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

YANGON, 9 DEC — A ceremony to hoist Shwehtidaw atop Phaungdawhsaik Pagoda in Taunggyi Township, Shan State (South) was held at the Pandaw near the historic Mwedaw Kakku 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 Ovadacariya Taunggyi Theindaung Kyawthan Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Chandratha, State Sangha Maha Nayaka Sayadaw, member Sayadaw of Township Sangha Nayaka Committee and Secretary Sayadaw and invited Sayadaw numbering 108, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, ministers, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, the Deputy Commander of Eastern Command Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint, ministers, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, the Deputy Commander of Eastern Command and senior military officers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of department, local authorities, wellwishers, departmental officials and PaO national races.

Next, Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Aung Htwe, Lt-Gen Thiha Sein, members of the Sangha recited parittas.

After that, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win and wife Daw Mya Mya San presented Hngetmyatnadaw and eight requisites to members of the Sangha.

Than Than Nwe presented Hngetmyatnadaw and eight requisites to members of the Sangha.

Next, the congregation led by Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San received the Nine Precepts from member of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Dhaja Nyaungshwe Township Shwebontha Kyauk Sayadaw Bhaddanta Vepullabhivamsa.

YANGON, 9 Dec — A ceremony to hoist Shwehtidaw atop Phaungdawhsaik Pagoda in Taunggyi Township, Shan State (South) was held at the Pandaw near the historic Mwedaw Kakku 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 Ovadacariya Taunggyi Theindaung Kyawthan Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Chandratha, State Sangha Maha Nayaka Sayadaw, member Sayadaw of Township Sangha Nayaka Committee and Secretary Sayadaw and invited Sayadaw numbering 108, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Aung Htwe, Lt-Gen Thiha Sein, members of the Sangha recited parittas.

Next, the congregation led by Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San received the Nine Precepts from member of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Dhaja Nyaungshwe Township Shwebontha Kyauk Sayadaw Bhaddanta Vepullabhivamsa.
PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 10 December, 2003

Control of Money Laundering Rules — will protect Public interest

The Government of the Union of Myanmar has been going to great lengths on all fronts to successfully realize its political, economic and social objectives and so there have been favourable conditions for national economic development. It is not only due to the government’s relentless efforts but also because of the entire people’s cooperation.

With the favourable economic environment, it is natural that the wealth of the nation has increased. As a result, it is also necessary to carefully and systematically scrutinize the increasing wealth. Therefore, the Control of Money Laundering Law was enacted on 17 June, 2002, under the State Peace and Development Council’s Law No 6/2002.

It is in accordance with the Control of Money Laundering Law that the government is taking systematic measures in raising, maintaining and using public finance after laying down financial and monetary policies. And to implement the provisions of the Law, the Ministry of Home Affairs issued the Control of Money Laundering Rules under the Notification No 1/2003 on 5 December, 2003.

The object of promulgating the above-mentioned Law and Rules is to prevent money laundering and interference in administrative, economic and social affairs of the State with the use of illegally-earned money and, in doing so, to be able to act in accordance with the United Nations Conventions and to cooperate with international and regional organizations as well as neighbouring countries.

Nine offences are mentioned in that Law and Rules. According to the Law and Rules, illegally-earned money gained by committing the nine offences can be confiscated.

We strongly believe that the Law and Rules are to protect the interest of the entire national people and those who earn their living by honest means do not have to worry about anything.

Donations for National Convention

YANGON, 9 Dec — In honour of the National Convention, Myanmar Myathmar Co Ltd donated cash to the National Convention at the office of the National Convention Convening Commission in Kyakkkasan Grounds this morning.

Managing Director U Soe Paing of Myanmar Myathmar Co Ltd and members of the Board of Directors presented K 1,099,999 to Chairman of the National Convention Management Committee Maj-Gen Lun Maung.

Maj-Gen Lun Maung accepted the donation and spoke words of thanks and presented certificate of honor to the donor.

— MNA

Seinle Shwepyi journal in circulation

YANGON, 9 Dec — Seinle Shwepyi journal Vol. 1, No.1 published by the education committee of the Union Solidarity and Development Committee (Headquarters) is in circulation today.

The journal carried informative articles, comics, poems, and other interesting reading materials. Manuscripts and advertisements are invited and can be sent to the chief editor, the education committee, USDCHA (No. 545-457, New University Avenue, Bahan Township, Yangon).

— MNA

“Soon” offered to members of the Sangha

YANGON, 9 Dec — The staff of the Ministry of Energy offered “Soon” to members of the Sangha of the State Panyarla Sasana University (Yangon) at Mogok Refectory on Kaba Aye Hill at 10 am today.

Rector Sayadow of the university, Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Pandatibhivamsa administered the Five Precepts to the congregation.

Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thiri and wife presented offerings to the rector Sayadow.

Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Than Huy presented K 180,000 for offering “Soon” to members of the Sangha of the university to Deputy Director General of the Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana U Tun Mya Aung.

— MNA

Narcotic drugs and arms seized

YANGON, Dec 9 — A combined team comprising members of local intelligence unit and anti-drug squad, acting on a tip-off, on 31 October searched the house of Tawan Sein Htan, son of U Tawan Shin Pin of No 97, Ward-5, Lashio, and arrested him together with 12 grams of heroin, 10.2 kilos of opium oil, one percussion lock firearm, one air gun, 218 pieces of detonator and 72 sticks of dynamite.

A combined team comprising local Tatmadaw, members of local intelligence unit and anti-drug squad, Myanmar Police Force, and nationals of Shan State (North) Special Region-1 (Kokang), acting on a tip-off, on 2 December searched the house of Law Yon of No 118, Ward-2, Lankai, and arrested Lawk Say, younger brother of the house owner, together with 6.65 kilos of heroin, 3.7 kilos of raw opium, 2.4 kilos of ephedrine, three assorted arms and ammunition.

Action is being taken against the suspects by the police station concerned under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

— MNA

Fifth round of Maruman Golf Classic 2003 tournament opens

YANGON, 9 Dec — Organized by Myanmar PGA and Myanmar Golf Federation, a ceremony to open the fifth event of Maruman Golf Classic tournament for Myanmar Golf Tour 2003 was held at Yangon Golf Club this morning.

During the opening ceremony, golfers took their positions at the 1st tee and President of the Myanmar PGA and Myanmar Golf Federation Maj-Gen Win Hlaing Manager U Min Tala Nyan of Brand Development of Rothmans of Pall Mall Myanmar Pte Ltd and the co-sponsors were Air Mandalay, Grand Slam (Munsingwear), Lex-Hein (Alpine), UPG, Canon, KM Golf Centre, Maruman and Wilson.

The hole-in-one prize will be presented by Sun Far Travels and Tours and Yangon Golf Club.

For successful holding the fifth round of Maruman Golf Classic, arrangements were made by Han Event Management.

The 18-hole event for the second day continues tomorrow.

— MNA
Iraqi attack injures 41 US troops

TAL A’FAR (Iraq), 9 Dec—A suicide bomber wounded 41 US soldiers and three Iraqis in an attack on a military base in northern Iraq Tuesday while in Baghdad, a car bomb exploded outside a mosque killing three Iraqis.

The blast at the US base occurred shortly before dawn. The explosives-laden car blew a crater in the street and sent glass and debris flying across a wide area.

“It was definitely a suicide bomb—there were pieces of the individual all over the compound,” said Colonel Michael Linnington, commanding officer of the 3rd Brigade of the 101st Airborne Division.

Most of the U.S. soldiers injured suffered cuts, bruises and broken bones, the military said, but four were more seriously wounded and were evacuated to a military hospital.

An Iraqi translator at the base was also wounded and two Iraqis in the town went to hospital, a doctor said.

Linnington said soldiers manning the gate at the camp in Tal Afar, 28 miles west of Mosul, had opened fire after the driver charged toward them, ignoring orders to stop.

“Soldiers hit the driver several times, causing him to detonate the bomb prematurely,” Linnington said. “He was definitely trying to get through the gate and into the camp.”

Nearby, Huzam Isma’il’s house was littered with debris.

“The explosion shook our doors and windows. The wheel hub of the exploding car smashed through the window of the room where my five children were sleeping,” he said. “If any of them had been standing up they could have been killed.”

In Baghdad, Iraqi police said explosions placed under a car parked in the grounds of a Sunni mosque were detonated shortly after morning prayers, killing three people and wounding one.

Debris lies scattered on the ground at the entrance to a US military barracks after an attack in Tal Afar, Iraq on 9 December, 2003. A suicide bomber wounded 41 US soldiers and three Iraqis in an attack on the military base in northern Iraq Tuesday when in Baghdad, a car bomb exploded outside a mosque killing three Iraqis. — MNA/Reuters

Mobile phone thefts

Tokyo, 9 Dec—Japan expects to launch formal talks on free-trade agreements with three Southeast Asian nations this week, Trade Minister Shoichi Nakagawa said in a move to catch up with other countries that have such pacts.

Japan will host a meeting of leaders from the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) on Thursday and Friday, the first time for the gathering to be held in a non-ASEAN country.

“Japan is a nation without resources, is a country built on trade, and in that sense, we are falling behind. Not having concluded free-trade agreements could become a handicap,” Nakagawa said in an interview.

“Japan isn’t suffering much yet from a lack of FTAs in Southeast Asia... but we can’t just sit quietly and watch China’s involvement rise.” We’ve told the government this,” said Akira Kawaguchi at the Japan Business Federation, the country’s largest business lobby.

China and ASEAN have set concrete deadlines for decisions on some steps, such as phasing out tariffs, whereas Japan’s plans remain more vague.

China is not the only rival. India signed a pact setting a framework for FTA talks with ASEAN nations this year, while Australia and the United States are eyeing key markets such as Thailand.

Japan is forging a two-track approach: conclude trade pacts with individual countries while working towards a regional agreement by 2012.

ASEAN is already Japan’s second-largest trading partner after the United States, with 13.4 trillion yen (124.4 billion US dollars) in trade for 2002. — MNA/Reuters

Japan expects to open FTA talks at ASEAN summit

BANGKOK, 9 Dec—Regional-wide trade will be thrown open on January 1, 2004 with the launching of a free trade area (FTA) linking China with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), a Thai official was quoted Monday by the Thai News Agency as saying.

The FTA launching followed two months of successful FTA fruit and vegetable trading between Thailand and China, Director-General of the Department of International Trade Rachane Potjanasuntorn said.

Rachane said that since the Thai-Chinese deal to slash tariffs for fruit and vegetable trade was sealed on October 1, the value of fruit and vegetable trade between the two nations had soared.

During those two months, the department had issued 1,258 zero tariff certificates for 3,958 tons of fruit and vegetable exports to China, worth around 42.90 million US dollars, he said.

Citing figures showing that cassava exports to China had risen by 49.08 per cent, dried longan exports by 28.23 per cent, fresh durians by 11.34 per cent, fresh longans by 9.87 per cent, and other types of fruits by 1.48 per cent, he expressed confidence that the upcoming fruit season would see these figures rise even higher.

However, he also noted that Chinese exports of fruits to Thailand during this period had stood at only 25,000 tons, worth a mere 8.775 billion US dollars.

Non-hostile injured numbered 355.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

A 101st Airborne Division soldier guarding a gas station was shot and killed Monday in Mosul. The incident is one of the recent developments reported by the Department of Defense:

Army Spc. Arron R Clark, 20, Chico, Calif., killed Friday in Baghdad by an explosive: assigned to the 440th Signal Battalion, 22nd Signal Brigade, V Corps; Darmstadt, Germany.

Group of US troops in Iraq gets care for skin ailment

WASHINGTON, 9 Dec— About 100 US troops stationed in Iraq have contracted a skin ailment, leishmaniosis, transmitted by sand flies, officials at Walter Reed Army Medical Center here said.

The hospital, the only one treating the disease, has already treated about 70 troops and expects many more, said spokesman Jim Stueve. The Pentagon did not immediately specify a number of affected troops early Monday.

About “20 from the 101st (airborne division) are treated as outpatients,” the spokesman said. “They arrived in dribs and drabs over the past three weeks,” he added, noting “other units have also been affected. They receive medication for about 10 days.”

China to have 78 million Web surfers by end 2003

BREVES, 9 Dec—The number of Internet surfers in China is expected to hit 78 million by the end of 2003, the China Daily newspaper said on Monday, citing a report by the Internet Society of China.

Internet users had grown at an average 10.7 per cent for developed countries.

China’s Internet penetration rate was only 5.2 per cent, compared with 63.2 per cent in the United States and an average 10.7 per cent for all countries surveyed, she was quoted as saying.

It did not explain how the percentages were reached.

The China Internet Network Information Centre said in July the number of Internet users had grown an average 10.7 per cent for all countries surveyed, she was quoted as saying.
Indonesia harshly criticizes Washington’s Iraq policy

JAKARTA, 9 Dec — Indonesia issued some of its harshest criticism of Washington’s Iraq policy on Monday, saying the US occupation had not met objectives and was becoming a debacle.

Foreign Minister Hassan Wirajuda told reporters that the US-led coalition had not conducted a war that邕 aimed to bring about a fair and reasonable international political and economic order.

“’The situation had heightened and this region became the cause of security and peace,” he said. “We know it is an arduous task, potentially anyone working with US-led forces.

The Koreans were working as sub-contractors on a US government project north of Baghdad, and the hotel receptionist said the dead Koreans had arrived in Baghdad only a day or two before they were shot.

One US soldier killed in drive-by shooting in northern Iraq

BAGHDAD, 9 Dec — One US soldier died in a drive-by shooting while on duty near a gas station in the northern city of Mosul, Brigadier General Mark Kimmitt confirmed.

In Mosul, witnesses said a second soldier had been wounded as they directed a large queue of traffic.

“He was a soldier today at approximately midday (0900 GMT) who was involved in an operation in the vicinity of a gas station,” Kimmitt said.

There was a drive-by shooting by four, we believe, Iraqis who shot and killed him.”

Kimmitt said the soldier died of gunshot wounds fired from the vehicle which had halted some 40 metres (yards) away to carry out the attack.

He was the 193rd US soldier killed in Iraq since US President George Bush declared major hostilities over on May 1, according to an AFP toll compiled from Pentagon reports.

Witnesses in Mosul said they saw a gunman opening fire on the soldiers with an automatic rifle from the sunroof of a passing black BMW. “We heard gunshots, we went outside and we saw two Americans lying on the ground bleeding,” said the petrol station’s owner, Akwan Abdulkarim Mohammad, 45.

Diarrhoea remains killer disease in Bangladesh

DILSHA, 9 Dec — Bangladesh President Iajuddin Ahmed said that despite expanded treatment facilities, diarrhoea remains a killer disease, still causing thousands of premature deaths in countries like Bangladesh.

Significant reduction in childhood mortality and much longer life spans in this region have been achieved in the last decade. Yet, these successes present a sharp contrast with many of our unmet health challenges,” he said when opening a three-day international conference on diarrhoea, diseases and nutrition.

The President said diarrhoea, for example, still continues to be a major killer disease in this region, causing almost thousands of deaths among children under five every year, reported the official Bangladesh News Agency.

President Iajuddin laid emphasis on imparting proper education on the medical aspects of the diseases along with establishing clinics to treat diarrhoea in rural areas to combat the waterborne diseases.
IRAQ UNDER US OCCUPATION

Soldiers of the US Army’s 4th Infantry Division search a house during a pre-dawn raid in the town of Baquba, in central Iraq, on 8 December, 2003. US troops conducted a raid against a suspected arms dealer, who they believe was supplying arms to anti-U.S. led forces in the region. — Internet

An Iraqi woman with a child passes a US manned military checkpoint in Baghdad, on Monday, 8 Dec, 2003. — Internet

Soldiers of the US Army’s 4th Infantry Division arrive at the scene of a blast in the town of Baquba, in central Iraq. — Internet

An unidentified US soldier kneels next to his weapon at a temporary checkpoint on the edge of Baghdad on Monday, 8 Dec, 2003. — Internet

Urban warfare: A US Army soldier from Charlie Company, part of 1-22 Battalion of the 4th Infantry Division, looks at anti-US graffiti during a patrol in Tikrit — Internet

US soldiers in a Humvee: Two US soldiers were wounded in a drive-by shooting in Mosul as they directed a large queue of traffic at a petrol station in Iraq main northern city. — Internet

Two US soldiers were wounded in a drive-by shooting in Mosul as they directed a large queue of traffic at a petrol station in Iraq main northern city. — Internet
Vietnam to build 32 power plants

HANOI, 9 Dec—Vietnam plans to build 32 power plants with a combined capacity of 9,500 megawatts between now and 2010. Total investment for the plants will stand at 180 trillion Vietnamese dong (11.61 billion US dollars), according to the Electricity of Vietnam (EVN) on Monday.

The funding will mainly come from the EVN, official development assistance, local and foreign businesses, especially Japanese ones.

Foreign investors can establish joint ventures with the EVN or directly participate in power-generating projects to sell electricity to the state-owned corporation.

Ten plants with total capacity of 3,055 megawatts are to be operated by 2005. Construction of five hydroelectricity plants and one major thermoelectric plant will start this year, and 10 others next year.

The EVN has recently predicted that the country’s electricity demand will increase by 15-16 percent each year to reach 48.53 billion kilowatt-hours per hour in 2005 and 88.93 billion kilowatt-hours per hour in 2010.

Vietnam’s power capacity now stands at 8,860 megawatts.—MNA/Xinhua

Bodies of two South Koreans killed in Iraq return home

SEOUL, 9 Dec—The bodies of two South Korean workers killed in last week’s roadside ambush in Iraq were flown home Monday for funeral and burial, reported Yonhap news agency.

Korean Air flight carrying the bodies of Kim Min-soo, 45, and Kwak Kyung-hae, 60, both workers of Seoul-based Ohm Electric Co., landed at Incheon International Airport on Monday late afternoon.

The two were killed and two others injured in an ambush by Iraqi guerrillas in Tikrit, north of Baghdad, as they were driving to a construction site for power transmission towers on November 30.

The injured are receiving treatment in a US military hospital in Germany.

Upon arrival at the airport, the bodies were moved to a cargo terminal where some 70 bereaved families and company officials gave a memorial service for the victims, said Yonhap.

The bodies then were taken by car to their hometown in Daejon in central South Korea for funeral services.

The two are the first South Korean casualties since the outbreak of the Iraq war in March.—MNA/Xinhua

One South Korean confirmed dead, 4 alive in Antarctic

SEOUL, 9 Dec—One South Korean scientist was confirmed dead but four others were alive on late Monday, a day after they went missing in the Antarctic.

South Korean Yonhap news agency quoted officials as reporting.

Kang Seong-ho, an official at the state-run (South) Korea Ocean Research and Development Institute under the Prime Minister’s office, quoted Nam Sang-heon, researcher at South Korea’s King Sejong Base in the Antarctica, as saying that the four survivors had reported by radio that they were safe at an emergency shelter near the bases of Chile and China.

However, Jeong Jae-kyu, 427-year-old researcher, was dead. The five people were sent Sunday afternoon to look for three other South Korean scientists who did not return to the South Korean main base as scheduled on Saturday from nearby Chilean base.

The boat of the five members searching mission turned over and half an hour later, they left their base due to bad weather.

In a telephone interview with Yonhap, Choi Moon-young, a researcher at the South Korean Antarctic base, said there were chances that the five of three scientists are alive because their last communication with the base was made from land in the morning of Sunday.—MNA/Xinhua

UN to hold summit on staff security

UNITED NATIONS, 9 Dec—The sixth annual summit on United Nations staff security will take place in New York on Thursday, a UN Press release said here Monday.

The summit, to be held at the UN Headquarters in New York, would examine possible solutions to the continuing dangers faced by UN staff in the field.

Working from a theme “After Baghdad: UN Workers Under The Gun”, the UN summit would study the devastating terrorist attack against its headquarters in Baghdad on August 19, which killed 22 people, including the top envoy Sergio Vieira de Mello.—MNA/Xinhua

Thai police nab Cambodian diamond smuggling kingpin

BANGKOK, 9 Dec—Thai police in the eastern border province of Sa Kaew on Monday arrested a Cambodian man attempting to smuggle over 600,000 hakt (15,000 US dollars) worth of diamonds to Thailand, the Thai News Agency reported.

Em Yin was arrested Monday morning near a general store in Aranyaphathet District of the province.—MNA/Xinhua

Irregular man sits under guard as his home is searched in Khadassiu, a northern suburb of Tikrit, Iraq, on Tuesday, 9 Dec, 2003. In four pre-dawn raids in Tikrit US troops detained eight suspects, three of whom are believed to have ties to the cells of insurgents responsible for frequent bomb attacks on coalition forces and Iraqi civilians.—INTERNET

Ailing dollar falls to record low

WASHINGTON, 9 Dec—The dollar has fallen to a record new low against the euro, before Tuesday’s interest rates decision in the US.

The dollar also stayed near an 11-year low against pound sterling, which buys $1.7251, and it fell to 107.1 yen.

The US Federal Reserve Board has been expected to keep interest rates low, but may now be persuaded otherwise.

Yet while a rise would help stabilise the dollar, recent worse than expected US job creation figures suggest the wider American economy would not enjoy a hike.

ButGerman fund economist Neil Mackinnon, said the dollar’s fall could turn into meltdown, unless action was taken by the authorities.

The dollar’s decline, which has been mirrored against the Thai, Taiwanese, Singaporean and South Korean currencies, has concerned many Asian governments, since it is hampering their competitiveness in export markets.

Japan, in particular, would like to see the yen fall, as exports are crucial to the country’s slow economic revival.

In late afternoon Monday trading, the dollar fell to 107.1 yen.

Economists at BNP Paribas said they expect the dollar to “remain under pressure in the near-term.”

Megawati opens Indonesia-China seminar on traditional medicine

JAKARTA, 9 Dec—Indonesian President Megawati Soekarnoputri opened Monday a seminar on traditional medicine with the participation of the Chinese Traditional Medicine Academy and the Zhejiang University of China.

Megawati said traditional medicine is an important part for the 220 million of Indonesian population because of the lack of access to modern medicine.

Similar to China, Indonesia also has a great potential for the development of traditional medicine as the country has abundant plant species for herbal industries, Megawati said while stressing that there must be serious efforts to protect intellectual property rights in the industry.

The seminar is attended by representatives of local institutions concerned, including the Indonesian Institute of Sciences, the research and development centre of the Ministry of Health and the Food and Drug Supervisory Agency.—MNA/Xinhua

Pirates loot 278 travellers in south Bangladesh in three months

DHAKA, 9 Dec—Armed pirate gangs in south Bangladesh looted at least 278 travellers and drowned 11 of them in the last three months, reported the New Nation on Monday.

According to the Travaler Owners Association under Barguna District in south Bangladesh, the administration has so far failed to control the situation and ensure the safety of navigation and fishing activities in the Sundarbans coastal belt, where the world’s largest mangrove forest locates.

Local fishermen claimed the pirates in this region loot daily in average five or six travelers, and they have to pay the gang some 167 US dollars per fisherman and some 833 US dollars per trailer for release.

President of the local traveler owners association Mustafa said the fishermen there almost abandoned their profession thus living in miserable condition.—MNA/Xinhua

British soldiers stand guard outside coalition headquarters in Basra recently. More than 90 British soldiers have been killed since the start of the war in March, government figures showed.—INTERNET

Deficit

This year, the euro has climbed by more than 15% against the dollar as investors started to pay more attention to the US current account deficit - the balance between what the US buys in goods and services and what it sells. At present, the shortfall is about 5% of gross domestic product and is set to increase.

The eurozone, by contrast, has a current-account surplus. This is despite the threat of trade disputes, and terrorist attack, have overshadowed signs that the world’s largest economy is starting to motor.

The latest estimate of economic output, released last month, showed growth in the three months to September hit an annualised rate of 8.2% - the fastest rate for nearly two decades.

Unlikely

Analysts, however, said the disappointing labour figures on Friday meant the Federal Reserve was unlikely to change its stance on keeping rates low for fear of snuffing out any recovery.

And without the lure of higher returns, the US is unlikely to attract the influx of foreign money it needs to underpin its currency, they said.

Economists at BNP Paribas said they expect the dollar to “remain under pressure in the near-term.”
ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit
‘Acting Together and Advancing Together’
Ms. Yoriko Kawaguchi, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Japan

ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit

ASEAN Japan Exchange Year 2003 is now drawing to a close, with Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi this week welcoming all ten ASEAN heads of state/government to Tokyo for the ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit, the year’s crowning event. This meeting, the first ASEAN summit ever to be convened outside an ASEAN member country, is expected to build on many ambitious and proactive proposals which have come forth in the two years since Prime Minister Koizumi’s visit to Southeast Asia in January 2002.

Japan’s interaction with Southeast Asia has a long history, going back some 700 years to the 14th century. The establishment of the regional framework of ASEAN in 1967 was greeted warmly by Japan, but it was not until ten years later that ASEAN and Japan began a formal strategic strengthening of their relationship.

At the First ASEAN-Japan Summit, held in 1977, the then Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda announced a policy of “Heart to Heart Understanding,” better known as the Fukuda Doctrine, which stressed the need to bridge the then ASEAN members and Indo-Chinese countries, and engendered a significant fortification of trading and investment relations while facilitating the movement of people between ASEAN and Japan.

Twenty years later, during the Asian financial crisis of 1997, Japan provided assistance of some 80 billion US dollars to the countries of ASEAN, demonstrating unambiguously the intensity of Japan’s commitment to the region. Such a striking commitment is the result of thirty years of increasingly close cooperation in trade, development, political, and security relations.

The magnitude of ASEAN and Japan’s interdependency is truly striking. Japan is ASEAN’s largest trading partner, along with the US. Japan is also ASEAN’s single largest source of investment capital, its largest ODA donor country, and its largest source of tourists. ASEAN, in turn, is Japan’s second-largest trading partner and is also a key region for Japanese corporate investment, having been the recipient of approximately 100 billion dollars of Japanese investment since ASEAN’s founding. With ASEAN being such a crucial partner both economically and politically, Japan views ASEAN as without substitute and is deeply committed to the enhancement of peace and prosperity throughout Southeast Asia.

The ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit convening in Tokyo this week represents a historic step for ASEAN-Japan relations. Japan and ASEAN are now bringing concrete shape to the ever increasing momentum for regional cooperation, based in particular on the “sincere and open partnership” which Prime Minister Koizumi called for in Singapore in 2002.

Under the theme of “act together, advance together,” Prime Minister Koizumi set forth five initiatives, including the establishment of a Japan-ASEAN Comprehensive Economic Partnership, a bold step forward which will help lay the groundwork for the possible future community of the East Asian region.

These initiatives reflect a mutual desire to adopt an assertive, forward-looking approach to this cooperative partnership, going well beyond economic and investment dealings to the intensification of education and human resources development, the strengthening of security cooperation, and the promotion of youth education and exchange, to name just a few of its goals. These initiatives will require great creativity and flexibility as specific policies are hammered out, particularly in light of the enormous cultural, economic, and developmental diversity found in the Asian region.

This Summit, then, is an ideal opportunity for the heads of state/government to demonstrate their political will to “act together, advance together,” sending the world an unambiguous message about the tangible benefits which will emerge from ASEAN-Japan relations.

The concrete framework which we develop in the next few years can be seen as among the first and most significant steps toward establishing an East Asian Community, which will bring about not only increased prosperity but also reinforced cohesiveness in the region.

As one of the key outcomes of this Summit, ASEAN can expect Japan to confirm its commitment to promoting intra-regional cooperation. Japan will help fortify ASEAN’s integration by working to narrow the development gaps among ASEAN member countries, supporting key regional initiatives and programs, such as the Initiative for ASEAN Integration, Mekong Regional Development, and the Brunel Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines-East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA). Such support will enable the Japan-ASEAN relationship to transition away from a donor-recipient relationship towards a partnership of equals.

With Japan finally emerging from the economic stagnation in which it has been mired for more than a decade and the Japanese people regaining their confidence in the promise of the future, the domestic timing is ideal or Japan to move in such ambitious new direction at the regional level. The leaders of Japan and ASEAN must seize the enhanced momentum of the last two years to make good on the proposed initiatives which will bring about a new epoch in our long history of involvement.

Efficient use of electricity

* 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

There are about 500,000 households using electricity in Yangon. Thus, saving a four-foot fluorescent lamp every day by each household amounts to saving power that is equal to the capacity a 20-megawatt power station can supply.

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

People’s Desire

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

THE  NEW  LIGHT  OF  MYANMAR   Wednesday, 10 December, 2003 7
Vice-Senior General Maung Aye...

(from page 1)

Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and wife Daw Khin Hnin Wai presented the tray for the Seinbudaw and eight requisites to members of the Sangha.

Later, Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and wife Daw Khin Hnin presented the Kyahankhine and eight requisites to members of the Sangha.

Commander Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint and wife Daw Win Win Nu presented bells and eight requisites to members of the Sangha.

Next, member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Kyaw Win, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Kyi Min, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Maj-Gen Myat Hein, ministers and officials presented eight requisites to the Sayadaws and members of the Sangha.

Taunggyi U Win Maung performed the rituals regarding the Htidaw hoisting ceremony.

Joint-Secretary of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Agga Maha Pandita Pyay Jotikayon Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kondalajoti delivered a sermon and Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San and party shared merits gained.

To convey the Seinbudaw, Hngetmyatวดaw and tiers of Shwehtidaw round the pagoda, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye hoisting Seinbudaw and wife Daw Mya Mya San holding bells, flanked by a regal procession, went round the pagoda while vocalists U Tun Shwe and Khin Than Myint sang a Dhamma song with the accompaniment of Mingala orchestra group.

At the auspicious time, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San sprinkled scented water on tiers of Shwehtidaw and conveyed them to the top of the pagoda through the decorated carriage of Teingya Htidaw hoisting team.

Next, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, members of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-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, the commander and ministers hoisted tiers of Shwehtidaw atop the pagoda.

Next, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San

(See page 9)
sprinkled scented water on the Seinbudaw, Hngetmyatnadaw and Shwekyathingan and hoisted them atop the pagoda through the decorated carriage.

Next, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San and party offered 'soon' to members of the Sangha at the Dhammayon of the pagoda. Afterwards, Sayadaws and members of the Sangha consecrated Phaungdawshake Pagoda at the prayer hall of the pagoda.

The ceremony ended with the three time recitation of Buddha Sasanam Ciram Titthatu.

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

After that, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San and party paid homage to Mwedaw Kakku Pagoda and two Buddha relics conveyed from Sri Lanka. Next, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San and party cordially greeted the PaO national people.

With fair-minded freedom

* The idea of wanting to be free
  Is the birthright of thought
  Of you, me and all of us.

* Because of the urge to be own arbiters
  No person would like to have his life
  Manipulated in every way
  That is the way all people feel.

* What one wants to be, freely
  Cannot be wanton, not concerning all
  It cannot be that one must get what he wants
  No matter what happens to others
  With that attitude, if there are those unfettered
  That will be disappointingly dangerous
  For one and all.

* For me and for you, be it considerate
  Always looking forward to be free
  If it is worked out thus in human environment
  Pleasant and peaceful will it be
  And a cause to be happy with.
  (To the self-centered elements in the international relations these days.)

May Yu (Trs)

Poem

Mayor inspects workshop, motor dept

YANGON, 9 Dec — Yangon City Development Committee Chairman Yangon Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, accompanied by Joint-Secretary U Kyi Win and officials, visited the Workshop and Motor Transport Department of YCDC in Mingala Taungnyunt Township, here, yesterday afternoon. The mayor was reported by the head of department and officials on transforming of TE-11 vehicles into hydraulic-powered garbage trucks and innovation of frames for stone crushers. After giving necessary instructions, the mayor left the place.

MNA
Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than... 

Union Highway is important one for the State. He then gave instructions on early completion of the project. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party inspected the road section and Daik-U Nyangkhase Road at mile post No 645 of the Yangon-Mandalay Union Highway.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party went to Sittung Bridge (Shwekyin-Madank) where they were welcomed by Col Zaw Win Myint of Shwekyin Station and Deputy Superintending Engineer U Win Aung reported on maintenance of the bridge, regional development and benefits for local people. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than gave instructions on maintenance of the road.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party proceeded to Shwekyin hydro-electric power project site in Shwekyin. Director of No 4 Construction Group of Hydroelectric Power Department U Kyi Soe reported on measures undertaken for the project, requirements and material supplied. Commander Brig-Gen Ko Ko gave a supplementary report.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party went to the construction site of 100-bed new hospital in Shwekyin. Director (Admin) of Health Department Dr Tin Tun reported on progress of work and Director U Saw Myint of Yangonhdco on requirements. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than fulfilled the requirements.

He then inspected the scale model of the hospital and the site. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party went to Shwekyin Township PDC Office. Chairman of Town-ship PDC U Htwe Myint reported on extended cultivation of paddy from 2004-2005 to 2005-2006 and data of the township. Col Zaw Win Myint of Shwekyin Station gave a supplementa-ry report.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than gave instructions on exceeding the target of economic project, extended cultivation of paddy, cultivation of Pessinong after monsoon grounds, cultivation of over 4,000 acres of summer paddy, extended cultivation of paddy for sale of rice to another region, implementa-tion of the tasks on extended cultivable lands after the formation of supervisory committees and full growing of rubber.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than met departmental officials, members of social organiza-tions and local people. At the meeting, he said peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order, strong economy, having educated people and participating in the nation-building tasks are basic requirements in efforts to build a peaceful modern developed nation.}

Emphasis is being placed on agriculture and livestock, breeding for economic de-velopment of the country, education sector, schools were opened and upgraded. For local youths to learn agriculture, colleges and degree colleges were opened in 24 major development re-gions. Moreover, the government is carrying out five rural development projects. He said:

He spoke of the need for the people to actively par-ticipate in the national de-velopment tasks and to culti-vate crops and plants suit-able for the region.

Despite sufficiency of rice in the region, measures are being taken for surplus rice to other states and divi-sions. He called on officials and townsenders to under-take measures on develop-ment of Shwekyin.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than then greeted those present. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party met the Tamadaw members and families and gave instructions on agricultural breed ing for economic de-velopment.

He said:

Yesterday, Myanmar women team won a bronze medal in two rowing events of the XXII SEA Games held in West Lake, Hanoi in Vietnam on 7 December. Indonesia and Vietnam teams won gold and silver medals respectively.

Myanmar beat Viet-nam 2-1 at group level event of men’s sepak takraw con-test (group). Vietnam beat Myanmar 3-0 and Myanmar beat Philippines 3-0 at group level event of women’s sepak takraw contest (group).

Myanmar Olympic Committee Chairman Min-isfor Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint and mem-bers, who were in Vietnam, viewed the events in which Myanmar teams competed. Yesterday, Myanmar team bagged a silver medal in women’s table tennis event. Bronze medal winners were Kay Khine Lwin in women’s 400 m race, Nan Kha Khat in 55 kilo Kumite Karatardo event (single) and Nan Sai Meim in women’s 53 kilo Kumite Karatardo event (single).

XXII SEA Games continue...­­

Yangon, 9 Dec — Myanmar women’s team won a bronze medal in two rowing event of the XXII SEA Games held in West Lake, Hanoi in Vietnam on 7 December. Indonesia and Vietnam teams won gold and silver medals respectively. Myanmar beat Vietnam 2-1 at group level event of men’s sepak takraw contest (group)

Yesterday, Myanmar Olympic Committee Chairman Min-isfor Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint and members, who were in Vietnam, viewed the events in which Myanmar teams competed. Yesterday, Myanmar team bagged a silver medal in women’s table tennis event. Bronze medal winners were Kay Khine Lwin in women’s 400 m race, Nan Kha Khat in 55 kilo Kumite Karatardo event (single) and Nan Sai Meim in women’s 53 kilo Kumite Karatardo event (single).

Minister U Aung Thaung inspects disposable syringe and injection factory project in Kyaukse Township, Mandalay Division. — MNA

Minister U Aung Thaung inspects disposable syringe and injection factory project in Kyaukse Township, Mandalay Division. — MNA

Officers of the 56th Anniversary of Independence Day

— All the national people to collectively safeguard the nation’s independence and ensure perpetu-ation of sovereignty.
— All the national people to be united to ensure non-disintegration of national solidarity.
— All the national people to strive for the emer-gence 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 suc-cessful implementation of the seven-point roadmap of the State.

Options of the 56th Anniversary of Independence Day

— All the national people to collectively safeguard the nation’s independence and ensure perpetu-ation of sovereignty.
— All the national people to be united to ensure non-disintegration of national solidarity.
— All the national people to strive for the emer-gence 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 suc-cessful implementation of the seven-point roadmap of the State.

Cash assistance provided to MMCWA

Yangon, 9 Dec — Wellwishers from Buthidaung and Maungtaw townships in Rakhine State pro-vailed cash assistance to the Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association at the meeting hall of Maungtaw Township Peace and Development Council Office on 7 December morning.

Vice-President Dr Daw Tin Lin Myint, who was there to observe the re-produ citive projects being jointly undertaken by the MMCWA and the UNHCR in the two townships, and party attended the ceremony and accepted the donations.

Also present on the oc-casion were Dr Daw Nyunt Nyunt Oo, Patron of the Su-pervisory Committee for Rakhine State MCCWA, personnel from social organi-zations, and official personnel.

Col Yan Myo Aung, Chairman of Maungtaw District Peace and Development Council explained the purposes of donation. Next, wellwishers, donated K 5.88 million to the MMCWA through offi-cials. And Dr Daw Tin Lin Myint spoke words of thanks.

A similar ceremony took place at the building of the work committee of Rakhine State Woman Af-fairs yesterday morning. It was attended by Vice-Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Col Than Tun Aung, Dr Daw Nyunt Nyunt Oo, personnel of social organizations and others.

On the occasion, wellwishers presented K 5.56 million including K 1 million donated by Rakhine State PDC through officials. Afterwards, Dr Daw Tin Lin Myint spoke words of thanks.

Seminar on eight kinds of crops held

Yangon, 9 Dec — Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin attended the seminar on production target of eight kinds of crops held by Myanmar Agriculture Serv-ice (Head Office) here this morning.

The minister gave in-structions to officials on making efforts for produc-tion of ten main crops as targeted by the State and pro-ductions of eight kinds of crops meeting the good quality.

Next, the minister in-spected the crops and agri-cultural equipment displayed at the seminar. He also held discussions with agricultural experts and gave necessary instructions. — MNA

Minister U Aung Thaung inspects disposable syringe and injection factory project in Kyaukse Township, Mandalay Division. — INDUSTRY-1

Minister U Aung Thaung inspects disposable syringe and injection factory project in Kyaukse Township, Mandalay Division. — MNA

Objectives of the 56th Anniversary of Independence Day

— All the national people to collectively safeguard the nation’s independence and ensure perpetu-ation of sovereignty.
— All the national people to be united to ensure non-disintegration of national solidarity.
— All the national people to strive for the emer-gence 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 suc-cessful implementation of the seven-point roadmap of the State.

Factorys inspected in Mandalay Division

Yangon, 9 Dec — Minister for Industry 1 U Aung Thaung, accompanied by officials, inspected the dispos-able syringes and injec-tion factory project of the MyanmarPharmaceutical In-dustries being implemented near Kyaukse Village, Kyaukse Township, Mandala-ry Division, yesterday morning.

At the factory, the minister looked into the in-stallation of injection moulding machines and the con-ducting of courses for those who will work at the factory and gave instructions on tasks to be carried out. The minister also in-spected the construction of the main building of the fac-tory and its annexes, the en-gineering department, the quality control department and warehouses, and gave instructions on timely com-pletion of the project.

Next at the briefing hall, the minister heard progress reports on the project, the installation of machinery, more machinery to be sup-plied and future tasks.

After hearing the re-port, the minister urged of-ficials concerned to try to accomplish the construction work and the installation of machinery in the second week of this month.

Later, the minister met with factory managers at the briefing hall of Kyaukse in-dustrial zone, giving instruc-tions on accelerated produc-tion of respective factories.

The minister also in-spected sewing machines, bi-cycles, electric bicycles and trousers displayed at the brief-ing hall.

Afterwards, the minis-ter oversaw the operation of kilns and the production of cement, the production of sandals, and production of candies, and gave instruc-tions.
Universities and higher learning institutes as educational infrastructure constructed for emergence of dependable human resources

As part of the efforts to create human resources with high calibre as many as possible, the Government is trying its utmost to bring about well-rounded individuals capable of serving the interest of the State. The photo shows the Government Computer College (Panglong) in Loilem, Shan State. —PHOTO: MNA

The might of intellectuals and intelligentsia is crucial for building the nation into one that can stand tall among other nations of the world. With this end in view, new universities and colleges have been built to produce these human resources. The photo shows the Government Technological College in Panglong, Shan State. —PHOTO: MNA

With a view to producing more highly-qualified human resources, a great number of universities, colleges and institutes are being constructed nationwide. The photo dated 11 November 2003 shows the Government Technological College in Pathein Township. —PHOTO: MNA
China’s diesel engine giant reports rising exports

NANNING, 9 Dec — Yucai Machinery Co., Ltd., China’s largest internal combustion engine manufacturer in the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, has exported more than 3.7 million US dollars worth of products so far this year, double that for the whole of 2002.

Yucai, set up in 1993 and listed in 1994 on the New York Stock Exchange, exports diesel engines for automobiles, ships, power generators and engineering machinery, as well as generating units, to South America, Africa, Middle East, and other parts of Asia. Cuba and Vietnam are among the leading importers of Yucai products.

New airport in operation in S-W China

CHENGDU, 9 Dec — A new airport, which cost one billion yuan to build, is designed to accommodate passenger aircraft like Boeing 737s and A-320s, according to official sources.

It was very difficult to build the airport as it is located at an altitude of 1,876 metres and with unique geological conditions, the sources said.

MNA/Xinhua

Ugandan Vice-President appointed to malaria consortium

KAMPALA, 9 Dec — Ugandan Vice-President Gilbert Bwalya has been appointed to the Malaria Consortium Board of Trustees, according to an announcement from the VP Office.

The Malaria Consortium is an independent international organization working to reduce the global burden of malaria and other communicable diseases.

The Malaria Consortium, which is based in Britain, among other things monitors and evaluates the control of communicable diseases—MNA/Xinhua

Trade Mark Caution

Zojirushi Corporation (Zojirushi Mahou, Kabushiki Kaisha), a Company incorporated in Japan of 20-5, Tenjima 1-chome, Kita-ku, Osaka, Japan, is the owner of the following Trade Mark:

Zojirushi

Reg. No. 1452/1994

in respect of “Electric cooking devices for household purposes including Electric rice cookers and warmers, Electric pots, Electric griddles, Electric pans, Electric oven toasters, Electric coffee makers, etc. included in International Class 11. Kitchen utensils including Vacuum and thermally insulated bottles. Water bottles, Lunch boxes, Containers to keep the food/ beverage warm/cool, etc. included in International Class 21.”

Fraudulent imitation or unauthorised 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 Zojirushi Corporation

P.O. Box 60, Yangon.

Dated: 10 December 2003

Rare painting found in US attic fetches $1m

BOSTON, 9 Dec — A landscape painting by Nineteenth Century American romantic painter Martin Johnson Heade was sold at auction for just over one million US dollars on Sunday after being stashed away in an attic for over 60 years.

The 25-inch by 26-inch river scene, which art historians did not even know existed, was discovered in a house in Boston by antique experts Leigh and Leslie Keno as they filmed an episode of the new PBS television series Find It!

Even though New England snowstorm did not adversely affect the price, “Because of the miniscule knowledge of this technology, there were people bidding on the telephone and the price kept rising.” Leigh Keno said.

The painting had been estimated to be worth at least 500,000 US dollars and was bought by a New York art dealer who attended the auction in Amesbury, Massachusetts, in person and paid 1,006,250 US dollars.

One piece, bought by the Museum of Fine Art in Houston for 1.25 million US dollars in 1999, had long been used to cover a hole in the wall of a house in Indiana.—MNA/Reuters

India to release $27m aid to Ghana

ABUJA (Nigeria), 9 Dec — India Saturday conveyed to Ghana that it would release the remaining 27 million US dollars in arrears for the Commonwealth Summit here—MNA/PTI

Ancient baby’s tomb uncovered in south China

BUNSHA, 9 Dec — Archaeologists have uncovered the tomb of a baby dating back nearly 2,000 years in Beihai City, south China’s Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.

The tomb was found during excavations into a group of other tombs from the Han Dynasty (206 BC to 220 AD) in Hepe County, said Xiong Zhaoming, an archaeologist in Guangxi and member of the excavation team.

His conclusion was supported by Feng Yongguo, a noted scholar on remote Chinese history based in the neighbouring Guangdong Province.

“250 metres from the infant’s tomb lies a grave yard that has been confirmed by experts to date back to the same period. “It was in line with the traditional Chinese belief that one who has died in childhood cannot be buried in the family’s burial ground,” said Xiong.

The formal burial of a baby in a separate tomb, Xiong said, showed people in Hepe County must have been very well-off in those days, and had the custom of arranging a decent funeral for the dead.—MNA/Xinhua

TRADING MARKS

DISTRIBUTORS

The New Light of Myanmar

Read Junior Leader to improve your English.
More than half of Australians are obese

MELBOURNE, 9 Dec—Fifty-six per cent of Australian adults and 27 per cent of children are obese because they eat too much and exercise too little, a study found on Sunday.

About nine million Australians over the age of 18 are overweight and childhood obesity rivals North American levels and exceeds those of Britain, the Medical Journal of Australia said.

Combined with inactivity and poor nutrition, obesity is responsible for at least 10 per cent of health problems, including heart disease, diabetes and cancers, making the health effects as bad as those of tobacco, the journal said.

In a separate study, it said Australian women spent a total of 414 million Australian dollars (306 million US dollars) each year in their quest to slim, with some women spending more than 3,000 Australian dollars annually.

Annual expenditure on commercial weight loss pro- grammes, gyms, fitness equipment, personal trainers, weight loss pills, slimming products and meal replacements averaged 441 Australian dollars per woman.

Yet all their efforts seem to be in vain as obesity rates continue to rise, the journal said.

Bigger portions, cheaper processed foods, and heavy marketing of takeaway foods and soft drinks are among the factors driving obesity in Australia. —MNA/Reuters

S-E Asian nations can operate daily flights to four metros

NEW DELHI, 9 Dec—Indian Government here said South-East Asian nations will be allowed to operate daily services to four metros and an unlimited number of flights to 18 tourist destinations in the country, but this cannot be construed as an “Open Sky policy.”

“Government has not announced an Open Sky policy for ASEAN nations. The offer made by India to member countries of ASEAN (Association of South-East Asian Nations) at the ASEAN-India Summit in Bali recently allows the facility of daily services to the four metros and unlimited number of flights to 18 tourist destinations in India,” Civil Aviation Minister Rajiv Pratap Ruddy informed the Parliament on Monday.

He said the requests received from ASEAN countries within the terms of this offer would be considered without further bilateral talks as and when formalized and imple-
mated,” he said.

“This offer will lead to better connectivity between India and ASEAN nations and strengthen tourism, busi-
ness, trade and commerce.” Ruddy said in the Lower House.

He, however, said revenue implications of this offer for Air India and Indian Airlines cannot be estimated at this stage.

Referring to the committee to review the route dispersal guidelines that force carriers to operate a stipulated number of flights on uneconomical routes, Ruddy said “the commit-
tee is likely to submit its report by the end of December 2003.”

To a query on air space management, he said: “Flexible use of airspace is only to permit civil aircraft to use the airspace exclusively reserved for military purposes for op-
timum utilization of Indian airspace but not expansion of the existing airspace.”

Ruddy said the Indian Airlines and Singapore Airlines Terminal Services (SATS) have decided to carry out a feasibility study to consider the possibility of setting up a joint venture company for ground handling services at Indian airports.

The government has also approved a proposal of restruc-
turing of airports at New Delhi and Mumbai through joint venture route, he said.

As part of the new initiative to develop regional airports, Ruddy said the government identified 24 airports for improv-
ing aesthetics and upkeep of terminal building and cityside.

These airports are Chhatrapati Shivaji International Air-
port of Mumbai, Indira Gandhi International Airport of New Delhi, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport of Kolkata apart from those of Goa, Chennai, Hyderabad, Bhubaneswar, Bangalore, Ahmedabad, Jammu, Trivandum, Aurangabad, Calicut, Guwahati, Agartala, Coimbatore, Amritsar, Varanasi, Lucknow, Patna, Pune, Ranchi, Jaipur and Vadapar. —MNA/Printin

Chinese Premier proposes principles on Sino-US eco ties

NEW YORK, 9 Dec—Visiting Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao on Monday proposed five principles on fair trade and economic partnership between China and the United States.

Speaking at a luncheon hosted by the American Bankers Association in New York, Wen listed the five principles as following:

— Fifth, do not politicize economic and trade issues.
— Bangladesh, China, Indonesia, Tanzania and Vietnam.

Wen said these five principles are based on the World Trade Organization framework and the existing norms of international trade. “They are essential for a correct under-
standing and proper adjustment of possible trade disputes or frictions between our two countries in the years ahead.”

“The core elements of these principles are development, equality, and mutual benefit. Development is our driving force, equality the premise, and mutual benefit our goal. This, in my opinion, also serves the need for a constructive and cooperative relationship to which both sides are com-
mitted,” he said.

Wen explained that “by putting development first, we mean to take a forward-looking approach that allows us to narrow the trade gap through continued expansion of two-
way trade.” — MNA/Printin

US northeast digs out from weekend snowstorm

BOSTON, 9 Dec—People across the northeastern United States on Sunday were digging out from the region’s first major winter storm, which dumped more than a foot of snow, closed airports and left thousands without power.

The three-day storm rolled up the eastern coast two weeks before winter’s official start, setting records in some areas as packed highways, heavy surf and steady snow-
fall of up to an inch an hour.

It left roads and sidewalks ice slicked, stranded hundreds of travelers and kept thousands of Christmas shoppers at home. Logan International Airport in Boston, New Eng-
land’s busiest, reopened only one runway on Sunday afternoon and roughly 20,000 homes in western Massachusetts, state officials said. Officials also warned of coastal flooding.

Drivesafely

WHO partners with Brazil in global “AIDS” fight

BRASILIA (Brazil), 9 Dec—The World Health Organiza-
tion said it would use Brazil’s controversial HIV/
AIDS treatment programme as a model in its battle to treat three million of the world’s poor with AIDS drugs by 2005.

Brazil’s policy to break patents if drug makers refuse to cut prices allows it to pro-
vide free anti-retroviral drugs to 135,000 Brazilians, nearly half the 350,000 receiving such drugs throughout the developing world.

“The Brazil HIV/AIDS programme is a model for all developing countries,” WHO Director General Joon-Wook Lee said in Brasilia during a world health conference.

The WHO estimates six million people in poor coun-
tries need the anti-retroviral treatment, which many HIV suffers in rich nations take for granted.

This year alone, five mil-
lion people were infected with the HIV virus and three

Million people, or nearly 8,000 a day, died of it, mak-
ing universal HIV/AIDS treatment crucial for deve-
lopment.

Brazil has averted a serious AIDS epidemic with its production of cheap ge-

ceric copies of patented drugs.

As part of its cooperation with the WHO, Brazil is studying manufactur-
ing medications that the organi-

MNA/Printin

Two baby tiger cubs explore their habitat and get ready for a stroll, at the Amersfoort Zoo in the Netherlands, on 11 Dec, 2003. The two white tiger cubs, Tetsi and Maxi, named after Dutch Queen Beatrix and Princess Maxima, took their first stroll into their habitat on Monday after their birth on 11 October, 2003. —Reuters

Tanzanian Kilimanjaro mountain guides receive training

DAR-ES-SALAAM, 9 Dec—A total of 225 mountain guides have completed a training programme and would be awarded with guide licences later, local newspaper The Guardian reported on Monday.

The course was organized by Kilimanjaro National Park Authority (KINAPA) and its aim is to improve communi-
cation skills and other knowledge of these guides.

KINAPA chief official Nyamakumbati Mafuru was quoted as saying that other subjects include customer care, natural vegetation, volcanic climate, animal and birds found on the mountain. He said that the course, the first of such kind, was provoked by the fact that most tour guides had a partial knowledge about the mountain and its species.

The growing tourism industry in Tanzania must go hand in hand with customer care, which means having skilled and competent tour guide, he added. —MNA/Printin

Actress Diane Keaton (news) arrives for the premiere of the film ‘Something’s Gotta Give,’ on Monday, 8 Dec, 2003, in Los Angeles. —AP/News

Drive safely

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Wednesday, 10 December, 2003
**S P O R T S**

**Loo wins fifth SEA Games high jump title**

HANOI, 9 Dec.—Malaysian high jumper Loo Kun Zee drew the most spotlight in My Dinh National Stadium here on Monday as he won his fifth straight South-East Asian Games gold medal.

Thailand and Vietnam each won four out of 13 gold medals on offer. The Philippines had three, while Malaysia and Indonesia split the other two. Loo, the SEA Games record holder, cleared 2.15 metres in his third attempt and assured himself the gold after main rivals Ahmad Najwan Agra and Nguyen Duy Bang both failed on this height.

The 29-year-old Malaysian continued to push himself in the hope of breaking his record of 2.24 metres but failed on 2.21 metres.

"It’s a very cold today. It somewhat affected my performance," said Loo, who won the bronze medal at the Busan Asian Games last year.

Thailand’s Trecia Roberts clocked 13.45 seconds in the women’s 100-metres hurdles to clinch her third straight SEA Games title.

"I’m happy to win the gold medal, because I didn’t train much for this event," said Roberts.

But I’m a little upset at my time,” added the 32-year-old Thai-American, who holds the SEA Games record time of 55.04 seconds.

"I didn’t expect the gold medal before the competition," said the 26-year-old. "And

**Myanmar, Vietnam enter SEA Games Women’s soccer final**

HANOI, 9 Dec.—Defending champions Vietnam looked set to retain their South-East Asian Games women’s soccer title after beating Thailand 3-1 in the semifinal on Monday.

The hosts face Myanmar in the gold medal match on Thursday. Vietnam made a dream start as striker Loo Ngoc Mai scored her fifth goal of the tournament with a penal- ty kick only six minutes into the game.

Mais could have doubled the lead three minutes later but her right foot shot hit the post. Thung Thi Minh Nguyet made it 2-0 in the 36th minute after latching onto a long pass from Tran Thi Bich Hanh, beating Thai goalie Kosumam Thong before slotting home from close range.

Thailand’s hopes of advancing to the final were smashed when Pranee Saipin scored an own goal four minutes after the break.

The Thais, who lost 4-0 to Vietnam in the final at last SEA Games in Malaysia, grabbed a consolation goal after Naronon Panmin beat two Vietnamese defenders and goal- keeper Nguyen Thi Kim Hong to find the net.

"Both Vietnam and Thailand have made great progress since the 21st SEA Games in Malaysia. After this match, fans have known who has made a greater progress," said Viet- namese coach Mai Duc Chung. Earlier, Myanmar whitewashed Malaysia 8-0 in the same stadium.

San San Kyu and Zin Mar Wann each scored two goals, and Aye Nandar Hlaing and Nwe Nwe Toe added one apiece to give Myanmar a 6-0 lead by halftime.

Than Than Htwe and Nhin Si Myint each scored a goal in the second half to seal the lopsided victory.—MNA/Xinhua

**Singaporean swimmer clinches 13th SEA Games gold**

HANOI, 9 Dec.—Singaporean swimmer Lozada John added a third for the Philip- ppines when he won the men’s 1,500-metre freestyle relay in 3:30.99, well behind Singa- pore’s 3:28.42, in the last event of the day.

In between Lim’s wins, Thailand’s Choonlathorn Varatharatrong won the women’s 100-metre back- stroke in 1:05.47, followed by Philipino Marie Lizza Danila and Indonesian Elysia Manora Nasution. Pilin Tachakkiratanan led fellow Thai Chorkaew Choopool to finish 1-2 in the women’s 800-metre free- style final.—MNA/Xinhua

**Laotian body-builder fails drug tests at SEA Games**

HANOI, 9 Dec.—Laotian body-builder Sayrash has failed a doping test at the 22nd South-East Asian Games, organizers said here on Monday.

It was the first positive dope case at the nine-day event.

Sayrash was asked to undergo a urine test before Friday’s competition after failing to submit enough certificates, an organizing committee statement said.

But the statement did not specify what kind of banned substance was found in Sayrash’s sample.

What made the incident even more ridiculous was that Sayrash, who was scheduled to compete in the men’s 70 kilos category, didn’t pass the weight-in.—MNA/Xinhua

**Real Madrid’s Last Figo tries to get past Barcelona’s Thiego**

Barcelona’s Thiago

Mettee in a Leo match at Camp Nou Stadium in Barcelona. Madrid won 2-1.—INTERNET
10:12 am  —  Morning News
10:17 am  —  Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Myanmar Panorama & Myanmar Sentiment"
10:25 am  —  Traditional Chin House
10:30 am  —  Headline News
10:35 am  —  Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Myanmar Panorama & Myanmar Sentiment"
10:40 am  —  Traditional Chin Dishes (Short headed Fish with Roasted Rice Soup)
10:45 pm  —  Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Myanmar Panorama & Myanmar Sentiment"
11:00 am  —  Song "Young love"
11:15 am  —  National News
11:20 am  —  Practice in reading
11:25 am  —  Traditional Chin House
11:30 am  —  Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Myanmar Panorama & Myanmar Sentiment"
11:35 am  —  Traditional Chin Dishes (Short headed Fish with Roasted Rice Soup)
11:40 am  —  Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Myanmar Panorama & Myanmar Sentiment"
11:45 am  —  Traditional Chin House
11:50 am  —  Headline News
11:55 am  —  Easily Cooked Tasty Dishes (Short headed Fish with Roasted Rice Soup)
12:00 pm  —  National News
12:05 pm  —  Traditional Myanmar Pickled Tea Leaf
12:10 pm  —  Music for Your Ears (A Sweet Sounding Musical Piece)
12:15 pm  —  Song “Aristocratic Beauty"
12:20 pm  —  Myanmar Ramayana (Part XII) Rama’s Dis-consult
12:25 pm  —  Song "The Land of Shan Beauties"
12:30 pm  —  National News
12:35 pm  —  Current Affairs "No Pain! No Gain"
12:40 pm  —  Myanmar Panorama "Prawn Curry"
12:45 pm  —  National News
12:50 pm  —  Native of Pa-O Nationals (Kyaunkalate)
12:55 pm  —  Culture Stage Dance of the Drums
12:50 pm  —  Shan Market Day
1:00 pm  —  National News
1:05 pm  —  Bagam Pudre and Goik of the Past
1:10 pm  —  Myanmar Modern Song "Greetings from Chin Hills"
1:15 pm  —  National News
1:20 pm  —  Ancient Pakhangyi Monastery
1:25 pm  —  Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Mingalabar"
1:30 pm  —  Traditional Chin House
1:35 pm  —  Headline News
1:40 pm  —  Easily Cooked Tasty Dishes (Tenderized Eggplant)
1:45 pm  —  National News
1:50 pm  —  Ye River Bridge Construction Project
1:55 pm  —  Kayin Dance (Ton pain)
2:00 pm  —  National News
2:05 pm  —  Festivities along the Ayeyawady (Mandalay to Pyay) (Part-I)
2:10 pm  —  Song "Aristocratic Beauty"
2:15 pm  —  Myanmar Ramayana (Part XII) Rama’s Disconsult
2:20 pm  —  Song "The Land of Shan Beauties"
2:30 pm  —  National News
2:35 pm  —  Current Affairs "No Pain! No Gain"
2:40 pm  —  Myanmar Panorama "Prawn Curry"
2:45 pm  —  National News
2:50 pm  —  Native of Pa-O Nationals (Kyaunkalate)
2:55 pm  —  Culture Stage Dance of the Drums
2:50 pm  —  Shan Market Day
2:55 pm  —  Ancient Pakhangyi Monastery
2:50 pm  —  Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Mingalabar"
3:00 pm  —  Traditional Chin House
3:05 pm  —  Headline News
3:10 pm  —  Song on Screen "Horse Cart"
3:15 pm  —  National News
3:20 pm  —  Drug Eradications Movement in Myanmar
3:25 pm  —  Myanmar Modern Song "Greetings from Chin Hills"
3:30 pm  —  Traditional Chin House
3:35 pm  —  Headline News
3:40 pm  —  Easily Cooked Tasty Dishes (Tenderized Eggplant)
3:45 pm  —  National News
3:50 pm  —  Ye River Bridge Construction Project
3:55 pm  —  Kayin Dance (Ton pain)
4:00 pm  —  National News
4:05 pm  —  Festival along the Ayeyawady (Mandalay to Pyay) (Part-II)
4:10 pm  —  Song "Aristocratic Beauty"
4:15 pm  —  Myanmar Ramayana (Part XII) Rama’s Dis-consult
4:20 pm  —  Song "The Land of Shan Beauties"
4:30 pm  —  National News
4:35 pm  —  Current Affairs "No Pain! No Gain"
4:40 pm  —  Myanmar Panorama "Prawn Curry"
4:45 pm  —  National News
4:50 pm  —  Native of Pa-O Nationals (Kyaunkalate)
4:55 pm  —  Culture Stage Dance of the Drums
4:50 pm  —  Shan Market Day
5:00 pm  —  National News
5:05 pm  —  Bagam Pudre and Goik of the Past
5:10 pm  —  Myanmar Modern Song "Greetings from Chin Hills"
5:15 pm  —  National News
5:20 pm  —  Ancient Pakhangyi Monastery
5:25 pm  —  Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Mingalabar"
5:30 pm  —  Traditional Chin House
5:35 pm  —  Headline News
5:40 pm  —  Easily Cooked Tasty Dishes (Short headed Fish with Roasted Rice Soup)
5:45 pm  —  National News
5:50 pm  —  Traditional Myanmar Pickled Tea Leaf
5:55 pm  —  Music for Your Ears (A Sweet Sounding Musical Piece)
6:00 pm  —  National News
6:05 pm  —  Traditional Myanmar Pickled Tea Leaf
6:10 pm  —  Music for Your Ears (A Sweet Sounding Musical Piece)
6:15 pm  —  Song "Aristocratic Beauty"
6:20 pm  —  Myanmar Ramayana (Part XII) Rama’s Disconsult
6:25 pm  —  Song "The Land of Shan Beauties"
6:30 pm  —  National News
6:35 pm  —  Current Affairs "No Pain! No Gain"
6:40 pm  —  Myanmar Panorama "Prawn Curry"
6:45 pm  —  National News
6:50 pm  —  Native of Pa-O Nationals (Kyaunkalate)
6:55 pm  —  Culture Stage Dance of the Drums
6:50 pm  —  Shan Market Day
7:00 pm  —  National News
7:05 pm  —  Bagam Pudre and Goik of the Past
7:10 pm  —  Myanmar Modern Song "Greetings from Chin Hills"
7:15 pm  —  National News
7:20 pm  —  Ancient Pakhangyi Monastery
7:25 pm  —  Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Mingalabar"
7:30 pm  —  Traditional Chin House
7:35 pm  —  Headline News
7:40 pm  —  Song on Screen "Horse Cart"
7:45 pm  —  National News
7:50 pm  —  Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"
7:55 pm  —  National News
8:00 pm  —  Drug Eradications Movement in Myanmar
8:05 pm  —  Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"
8:10 pm  —  Song "Young love"
8:15 pm  —  National News
8:20 pm  —  Pa-O Nationals Traditional Long Drum
8:25 pm  —  Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Myanmar Panorama & Myanmar Sentiment"
8:30 pm  —  Travelogue “Sagining”
8:35 pm  —  Myanmar Cuisine "Pepper Mollying"
8:40 pm  —  National News
8:45 pm  —  Traditional Myanmar Dishes (Short headed Fish with Roasted Rice Soup)
8:50 pm  —  Myanmar Panorama & Myanmar Sentiment
8:55 pm  —  Traditional Myanmar Dishes (Short headed Fish with Roasted Rice Soup)
9:00 pm  —  Myanmar Panorama & Myanmar Sentiment
Agricultural and livestock breeding tasks inspected in Yangon North District

YANGON, 9 Dec — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe this afternoon inspected agricultural and development tasks in Yangon North District and gave necessary instructions to officials.

First, the commander arrived at the main fish breeding camp in Mingaladon Township undertaken by Yangon Command. The camp in charge reported on production of fingerlings, raising of fish, pigs, chicken, production of chicken eggs and sale of fish.

The commander inspected the digging of fish ponds in the compound of the camp, fish breeding work and gave necessary instructions to officials.

The commander next looked into livestock breeding tasks at No. 3 Livestock Breeding Camp in Danyingon and No. 1 Livestock Breeding Camp.

He also inspected plantations, fire wood-substitute briquettes, hatchery and feedstuff. The commander gave necessary instructions to officials, and fulfilled the needs.

The commander and party proceeded to the junction of No. 7 Highway in Hlegu Township and Khayaybin Road in Mingaladon Township where they inspected earth work being carried out by heavy machinery.

Next, they inspected the breeding of livestock undertaken by Ayeyawady Naval Region Command near Balaphyat Creek in Nywenatha Model Village.

The commander oversaw digging of ditches in Balay Region for cultivation of summer paddy. Officials reported on digging work to the commander, who gave necessary instructions.

Afterwards, the commander met with local farmers from the villages in Mingaladon at Shwenatha Hall in Shwenatha Model Village.

He said five zones have been set up along the runway of Yangon Airport for the all-year-round greening of the area. Spending a large amount of money, the State has built drains and ditches and dams to supply water for cultivation of summer paddy in Mingaladon Township and Balar Region.

He urged the farmers to make efforts for continuous cultivation of crops on a commercial scale such as beans and pulses and oil palm. Officials reported to the commander on arrangements for cultivation of summer paddy and crops.

Later, the commander gave necessary instructions and attended to the requirements.

Minister looks into coop factories in Shwepyitha industrial zone

YANGON, 9 Dec — Min- ter Col Nyan Tun Aung, the minister inspected Myanna Shipyards. Officials reported on construction of new ships and repairing of old ones.

The minister and party viewed the newly-con- structed Sunshine yacht by the MS and the yacht to be repaired.

They inspected the dry dockyard construction project in the MS. They also inspected construction of a road in Thiri Mingalar jetty of Bargaya Port in Kyimyindine. Officials reported on future tasks.

Afterwards, they inspected progress of work for beautifying of Lammadaw Township jetty.

They proceeded to Botataung bank upgrading project site being undertaken by Myanmar Port Authority, and gave instructions to the officials.

Minister inspects Mandalay International Airport

YANGON, 9 Dec — Min- ister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe inspected Sinkiyo water pumping station that provides water to Mandalay Airport on 7 De- cember in Monywa.

Officials reported on water supply to the airport. The minister fulfilled the requirements.

The minister inspected sanitation tasks for keeping Mandalay International Air- port clean and left instructions.

The minister looked into the runway and test running of tar melting factory of Hong Pang Co Ltd for Palokku Airfield and left necessary instructions.

This morning, accompanied by the Deputy Minis-