop music, folk music and local operas.

“The competition this time is actually a comprehensive show of the achievements in China’s music circle,” said Zhao, adding that specific awards for records from Hong Kong and Taiwan have been set up for the first time.

US Democrats fault Bush, Republicans on jobs

WASHINGTON, 8 Dec — Democrats on Saturday faulted President George W Bush and the Republican-led Congress for not doing enough to create new jobs after data showed US employers hired far fewer workers than expected last month.

“Nationwide, a total of nine million Americans remain unemployed,” Oregon Democratic Representative Darlene Hooley said in the party’s weekly radio address.

“In the ‘People’s Choice’ category, in which cinema-goers throughout Europe voted via the Internet and ballots at cinemas, Bruehl won another award for best actor while his co-star Katrin Sass won best actress and ‘Good Bye, Lenin!’ and Becker won the public’s prize for best director.

“The film may be local to Berlin but its message and the emotions can be understood around the world — a son’s love for his mother,” Becker said at a news conference.

“It’s more than just a story about German unification. ‘The film’s producer Stefan Arndt said “Good Bye, Lenin!” proved a good story can have a ‘It’s just incredible to make a necessary apology.”

Kirchner said he had not yet had the chance to talk personally to Blair about the matter.

British Defence Ministry said the nuclear weapons could have had “huge consequences for the inhabitants, natural resources and environment of the region.”

Argentina, which has a centuries-old claim to the islands, invaded the Falkland Islands on 2 April, 1982. By June 14, Argentine forces had surrendered to British troops.

The war claimed around 1,000 lives — most of them Argentine.

More than half a million people in France, including many children, have contracted flu, gastro-enteritis or bronchitis in recent weeks. Meanwhile, two big flu vaccine makers said on 6 December, 2003 that their entire production had been sold to hospitals and other providers as Americans rushed to get shots in an outbreak that has killed 57,000, the Labour Department said on Friday, saying the number of workers will increase funding to supplement Uganda’s efforts, he added.

Thompson is currently paying a three-day working visit to assess Uganda’s progress against the killer HIV/AIDS scourge.

Three young singers win China Gold Record Awards

BEIJING, 8 Dec — Three young Chinese singers won the fourth China Gold Record Awards here and were awarded a Passat and two Polo cars financed by the Shanghai Volkswagen Corporation.

Sources with the organizer said the China Gold Record Awards, since they were established in 1989, have been held three times with more than 100 domestic and overseas artists awarded.

Zhao Daxin, director of the organizing committee, said the songs entered in the competition ranged from 1995 to 2003, covering a wide range of artistic styles, including pop music, folk music and local operas.

“The competition this time is actually a comprehensive show of the achievements in China’s music circle,” said Zhao, adding that specific awards for records from Hong Kong and Taiwan have been set up for the first time.

US Democrats fault Bush, Republicans on jobs

WASHINGTON, 8 Dec — Democrats on Saturday faulted President George W Bush and the Republican-led Congress for not doing enough to create new jobs after data showed US employers hired far fewer workers than expected last month.

“Nationwide, a total of nine million Americans remain unemployed,” Oregon Democratic Representative Darlene Hooley said in the party’s weekly radio address.

“In the ‘People’s Choice’ category, in which cinema-goers throughout Europe voted via the Internet and ballots at cinemas, Bruehl won another award for best actor while his co-star Katrin Sass won best actress and ‘Good Bye, Lenin!’ and Becker won the public’s prize for best director.

“The film may be local to Berlin but its message and the emotions can be understood around the world — a son’s love for his mother,” Becker said at a news conference.

“It’s more than just a story about German unification. ‘The film’s producer Stefan Arndt said “Good Bye, Lenin!” proved a good story can have a ‘It’s just incredible to make a necessary apology.”

Kirchner said he had not yet had the chance to talk personally to Blair about the matter.

British Defence Ministry said the nuclear weapons could have had “huge consequences for the inhabitants, natural resources and environment of the region.”

Argentina, which has a centuries-old claim to the islands, invaded the Falkland Islands on 2 April, 1982. By June 14, Argentine forces had surrendered to British troops.

The war claimed around 1,000 lives — most of them Argentine.
**Furyk romps to eight-shot victory at Grand Slam of Golf**

KAAUA (Hawaii), 8 Dec—US Open champion Jim Furyk cruised to a massive eight-shot win in the PGA Grand Slam of Golf at the Poipu Bay course on Saturday.

Furyk hit a four-under-par 68 in the second round to finish with a nine-under total of 135 in the 36-hole competition for this season’s four major winners.

US Masters champion Mike Weir of Canada was second on 143 following a closing 71. US PGA champion Shaun Micheel (70) finished third on 145, one over par, followed by British Open winner Ben Curtis (73) on 146.

For the first time since 1992, all four players were making their Grand Slam of Golf debuts.

Furyk pocketed 400,000 US dollars for his win. Left-hander Weir took home 250,000 US dollars. Micheel, 200,000 US dollars and Curtis 150,000 US dollars.

The US Open champion began the day with a five-shot lead and was never troubled, especially after holing a 50-foot chip for par at the ninth hole and draining a 20-foot birdie putt at the 10th. —MNA/Reuters

**Vieiri double keeps Inter in touch with leaders**

**MILAN, 8 Dec**—Christiano Vieiri scored twice for Inter as they beat Perugia 2-1 in Serie A on Sunday to maintain their unbeaten run under coach Alberto Zaccheroni and fine them back into the title race.

Third-placed Juventen suffered their third defeat inside a week, going down 2-0 to Lazio on Saturday.

European champions AC Milan lead Serie A by three points from AS Roma after Francesco Toldo’s 1-0 win at Empoli. Roma face Chiavio in Verona later on Sunday.

Fifth-placed Parma kept in touch with the leaders with two goals from Alberto Gilardino giving them a 2-1 win over Cagliari.

Inter are unbeaten in Serie A since Zaccheroni took over from Hector Cuper in October and the victory over Perugia was their fourth in a row.

Vieiri, returning from an injury lay-off, fired Inter ahead in the 25th minute with a left-foot finish after a neat exchange between Emenike Beloogboh and Julio Ricardo Cruz.

Inter struggled under pressure from Perugia for long periods of the game but Vieiri doubled their advantage 10 minutes from the end — racing on to a pass from Cruz and confidently firing home. 

Giovanni Tedesco pulled a goal back for the visitors two minutes from time but Inter held on to keep hold of fourth place.

Many pundits expected Parma to fade when their Brazilian striker Adriano was sidelined with a serious hamstring injury but Italy Under-21 international Gilardino is proving to be an able replacement.

Gilardino was brought on to take the place of Ucckus Polesiek in the 31st minute and the debutant was sent off for the challenge, but substitute keeper Marco Amelia saved Domenico Morfeo’s penalty.

It was Gilardino though who put Parma ahead just after the break, latching on to a Mark Bresciano through ball and beating Amelia with a fine left-foot strike.

Impressive Uruguayan Ernesto Chevanton brought lowly Lecce level with a 97th minute penalty but Gilardino secured the three points for Parma with some smart footwork and a clinical finish in the 77th minute.

Bologna picked up their first win since September with a 3-2 victory over Ancona, including a spectacular strike from Carlo Nervo and an instinctive finish from Giuseppe Signori.

German international striker Carsten Jancker scored only his second goal in two and a half seasons as Udinese beat Reggina 1-0. Jancker managed just one goal last term in Serie A following his goalless final season in the Bundesliga with Bayern Munich.

Simone Perrotta moved up to joint third after goals from Francesco Giachio and Fabio Bazzani gave them a 2-1 win over Siena. —MNA/Reuters

**Mallorca continue revival with fifth win in row**

**MADRID, 8 Dec**—Real Mallorca continued their remarkable revival under new coach Luis Aragones with a 1-0 win over in-form Valladolid on Sunday to notch their fifth league victory in a row.

Striker Fernando Correia poached the only goal of the game when he drilled home a rebound in the 15th minute after Valladolid keeper Albano Bazzarri had palmed a stinging shot from Brazilian midfielder Nene into his path.

The victory catapults Mallorca up into sixth place in the table, two points behind Atletico Madrid who bounced back from their defeat against city rivals Real in midweek to record a 2-0 win over basement club Espanyol.

Teenage striker Fernando Torres redirected a Rodrigo shot into the net midway through the first half and made sure of the win when he slotted in from the penalty spot 15 minutes from time to take his tally for the season to nine.

Atletico are now just a point behind modest Navarran outfit Osasuna, who continued their impressive start to the season with a classy 3-2 win over Celta Vigo on Saturday.

Champions Real Madrid stretched their lead at the top of the table to three points on Saturday after they snatched their first league victory in 20 years at the Nou Camp with a 2-1 win over arch-rivals Barcelona.

Goals in each half from Brazilians Roberto Carlos and Ronaldo put Real 2-0 up with 16 minutes to go, but the visitors had to endure a nervy finish after Patrick Kluivert pulled one back for Barca seven minutes from time.

Deportivo, who edged a 1-0 win over Malaga, are second and Valencia, who host Athletic Bilbao in Sunday’s late match, are two points further back in third. —MNA/Reuters

**Eriksson backs Blatter on Ferdinand ban**

**LONDON, 8 Dec**—England manager Sven Goran Eriksson has said he agrees with FIFA president Sepp Blatter that Rio Ferdinand should have been banned from all football for his missed drugs test, British newspapers on Sunday.

The Swede also said the “failure or refusal” charge by the FA in October with “failure or refusal” to take a drugs test is ridiculous.

He was dropped by England’s coach Luis Aragones with a 1-0 win over in-form Valladolid on Sunday to notch their fifth league victory in a row.

Teenage striker Fernando Torres redirected a Rodrigo shot into the net midway through the first half and made sure of the win when he slotted in from the penalty spot 15 minutes from time to take his tally for the season to nine.

Atletico are now just a point behind modest Navarran outfit Osasuna, who continued their impressive start to the season with a classy 3-2 win over Celta Vigo on Saturday.

Champions Real Madrid stretched their lead at the top of the table to three points on Saturday after they snatched their first league victory in 20 years at the Nou Camp with a 2-1 win over arch-rivals Barcelona.

Goals in each half from Brazilians Roberto Carlos and Ronaldo put Real 2-0 up with 16 minutes to go, but the visitors had to endure a nervy finish after Patrick Kluivert pulled one back for Barca seven minutes from time.

Deportivo, who edged a 1-0 win over Malaga, are second and Valencia, who host Athletic Bilbao in Sunday’s late match, are two points further back in third. —MNA/Reuters

**Ferguson on brink of signing new United contract**

**LONDON, 8 Dec**—Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson says he has reached agreement with the club on a new contract and expects to sign the deal “very soon.”

“My contract is with my lawyer now. He was at the (Aston) Villa game (a 4-0 win for United on Saturday) and we will now go through it together,” Ferguson told British newspapers on Sunday.

“It is all straightforward from this point because an agreement has been reached with the club on every single detail. I am very close to signing it. It will all be done and dusted very soon,” added Ferguson, 61, who underwent hospital treatment for an irregular heartbeat on Thursday.

Scotsman Ferguson said the heart problem was detected midway through the first half of a Rodrigo shot into the net.

Italy Under-21 international Gilardino is proving to be an able replacement.

Gilardino was brought on to take the place of Ucckus Polesiek in the 31st minute and the debutant was sent off for the challenge, but substitute keeper Marco Amelia saved Domenico Morfeo’s penalty.

It was Gilardino though who put Parma ahead just after the break, latching on to a Mark Bresciano through ball and beating Amelia with a fine left-foot strike.

Impressive Uruguayan Ernesto Chevarton brought lowly Lecce level with a 97th minute penalty but Gilardino secured the three points for Parma with some smart footwork and a clinical finish in the 77th minute.

Bologna picked up their first win since September with a 3-2 victory over Ancona, including a spectacular strike from Carlo Nervo and an instinctive finish from Giuseppe Signori.

German international striker Carsten Jancker scored only his second goal in two and a half seasons as Udinese beat Reggina 1-0. Jancker managed just one goal last term in Serie A following his goalless final season in the Bundesliga with Bayern Munich.

Simone Perrotta moved up to joint third after goals from Francesco Giachio and Fabio Bazzani gave them a 2-1 win over Siena. —MNA/Reuters

**Ormerod snatches late win for Southampton**

**LONDON, 8 Dec**—A late strike by Brett Ormerod earned Southampton a 3-2 Premier League win over Charlton Athletic on Sunday after his team had squandered a two-goal lead.

Everton edged out of the relegation zone with a scrappy 0-0 draw with Manchester City at Goodison Park in an early kickoff.

But Southampton provided by far the better entertainment at St. Mary’s, leading 2-0 at the break after Swedish midfielder Michael Svensson Dubai scored a sixth-minute goal and Ormerod got his first of the day in first-half injury time.

Two fantastic goals from midfielder Scott Parker, who will have impressed watching England manager Sven Goran Eriksson, brought Charlton level before Ormerod stole victory four minutes from time.

Charlton stay sixth in the table but victory catapulted Southampton from 13th to eighth place. —MNA/Reuters

**Mallorca’s Fernando Correia of Uruguay celebrates after scoring against Murcia, during their Spanish First Division match in Palma on 9 November, 2003. Internet**
THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Tuesday, 9 December, 2003

WEATHER

Monday, 9 December, 2003

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hrs MST:
During the past 24 hours rainfall has been fair in the whole country. Night temperatures were 3°C to 4°C below normal in Yangon and Tanintharyi Divisions, 5°C to 6°C below normal in Rakhine and Shan States, 7°C below normal in Mandalay, Ayeawaddy and Bago Divisions and above normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperature was 0°C in Hkha.

Maximum temperature on 7-12-2003 was 34.5°C (94°F). Minimum temperature on 8-12-2003 was 15.8°C (60°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 8-12-2003 was 76%. Total sunshine hours on 7-12-2003 was (8.4) hours approx. Rainfall 0-12-2003 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 Kabar Aye and 2394 mm (94.25 inches) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 10mph from South at 16:50 hrs MST on 7-12-2003.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 9-12-2003: Except for the possibility of isolated light rain in Kachin State, weather will be generally fair 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: Generally fair weather in the whole country.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 9-12-2003: Fairly cloudy, Forecast for Mandalay and neigh-

boring area for 9-12-2003: Fine weather.
XXII SEA Games opened

YANGON, 8 Dec — A ceremony to open the XXII Southeast Asian Games took place at the National Stadium in Hanoi, capital of Vietnam, on 5 December evening.

The Olympic Flag ceremony was Vice-Chairmen for Education U Than Aung. Minister of Education U Myo Min and Work Committee-1 Chairman of the Leading committee for XXII SEA Games extended greetings. The leadership of the host country presented commemorative pennants and banquet to leaders of respective sport teams.

Outstanding athletes from 11 contestant nations conveyed the torch, which was brought from the Ho Chi Minh Museum, to the flame in the stadium.

Next, the chairman of the committee for XXII SEA Games declared the tournament open. Afterwards, athletes left the stadium and dance troupes of the host country entertained with traditional songs of respective contestant nations and their traditional variety of dances. Fireworks were also displayed to mark the successful conclusion of the opening ceremony. — MNA

ASEAN Children’s Prize Winning Paintings on Kindness Exhibition opens

YANGON, 8 Dec — A ceremony to open the ASEAN Children’s Prize Winning Paintings on Kindness Exhibition was held at National Museum on Pyay Road this morning.

Present on the occasion were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, the Ministers, the Attorney-General, the Yangon Mayor, the Deputy Ministers, ASEAN member countries’ delegations and Kuala Lumpur people and students.

Myanmar, Ambassadors, officials of the People’s Republic of China, Korea, Japan, heads of department, teachers and students, prize-winners and guests. First, Secretary of National Committee for ASEAN Culture and Information Director of Department of Cultural Institute Daw Nanda Hmum explained about emergence of the above exhibition and 200 winning paintings to be displayed in ASEAN countries.

(See page 10)

Myanmar girls enter soccer final

YANGON, 8 Dec — Myanmar girls reached the final after thrashing the Malaysian eleven 8-0 in the semi-final of the SEA Games soccer this evening.

The Myanmar team was much stronger than the Malaysian team, dominating the field throughout the 90 minutes, and scored half a dozen goals in the first half. They added two more goals in the second half. — MNA

Myanmar bags three silver, five bronze more

YANGON, 8 Dec — The Myanmar Sports contingent taking part in the XXII SEA Games held in Vietnam, today won three more silver and five bronze medals.

Winners of silver medals were the women’s team in 10 m air pistol event, the men’s team in 50 m prone pistol event and the women’s team in table tennis event.

Winners of bronze medals were the women’s team in blitz chess event, Maung Kyu in men’s 50 m prone pistol event (single), Kay Khine Lwin in women’s 400 m race, Han Kan Khat in men’s 55-kilo Kumite Karatedo event (single) and Nan Saing Main in women’s 53-kilo Kumite Karatedo event (single). — MNA

Commander, Minister attends opening of tube-well, new school building

YANGON, 8 Dec — North-West Command Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye and Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe attended the ceremony to open a tube-well donated by Minister Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe and wife Daw San San Myint at Shwedwingon Village, Oakshigi Village-tract in Ayadaw Township, Monywa District in Sagaing Division held on 6 December morning.

Also present on the occasion were departmental heads, USAID members, social organization members, local people and students.

The commander and the minister formally opened the tube-well. Afterwards, they attended the ceremony to hand over the new post-primary school building donated by Maha Bodhi Tahtaung Sayadaw Bhaddanta Narada held at the post-primary school in the village. The commander (See page 10)