Senior General Than Shwe sends messages of felicitations to President of Kenya

YANGON, 12 Dec — On the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of Kenya, which falls on 12 December 2003, Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Mwai Kibaki, President of the Republic of Kenya. — MNA

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than tours Bago Division

YANGON, 11 Dec — Member of the State Peace and Development Council, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Bago Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Brig-Gen Ko Ko and members, held a meeting with Tarmadaw members and their families at the local regiment of Shwegyin Township on 9 December morning. At the meeting, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than gave instructions on agriculture and livestock breeding on a manageable scale and extension of education, health, agriculture and livestock breeding and production and had a cordial conversation with them. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party proceeded to Myitkyo in Waw Township and inspected the bridge and progress in construction of the earth road and laterite road. Bago District Peace and Development Council Chairman Lt-Col Ohn Myint gave a supplementary report. Regarding the reports, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than gave instructions on meeting the set standards and timely completion of the project. They also inspected thriving black pulse and pigeon pea plantations and Wazichaung wooden bridge with 70 feet in length on the road section.

In the afternoon, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party met with departmental officials, members of social organizations, townsenders and local people in Waw Township. On the occasion, officials reported on geographical facts about the region and production of planned crops. Speaking on the occasion, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than said that in building up a modern developed nation, the first priority is to give stability of the State and prevalence of law and order, the second priority to strong economy of the nation, and the third to development of (See page 8)

Myanmar wins three gold, seven silver, eight bronze in XXII SEA Games

YANGON, 11 Dec — The Myanmar sports contingent is taking part in the XXII South-East Asian Games in Vietnam and bagged three gold, seven silver and eight bronze today.

Three gold medal winners were:

• Phone Myint Teza, Khin Maung Myint, Myo Zaw and Yan Paing in men’s 500-m canoe event; Khin Mar Oo, Khin Mar Thin, Thein Htay Win and Naw Ahsle Lash in the women’s 500-m canoe event; and Khine Khine Maw in the Taijijian event of Wushu.

Seven silver winners were:

• Soe Soe Myar in the women’s 51-kilo taekwondo event; Nyo Mi Kyaw, Khin Soe Thaik and Ni Tar in the women’s 10-m air pistol shooting event; the men’s 500-m two-oar kayak event; the women’s 500-m two-oar kayak event; Aung Lin in the men’s one oar 500-m canoe event; Khin Maung Min, Phyu Yi in the men’s 500-m canoe event; and Moe Thu Aung in the women’s 50-m free style swimming event.

Eight bronze winners were:

• Khin Mar Oo in the women’s 500-m kayak event; Phone Myint Teza in the men’s 1000-m canoe event; Win Cho San, Than Than Saw and Khan Pa Pa Tun in the women’s 500-m canoe event; and Khin Maung Than in the Taolu-Qingshu event of Wushu.

Established 1914

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

**Friday, 12 December, 2003**

Strive for emergence of reliable industrial zones

The population of the Union of Myanmar is now more than 53 million and therefore the government has been taking all the necessary measures to ensure that food, clothing and shelter needs of the growing population are fully met. Not only that, it is also trying to enrich the nation and raise the living standard of the entire people.

Ours is an agricultural country and so the agriculture sector is the mainstay of its national economy. This being the case, the government is encouraging its development through the establishment of industrial zones. Moreover, private-owned industries are being encouraged through the establishment of industrial zones.

The industrial sector plays a primary role in building a modern and developed nation, steps are being taken for the development of State-owned industries. Moreover, private-owned industries are being encouraged through the establishment of industrial zones.

There are now a total of 18 industrial zones and their branches all over the Union. Out of these, Yangon, Mandalay, Ayethaya and Monywa Industrial Zones are making great strides.

Leaders of the State often tour the regions across the Union if and when necessary to inspect the development tasks and fulfill the necessary requirements. 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 visited the Ayethaya Industrial Zone in Taunggyi Township on 6 December.

In his meeting with industrial entrepreneurs at the hall of the Ayethaya Industrial Zone, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye said that the industrial zones should become the ones that can contribute a great deal towards the building of a modern and developed nation.

The Ayethaya Industrial Zone is producing automobiles, agricultural equipment and implements and paper, leather and plastic wares. About 1,300 is making an all-out effort to develop Shan Star jeeps.

We would like to urge the entrepreneurs in all industrial zones to try their best so that their industrial zones will become the ones that can be relied on for all-round development of the nation.

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**Minister for Information**

Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan receives Integrafrica Print & Pack (Thailand) Co Ltd Managing Director Mr Marco Faulhaber and Mr Toon Santen. — MNA

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**Minister U Win Aung sends felicitations to his counterpart of Kenya**

**YANGON, 12 Dec—** On the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of Kenya, which falls on 12 December 2003, U Win Aung, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Stephen Kalonzo Musyoka, Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of Kenya. — MNA

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**Minister receives guests**

**Korean cultural delegates participate in paper reading session**

**YANGON, 11 Dec —** Under the cultural exchange programme of delegates between the ASEAN and Korea, a total of eight delegates from Korea and the National Committee for ASEAN Culture and Information of Myanmar held a paper reading session at the Traders Hotel here this morning. Present on the occasion were Acting Chairman of the National Committee Director-General of the Fine Arts Department U Kyaw Win, officials of subcommittees, and delegates from Korea.

U Kyaw Win spoke on the occasion. Next, papers on ‘Myanmar Tapestry Art’, ‘Myanmar Traditional Arts and Crafts’, and ‘Myanmar Traditional Natural Dyeing and Weaving’ were read out by Myanmar resource persons.


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**MNA**
UN chief says security in Iraq unlikely to improve in short term

UN chief says security in Iraq unlikely to improve in short term

In his latest report on Iraq to the Security Council, Annan said that the world body will remain a "high-valued high-impact" target for terrorist activity in Iraq for the foreseeable future. "The acting UN Security Coordinator assessed the current risk to UN personnel in Iraq as falling in the high to critical category," Annan said, adding he would recommend a range of protective measures to reduce the risk. The measures, according to the report, would include a "dedicated, highly mobile, cohesive and responsive" armed force, as well as a preparation and full implementation of enhanced Minimum Operating Safety Standards (MOSS) to include security plans and procedures and significant office and residential building upgrades.

He also called for the establishment of an effective, well-trained and well-equipped security management and coordination structure to include high-grade liaison links with information sources and the capability to analyze associated information. Other measures include the training on security matters for staff at all levels, a highly capable and responsive emergency medical support element, protected vehicles and a comprehensive, far-reaching public information strategy that is sensitive and responsive to the security considerations. The UN chief has been put under pressure on the issue of staff safety after his Special Representative in Iraq, Sergio de Mello, along with 21 of his colleagues, were killed on duties when a deadly bombing grounded the UN headquarters in Baghdad on 19 Aug.

An Iraqi boy passes US Army Humvees next to the burned out building of Iraq Information Ministry in Baghdad on 10 Dec, 2003. Driving by gunmen shot dead a US soldier and a Kurdish official and wounded another American soldier in Iraq's northern capital Mosul, a military spokesman and witnesses said. — Internet

Pentagon says US military plane probably hit by missile, lands safely in Baghdad

Baghdad, 11 Dec—Guerrillas hit a US Air Force transport plane with a surface-to-air missile, causing the engine to explode, a senior Pentagon source said Wednesday. The plane landed safely.

The C-17 had just lifted off from Baghdad International Airport before dawn Tuesday when the engine exploded, slightly injuring one of the 16 passengers and crew, said US Air Force Capt. Carrie Clear of 447th Air Expeditionary Group, based at the airport. The plane returned to the airport and landed safely, Clear said. A senior Pentagon official, speaking on condition of anonymity, described the explosion as a direct hit by a ground-fired missile, "like the DHL" incident that damaged a cargo plane departing the airport last month. That plane, too, landed safely. Clear said the incident was under investigation. — Internet

449 US troops killed since beginning of military operations in Iraq

Baghdad, 11 Dec—As of Wednesday, Dec. 10, 449 US service members have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq, according to the Department of Defence. Of those, 309 died as a result of hostile action and 140 died of non-hostile causes, the department said.

The British military has reported 42 deaths: Italy, 17; Spain, eight; Denmark, Ukraine and Poland have reported one each. On or since May 1, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 311 US soldiers have died, 194 as a result of hostile action and 117 of non-hostile causes, according to the Defence Department’s figures.

Since the start of military operations, 2,208 US service members have been inured as a result of hostile action, according to the Defence Department’s figures. Non-hostile injured numbered 359.

The latest deaths reported by the military: A 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) soldier was killed Wednesday morning by small arms fired from two vehicles in Mosul.

101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) soldier was killed in a convoy ambush in Mosul on Wednesday afternoon. — Internet

China speeds up tariff reform to fulfill WTO commitment

BEIJING, 11 Dec—China has done substantial work in tariff reform and will further cut import duties according to the commitments made during its accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO) in 2001, official said.

Liu Wenjie, deputy director of the Chinese General Administration of Customs, said at a Press conference held here Tuesday that China sorted out and revised more than 3,000 customs documents which went against WTO rules and international practices since 2000.

Apart from the amended and practiced Customs Law, a newly-amended national regulation on import and export duties has been promulgated and will take effect as of Monday, 1 January 2004, Liu said.

A new regulation on intellectual property protection will be published shortly and a customs announcement on the predefinition of place of origin is under deliberation, according to Liu.

Meanwhile, China reduced tariff rates yearly. In 2003, the average tariff rate was cut from 12 per cent to 11 per cent. In 2002, the figure was reduced from 15.3 per cent to 12 per cent, Liu said.

Liu went on to say that the decrease of tariffs spurred Chinese imports and helped increase tariff income.

In the January-November period, Liu noted, Chinese imports rose by 39.1 per cent to hit 370.6 billion US dollars.— MNA/Xinhua

India offers enhanced access in “IT”-related services at WTO

NEW DELHI, 11 Dec—In line with its interest in liberalization of movement of natural persons, India has offered enhanced access under the mode as part of its offers on services in computer-related services at the WTO.

“We have just finalized our initial conditional offer in services. The offer contains various sectors already committed and three new sectors — maritime transport services, accounting and book-keeping services, and medical, dental and nursing services,” Junior Minister for Commerce and Industry S.B. Mookherjee said at the Asia Tech Summit here.

He said since liberalization of movement of natural persons is an area of core interest, India is offering enhanced commitments under this mode.

“We have offered enhanced access in terms of larger number of sectors and also introduced the category of contractual service suppliers, both employees of firms without office in India and independent professionals, he said. In one of the most promising service sectors with immense growth potential, he said adding “Indian IT companies and professionals have proved themselves amongst the best in the world.” — MNA/PTI

Vietnam aims to strengthen ties with Japan at Tokyo summit

HANOI, 11 Dec—Vietnam’s attendance of a three-day ASEAN-Japan Summit in Tokyo starting on Wednesday is aimed at developing ASEAN-Japan relations and strengthening long-term and stable ties between Vietnam and Japan, according to Vietnam News Agency.

A Vietnamese delegation led by Vietnemese Prime Minister Phan Van Khai will attend the summit held between Wednesday and Friday. As a new member of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), Vietnam has attached importance to developing cooperative ties with Japan, bilaterally and multilaterally. Leaders of the two countries have exchanged visits in recent years. They agreed to build a reliable and long-term partnership.

Cooperation in economy, culture, education, health, science and technology has been boosted and expanded. The two countries signed an agreement last month on investment promotion and protection to create a legal corridor for investors of both nations.

Japan is not only Vietnam’s biggest donor, but also the country’s No. one trade partner with an average two-way trade of almost 5 billion US dollars a year. Japan ranks the third among foreign investors in Vietnam with a total registered capital of 4.5 billion US dollars. — MNA/Xinhua
Two US soldiers killed in Mosul

MOSUL, 11 Dec—Two US soldiers were killed and four others were wounded in separate attacks Wednesday in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul, the military said, while troops in another northern city arrested five Iraqi policemen and 24 other people suspected of ties to insurgents. Guerrillas also hit an Air Force cargo plane over Baghdad airport with a surface-to-air missile, according to a high-level Pentagon source.

The air force C-17 was forced into an emergency landing when an engine caught fire. The strike, which took place Tuesday, injured one of the 16 passengers and crew and highlighted the danger to air traffic at Baghdad’s airport, a key entry point where a ground-fired missile last month hit a DHL cargo plane and it was forced to land.

It was the fifth US helicopter downed in Iraq in just over five weeks. Fallujah has been a focus of resistance to the US occupation, although the city has been relatively peaceful since the town was put in the heart of the Sunni Triangle, where the majority of attacks on US forces have occurred since the ouster of Saddam Hussein.

US plane returns to Baghdad airport after explosion

Baghdad, 11 Dec—A US military C-17 transport plane was forced to return to Baghdad’s international airport after suffering a “catastrophic” engine failure on takeoff, the US military said on Wednesday. A spokesman at the airport said the cause of the incident on Tuesday was under investigation, but a Pentagon spokesman said it is being treated as a “safety incident”.

“Yesterday morning at 4 a.m. (0100 GMT) a C-17 plane declared an in-flight emergency shortly after takeoff. There was an explosion in one of its engines, but it returned safely,” said the spokesman.

He said one person among the 16 crew and passengers on board was slightly hurt.

China to build rail bridge across Yangtze

WUHAN, 11 Dec—Construction began on a bridge across the Yangtze River, with a designed load capacity of 20,000 tons, making it the world’s largest-capacity bridge of the kind.

At a cost of 11.06 billion yuan (1.33 billion US dollars), the Tianxingzhou bridge, in Wuhuan, capital of central China’s Hubei Province, will be the sixth and also the most expensive bridge across the river.

The double-decked bridge, expected to be completed by 2008, is the second local bridge for trains. The first train bridge was built in 1958, and can only handle gradually growing rail transport demand across the river.

It is also the first cable-stayed bridge in China for high-speed trains with a speed limit of 200 kilometers per hour, and the world’s first with a span of 504 meters. The bridge, with four rail lines, will be a key part of China’s major rail transport networks and will make Wuhuan China’s a leading railway transport hub following Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou, capital of southern Guangdong Province.

Malaysian farmers urged to initiate organic farming

KUALA LUMPUR, 11 Dec—Malaysian Agriculture Minister Mohamad Effendi Norwawi urged farmers in the country to initiate organic farming.

The organic crop market, this trade in this country,” he said.

Effendi said the demand for organic food products was increasing yearly due to awareness among people of the importance of safe nutrition to safeguard health. Organic farming is a system which avoids the use of synthetic inputs such as fertilizers, chemical poison and antibiotics. On top of that, the concept is also environment-friendly, said the minister.

There are 600 hectares of organic farms across Malaysia, most of them are family-owned. His agriculture Department would issue certification to farms implementing organic farming as an official endorsement. With the certification, consumers need not worry about the authenticity of the organic food products which they purchase, he said.—MNA/Reuters

China increases participation in UN peacekeeping operations

BEIJING, 11 Dec—China is gradually increasing its participation in peacekeeping operations of the United Nations, said a senior official of the Chinese Ministry of National Defence on Tuesday.

Dai Shaoan, deputy director of the Peacekeeping Affairs Office of the ministry, said the Chinese Army has sent more than 2,000 servicemen to participate in 11 peacekeeping operations of the UN by the end of 2003. Dai said that thanks to the excellent performance of Chinese peacekeeping forces, the UN has repeatedly expressed its desire to have more Chinese participation in peacekeeping operations.

Dai said China is one of the 50-member peacekeeping force to Liberia at the request of the UN’s special representative on the Liberian issue. Sixty of them left China for that African war-torn country on Tuesday.

The Chinese Government has consistently attached great importance to and supported the UN in maintaining world peace and security under the principles of the United Nations Charter. It is ready to make more contributions in the future, said Dai.

China officially established its first blue helmet troops, a military engineering brigade, for UN peacekeeping operations in Cambodia in April 1992.

18th Asian Int’l Art Exhibition opens in HK

HONG KONG, 11 Dec—“Mapping Asia — The 18th Asian International Art Exhibition”, featuring some 180 works of art from across Asia, opened at the Hong Kong Heritage Museum on Tuesday.

The exhibition, which will run till March 8, 2004, was jointly sponsored by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department and the Federation of Asian Artists Hong Kong Committee.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Director of Leisure and Cultural Services Anissa Wong Sean-ye said the event aims to reflect current artistic developments in Asia, to illustrate Asian ways of life and to foster better understanding and friendship among people in the region.

Some 180 works by about 190 artists from Japan, South Korea, the Chinese Mainland, Indonesia, the Philippines, Malaysia, Singapore, Taiwan, Macao and Hong Kong are on display, including installations, photography, video and digital art, ceramics, sculpture, and painting.

US sends more Iraqi refugees home from Iran

GENEVA, 11 Dec—More than 200 Iraqi refugees from a camp in Iran returned to Iraq in a UN convoy this week despite the fragile security situation in their country, the United Nations refugee agency said here.

The returns followed months of negotiations with the US-controlled Coalition Provisional Authority running Iraq, UNHCR spokesman Kris Janowski said.

He said 210 refugees were repatriated by bus on Monday from the Ashrali camp in Iran and given tents and cooking utensils and food at the start of these repatriation convoys from Iran,” Janowski told a news conference.

“I don’t think they (the coalition authorities) are trying to stall the return. I think they are trying to manage the pace of the return,” he added.—MNA/Reuters

Chinese models show off the latest hair-dos and make-up by local designers at a show in Beijing.—Reuters

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The organic crop market has grown to 80 billion ringgit (2.05 billion US dollars) worldwide making it among the biggest market segments in the world, the minister told reporters after opening a seminar in Putrajaya, the administrative capital of Indonesia.

“Some 16 million hectares of land all over the world have been planted with organic crops. We should also exploit this trade in this country,” he said.

Effendi said the demand for organic food products was increasing yearly due to awareness among people of the importance of safe nutrition to safeguard health. Organic farming is a system which avoids the use of synthetic inputs such as fertilizers, chemical poison and antibiotics. On top of that, the concept is also environment-friendly, said the minister.

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IRAQ UNDER US OCCUPATION

US soldiers place a concrete block at the site of a suicide attack outside a US military base in Tall Afar, near Mosul. A massive suicide car bomb that exploded outside the military base on 8 December wounded 58 American soldiers and an Iraqi translator. — Internet

Iraqis look at a car damaged after a bombing in central Baghdad which killed 3 Iraqis on 9 Dec, 2003. In northern Iraq, a suicide bomber wounded 58 US soldiers and three Iraqis in an attack on a military base. — Internet

A US soldier checks Iraqis in a car in Baghdad recently. — Internet

A soldier of the US Army’s 4th Infantry Division passes by a billboard of Saddam Hussein’s former national guards in Tikrit, Iraq, on Monday, 8 Dec, 2003. — Internet

A soldier of the US Army’s 4th Infantry Division guards detained Iraqi men suspected of a hand grenade attack against US troops during operation Buhriz in the town of Baquba in central Iraq, on 11 December, 2003. — Internet

A soldier of US Army’s 4th Infantry Division watches an Iraqi family in their home during a night raid in Khadasiya, a northern suburb of Tikrit, Iraq on 9 Dec, 2003. — Internet

A soldier of the US Army’s 4th Infantry Division passes by a billboard of Saddam Hussein’s former national guards in Tikrit, Iraq, on Monday, 8 Dec, 2003. — Internet
Russia warns against international split over Iraq

BERLIN, 11 Dec — Warning against a new international split over Iraq, Russia criticized on Wednesday a US decision to bar opponents of the Iraq war from winning lucrative contracts to help rebuild the country.

“We believe the interests of a political settlement of the situation in Iraq, and the rebuilding of Iraq, are best served by uniting the efforts of the international community and not splitting it,” Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov said.

As regards the reconstruction of Iraq, it thinks it’s a general desire, and all who are prepared to participate in this should be given every possibility to do that,” he told journalists during a visit to Berlin.

Ivanov said Russian companies were already operating in Iraq, and added: “We hope that as the necessary security conditions are created, that cooperation will be widened.”

Russia, France and Germany were the most vocal opponents of the US invasion of Iraq earlier this year.

All three were omitted from a US list of countries eligible for prime contracts in Iraq worth up to 18.6 billion US dollars, which will be advertised in coming days.

Washington said that for security reasons, the only companies eligible would be from the United States, Iraq and “coalition partners and force-contributing nations.” — MNA/Reuters

China finds clues to uncover mystery of gunpowder invention

CHENGDU, 11 Dec — Chinese archaeologists have found a large ancient saltpeter manufacturing base which they believe was used to manufacture gunpowder over 1,000 years ago.

A team of archaeologists discovered last month a network of caves at the Laojun Mountain in southwestern China’s Sichuan Province.

Xu Xiangdong, leader of the expedition and former president of the Beijing Ancient Building Museum, said the caves were used to manufacture saltpeter, one of the major ingredients of gunpowder.

In two caves, the remains of workshops and storage pits were discovered, while in another cave the team found four work spaces, each covering hundreds of square metres, along with several saltpeter pits, and scattered fragments of chinaware.

Based on the finds, scientists estimated the ancient miners could have extracted one kilo of saltpeter from 100 kilos of earth and the kitchens could have fed 100 workers.

The finds proved that the Laojun Mountain was the largest base for saltpeter production, said the experts.

They speculated that the saltpeter, named “Chinese Snow” by foreigners, was probably transported from here to Europe and West Asia via the road twisting between Sichuan and Gansu provinces.

Experts agreed that the large number of halls in towns and cities around the area were used to trade saltpeter in ancient times.

Gunpowder is one of the four great inventions in ancient China along with paper, printing and the compass.

According to historic records, ancient Chinese found that the mixture of saltpeter, sulphur and carbon was explosive, which led to the invention of gunpowder sometime before the Tang Dynasty (618-907). — MNA/Xinhua

EU to query US limits on Iraq deals at WTO

BRUSSELS, 11 Dec — The European Commission said on Wednesday it was investigating whether a US decision to exclude Iraq war opponents from bidding for contracts to rebuild the country meets world trade rules.

“We are now going to start looking into the 26 contracts in order to make sure that limitations to competition for these public procurement contracts to certain countries is compatible with World Trade Organization rules,” European Commission spokesperson Arancha Gonzalez said.

Gonzalez, noting that the contracts were worth 20 billion US dollars, said the Commission expected to have some results from its inquiry in the coming weeks.

The US decision has affected European Union members France and Germany as well as Russia. — MNA/Reuters

US poll finds support for UN except among Republicans

UNITED NATIONS, 11 Dec — Despite the Bush Administration’s coolness toward the United Nations, a US poll released on Wednesday found support for the world body among three out of five, or 59 per cent, of Americans.

A major exception was among Republicans, where only 37 per cent agreed that the United Nations was needed more than ever in world affairs and believed the world body was less relevant and less influential today. — President George W. Bush, who failed to win UN Security Council authorization for the US invasion of Iraq, had said the world body’s stance against Saddam Hussein would test its relevance.

In the poll, 65 per cent of women polled supported the United Nations as compared to only 53 per cent of men, according to Zogby International, which conducted the survey on behalf of the Council on Foreign Relations.

The view that the United Nations was more necessary than ever included 81 per cent of Democratic Party supporters, 66 per cent of young voters between 18 and 29 years of age and 65 per cent of union members. Zogby, based in Utica, New York, said it conducted telephone interviews with 1,000 likely voters September 5-9 chosen at random across the country from listed residential phone numbers. — MNA/Reuters

Germany says exclusions from Iraq contracts unacceptable

BERLIN, 11 Dec — The German Government said on Wednesday it would be unacceptable for the United States to bar firms from countries which opposed the war in Iraq from competing for prime contracts to rebuild the country.

In a policy document released on Tuesday, US Deputy Defence Secretary Paul Wolfowitz said he was limiting competition for 26 reconstruction contracts worth up to 18.6 billion US dollars that will be advertised in coming days.

He cited national security reasons for the exclusions of firms from countries that opposed the war including France and Germany. They may bid for sub-contracts.

Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder’s chief-spokesman Bela Anda said that if the reports of such an exclusion were true:

“That would not be acceptable for the German government. And it wouldn’t be in line with the spirit of looking to the future together and not into the past.” He declined at a news conference to comment on what action the government would take.

Germany has sought in recent months to patch up relations with Washington that were badly hurt by its criticism of the Iraq war, offering to help train Iraqi police and support reconstruction and humanitarian aid projects in the country. France, which together with Germany was the most vocal opponent of the US-led war in Iraq, said earlier it was studying with US European partners whether the decision was in line with international competition law. — MNA/Reuters
Singapore-Kunming railway begins to take shape

KUALA LUMPUR, 11 Dec — The much-awaited Singapore-Kunming Railway Link (SKRL) project had begun to take shape with steps taken to fill up the missing rail sectors, Transport Minister Chan Kong Choy said.

The minister, who just came back from attending the fifth SWG meeting in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, said that the Thai Government had indicated that it would build the shortest missing rail sector from the Thai border to Poipet, the border town of Cambodia, by the end of next year.

He said that Malaysia had agreed to assist the construction of the second missing rail link from Poipet to Sisophon both in Cambodia, covering a length of 48 kilometres, by donating used railway tracks.

Chan said that the third missing sector, which was the longest covering 255 kilometres, was between Phnom Penh, Cambodia, and Loasbat, the border town of Vietnam.

He said that Vietnam had shown keen interest to build the fourth missing sector between Locninh and Ho Chi Minh City, covering a distance of 192 kilometres and had conducted its own feasibility study, which would be finalized by the end of this month.

He said that South Korea had also volunteered to conduct a feasibility study on the missing link between Cambodia and Vietnam while China had indicated that it was keen to help.

“Once, the technical details are worked out, we will look into the funding,” Chan said.

“We have been talking about this project for more than 10 years and now with something concrete taking place, the SKRL project can become a reality not too long from now;” he added.

The project is expected to cost 2.5 billion US dollars and part of the money will be provided by the Asian Development Bank.

Dengue-plagued Venezuela declares national emergency

CARACAS, 11 Dec — Venezuela’s Ministry of Health and Social Development declared a national emergency Wednesday because of a serious outbreak of dengue fever, which has killed four people.

By November 22, Venezuela’s 24 states had recorded 22,197 cases of dengue fever, and it was continuing to spread in 13 states, Health Ministry officials said.

The epidemic is particularly serious in Caracas, the capital, with 2,255 cases and reaching Kunming in China, was proposed by former Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad some 10 years ago.

The minister, who just came back from attending the fifth SWG meeting in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, said that the Thai Government had indicated that it would build the shortest missing rail sector from the Thai border to Poipet, the border town of Cambodia, by the end of next year.

He said that Malaysia had agreed to assist the construction of the second missing rail link from Poipet to Sisophon both in Cambodia, covering a length of 48 kilometres, by donating used railway tracks.

Chan said that the third missing sector, which was the longest covering 255 kilometres, was between Phnom Penh, Cambodia, and Loasbat, the border town of Vietnam.

He said that Vietnam had shown keen interest to build the fourth missing sector between Locninh and Ho Chi Minh City, covering a distance of 192 kilometres and had conducted its own feasibility study, which would be finalized by the end of this month.

He said that South Korea had also volunteered to conduct a feasibility study on the missing link between Cambodia and Vietnam while China had indicated that it was keen to help.

“Once, the technical details are worked out, we will look into the funding,” Chan said.

“We have been talking about this project for more than 10 years and now with something concrete taking place, the SKRL project can become a reality not too long from now;” he added.

The project is expected to cost 2.5 billion US dollars and part of the money will be provided by the Asian Development Bank.

Many hurt in vehicle pile-up in Britain

LONDON, 11 Dec — Up to 19 people were believed injured after at least 15 vehicles were involved in a crash at Staffordshire, northwest of London, it was reported here on Wednesday.

Two coaches of school children, 12 cars and an articulated lorry were involved in the crash, which happened during foggy weather at about 0945 GMT on the southbound carriageway between Fradley Park and Streetay, the Sky News reported.

At least one driver with serious injuries was cut free and rushed to hospital, the report said.

Eighteen others were injured, two with possible serious injuries and others were described as “walking wounded”, the report added.

Although there were reports of numerous casualties after the pile-up, no one was believed to have been killed in the crash.

After the crash, the road was closed in both directions and drivers were being warned to avoid the area for most of the day, local reports said.

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 can save US $ 5.5 million in a year
* Thus, a total of 455,832 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 appeased
* Do not be bolstered whenever intimidated
* Do not be softened whenever flattered
* Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than... (from page 1)

human resources. In the process, tranquility and peace has been restored and there has prevailed law and order in the nation, he added. And more and more basic education schools, universities, colleges and degree colleges are being constructed to ensure development of human resources. Likewise, arrangements are being made for development of agriculture and livestock breeding sectors fundamental requirement for economic growth. Bago Division is one of the six divisions striving for economic development of the State. In 2003-2004 financial year, out of the ten major crops, Bago Division could put over 2.4 million acres under monsoon paddy. So, efforts are made to be taken for ensuring proper processing of summer paddy on 0.26 million acres of land. Waw Township is to make endeavours in order to bring honour to the division, he pointed out. Waw Township could take measures to exceed the target of monsoon paddy cultivation, and efforts are therefore to be made for ensuring proper processing of summer paddy. Waw Township is a region on which the State can rely regarding beans and pulses production sector. However, the region can achieve success in cultivating these crops in the present year less than the rate in the previous year. Thus, effective measures are to be taken to maintain the development momentum. Only if edible oil crops are cultivated in respective seasons, will edible oil production meet the target, he noted.

It is required to extend planting of Thitseint (belleric myrobalan) trees and pepper as many as possible. Extended fish breeding tasks are to be implemented in the fields not suitable for cultivation of paddy. Poultry farming is to be also extended and it is needed to organize local people to run small-scale livestock breeding units.

Development affairs tasks coordinated

On the occasion, the minister gave instructions, saying that service personnel of development affairs committees are to carry out 31 tasks included in the Development Affairs Law and to make the subordinates understand them. And efforts are to be made for better transport and water supply in rural areas, he added. At the same time, measures are to be taken to upgrade the towns to cities and to ensure equitable development between rural and urban areas, he noted.

Officials reported on financial statements of Shan State (South)/DAC for 2003-2004 fiscal year, tasks for greening the region, work progress and future plans. The minister attended to the needs.

After the meeting, the minister inspected the tasks carried out for greening the region.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party arrived back here in the evening.

U Myint Swe presents his credentials to Nepali King

YANGON, 11 Dec — U Myint Swe, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Union of Myanmar to the Kingdom of Nepal, presented his credentials to His Majesty King Gyanendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev, King of Nepal, on 5 December, in Kathmandu.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than pays homage to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Visuddhika Dhamma Lankara in Bago.— MNA.

U Nyunt Maung Shein presents his credentials to President of Poland

YANGON, 11 Dec — U Nyunt Maung Shein, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of Poland, presented his credentials to His Excellency Mr. Aleksander Kwasniewski, President of the Republic of Poland, on 28 November, 2003, in Warsaw.

Khine Khine Maw wins gold

YANGON, 11 Dec — The XXII Southeast Asia Games continued in Hanoi, Vietnam, today. Myanmar secured one more gold and one more bronze in Wushu events this morning.

In the women’s Taigiquan category, Khine Khine Maw of Myanmar stood first, while Singapore and Vietnam stood second and third respectively. In the men’s Jianhu category, first prize and second prize went to athletes from the Philippines and Vietnam, while Aung Si Thu of Myanmar took third place.

In the men’s Gunshu category, Pyi Wai Phyo of Myanmar stood second, while the Philippines and Vietnam took first place and third prize respectively.

The Myanmar Wushu team has so far secured one gold, two silver and one bronze in the games.

MDA to hold conference

YANGON, 11 Dec — The 24th Conference of Myanmar Dental’s Association and the 5th FDI MDA Joint Education Meeting will be held at the Traders Hotel on Sale Pagoda Road from 28 to 31 January 2004.

Dentists wishing to attend the conference may enroll at the conference hall of the hotel from 9 am to 2 pm on 26 and 27 January.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than pays homage to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Visuddhika Dhamma Lankara in Bago.— MNA.
Construction of No 2 Thanlyin bridge inspected

Yangon, 11 Dec — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council and Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe yesterday afternoon inspected the No 2 Thanlyin bridge construction project and the Kayan creek sluice gate construction project being implemented in Thanlyin township, Yangon South District, and gave instructions to officials.

The commander arrived at the briefing hall of the bridge construction project in Dagon Myothit (Hseikkan), Yangon East District, at 2 pm. The commander was welcomed there by Deputy Minister for Construction Brig-Gen Myint Swe, Deputy Minister for Construction Brig-Gen Myint Hsan Co Ltd and left instructions on timely completion of the project.

The commander and party later proceeded to the sluice gate construction project being implemented by the Irrigation Department in Thanlyin township. They were welcomed there by No 1 Military Commander Lt-Gen Myint Kyi, local authorities and officials.

At the temporary briefing hall of the project, the commander met with departmental officials and local farmers. At the meeting, the commander addressed the following:

- To ensure sufficient supply of irrigation water to the farmers.
- To ensure moderate irrigation, to avoid over-irrigation.
- To use scientific crop rotation methods for boosting agricultural production.
- To ensure moderate irrigation, to avoid over-irrigation.

The commander and party later inspected the sluice gate, and tasks being carried out at the sluice gate and future tasks.

Giving instructions to farmers, the commander said that plans were underway to be able to cultivate various kinds of crops all the year round within a 30 mile radius of Yangon International Airport. With this in view, he continued, irrigation facilities were being provided to ensure sufficient supply of irrigation water, adding that single, double and triple cropping would enable the farmers to enjoy the fruitful results.

Later, officials reported on cultivation of summer paddy, beans and pulses, edible oil crops and economically-profitable crops with the application of scientific agricultural methods, and matters related to technical assistance to be rendered to farmers. Local authorities from Thanlyin, Kyauktan, Thongwa and Kayan townships also reported on measures being taken for timely cultivation of economically-profitable crops and arrangements for putting the harvests under shelter.

Afterwards, the commander and party inspected the tasks being carried out at the project with the use of heavy machinery and gave instructions on timely completion of the project.

The commander and party later proceeded to the industrial zone in Dagon Myothit (Hseikkan) township, where he inspected the auto manufacturing of Pan Hsu Co Ltd and left instructions on production of vehicles meeting the set standard.

 Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe has hours reports by an official on Shwe Hlay sluice gate. — YANGON COMMAND

59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Objectives

- To strive hand in hand with the people for successful realization of the State’s seven-point policy programme
- To crush internal and external destructive elements hindering the stability and progress of the State through people’s militia strategy
- To implement border area development tasks and the five rural development tasks hand in hand with the entire people
- To build up a strong and efficient Tatmadaw to uphold ‘Our Three Main National Causes’

Commander inspects...

(From page 16)

roads and 15,370 feet long earth road linking among villages, plans on building of bridges and tarred roads, cooperation of local people with departmental personnel in regional development tasks and cultivation tasks to be carried out from double cropping to triple cropping for economic growth.

Officials accepted one set of TV and VCR for the library, books for the post primary school and uniforms for auxiliary fire brigade and red cross members donated by Minister Col Tin Hlaing, one generator for the library by Vice-Minister Col Maung Pa, and K 50,000 for Ward Maternal and Child Welfare Association by Deputy Director-General U Maung Win of General Administration Department.

Afterwards, the commander and party inspected the ward health care unit and attended to the requirements. They then oversaw construction of the roads linking villages and wards and cleaning of drinking lakes.

Later, they inspected the place where factories and workshops will be built near Alachaung Ward.

National races visit Thanlyin, Kyauktan

Yangon, 11 Dec — Invited by the chairman of the Work Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races, a national race group of Mawchee region in Kayah State paid homage to Kyikkhaung Pagoda in Thanlyin township today. Officials and members of the pagoda board of trustees briefed them on history of the pagoda.

Next, the study group proceeded to Pada Ngaghatipyag pagoda in Thanlyin and Kyakhinwawin pagoda in Kyauktan.

The group donated cash towards the fund of the pagodas.

Afterwards, they visited Union National Race Village in Thaketa Township. Officials welcomed and conducted them round the village. The director-general of the Department of Border Areas and National Races Development presented gifts to them. Leader of the national races group U Saw Yu He spoke words of thanks. After visiting the View Point Amusement Park, they left for guest house in the evening.

A&I Minister attends...

(from page 16)

and skills in the interests of the State. So, as the fruitful result of the farsightedness of the Head of State, the paper-reading sessions of the MAAFLF and its activities have been held.

Myanmar is an agrarian country and her major production enterprises are based on agriculture sector. So, development of farm sector plays a key role in the development of the socioeconomic life of the majority of her citizens and the development of the State. With the increasing population of the country, arrangements for boosting agricultural produce have been implemented in steps. In order to extend the extension of sown acreage, multiple-cropping in all seasons, boosting the acreage under each season, boosting the yield as well as availability of quality grains and effectiveness of suitable cultivation methods are important.

Making use of modern technologies in transforming into mechanized farming is an unavoidable process. Besides rice, the staple crop of the country, growing of 10 major crops such as maize, groundnut, sesame, sunflower, Matpe, Pedesin, Pesoingin, cotton and sugarcane is to be emphasized. Objectives are to be set to export old items as well as new ones, he said.

Utilization of modern machinery and modern methods are important in implementing the objectives to be successful. Priority is to be given to growing of crops of quality standards obtained from the agricultural researches. More efforts are to be made with added momentum for boosting and technical development.

To systematically use water resources in the interests of the State and minimize wastage, technical and research development tasks are to be carried out. As regards forest sector, steps for development and prolongation of the State’s forests, efforts are to be made to increase State’s income, carry out environmental conservation, and to ensure moderate climate.

At a time when efforts are being made to exploit forest resources systematically, to extract various marketable timber more and to produce value added wood products for earning more foreign currencies, forest conservation tasks are to be made, he added.

In conclusion, he said the scholars of the MAAFLF realizing the State’s objectives are making efforts to uplift living standard of the people. He believed that the good results of the paper-reading session are beneficial not only to the agriculture, fisheries and forest sectors of Myanmar but the State’s economy.

 Afterwards, the minister presented the scholars certificates through Vice-Chairmen Dr Myint Thein and Dr Nyan Tun. After the ceremony, the ministers, the deputy ministers and members of the MAAFLF posed for documentary photos.

The paper-reading sessions of the groups were held at the meeting hall of Myanmar Farm Enterprise (Head Office), Tawmin Hall of Forest Department in West Gyogyon, Insein Township and the hall of the Livestock Feedstock and Dairy Products Enterprise on Butayon Road in Insein Township. They continue tomorrow.

Premier league soccer

Yangon, 11 Dec — The Myanmar Soccer Federation continued its premier league soccer tournament today at Aung San Stadium here this evening. In today’s match, the Defence Services (Army) A-team beat the team of Mines 2-0. The man of the match award went to Aung Chan Min of the Defence Services team. — MNA

National people from Mawchee region visiting View Point Amusement Park. — MNA

MNA
Nigeria recovers 62 stolen artifacts from abroad

Lagos, 11 Dec — The Nigerian federal government has recovered 62 stolen Nigerian artifacts from Switzerland and South Africa, Director-General of the National Commission for Museums and Monuments of Nigeria Omotoso Eluyemi said Tuesday.

Eluyemi told reporters in Kano, an ancient city with brilliant historical culture and long history, that the recovery of the artifacts followed talks between Nigeria and the two countries.

"The federal government discovered to its dismay that some of its pre-historic artifacts were smuggled into the two countries," Eluyemi said.

He explained that 46 artifacts were retrieved from Switzerland, while 16 were recovered from South Africa. According to Eluyemi, an indigene of Ebonyi, Eric Johnson, had donated 33 assorted artifacts to the commission free.

We the staff of Kyemon daily arrived at Pindaya Township in Shan State (South) on 11 November.

Pindaya Township is located in the western part of the township in the North-West of the town is well-known and its height is 7,752 feet above the sea level. Other well-known mountains are Mount Pwe and Mount Mya Pyaung. Generally, the land is high in west and gradually lower to the eastern part of the township.

Ywangan. Generally, the land is high in west and gradually lower to the eastern part of the township.

The Mount "Ashae-myn" situated in the western part of the township. He frequently visited the Mount including chairman of the committee to hold the ceremony to mark the World Food Day Day.

A damsel picking tea leaves in the thriving tea plantations in Pindaya Township.

A damsel picking tea leaves in the thriving tea plantations in Pindaya Township.

31 killed in road accidents in Ugandan capital in November

KAMPALA, 11 Dec — A total of 31 people died and 422 were injured in road accidents in November in Kampala, capital of Uganda, the Kampala regional police has announced.

Kampala regional traffic officer Gabriel Tibagonywa was quoted on Wednesday by local daily "The Monitor" as saying that police recorded 991 accidents in November, out of which 280 were serious.

At least 1,586 vehicles were involved in the accidents and the police issued 1,871 express penalty scheme tickets. The road accidents are listed as the second killer in the East African country after HIV/AIDS. Uganda lost about 150 million US dollars in 2002 due to road accidents and at least 1,250 people died in road accidents from January to September this year.

MNA/Xinhua
Smooth and secure transport stands witness to tangible results of constant efforts exerted by Tatmadaw Government for national development

The construction of bridges across major rivers shorten the travel time. With this end in view, bridges are being constructed wherever necessary. The photo taken on 23-3-2003, the opening day of the bridge, shows the aerial view of Dedaye Bridge linking Kungyangon Township and Dedaye Township.

Daka Bridge, which was opened on 6 July 2003 on Yangon-Pathein road, is 1400 feet long and has a 28-foot-wide motorway with a 5-foot-wide pedestrian lanes on both sides.

Easy access will help accelerate the flow of commodities between one region and another, including border areas, across the nation. The photo shows Kissapanadi Bridge on Yangon-Sittway Road in Rakhine State.

Transport infrastructure—roads, bridges, ports and airports—are being constructed with added momentum to narrow the development gap between one region and another in all parts of the nation. The photo shows the Mandalay International Airport, equipped with modern facilities, in TadaU Township, Mandalay Division.
UN predicts 9 billion people by 2300, many of them old

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

The second best time is now.
Buddhist. The temple was destroyed in the age Protection Centre. This is the largest group of Buddha figures carved in stone that have ever been found in China, according to archaeologists with the Tianjin Municipal Cultural Heritage Protection Centre. These Buddha figures of different sizes are carved on stones of various shapes and each piece of stone contains several figures. The 446 Buddha figures were found in areas around the Qianxiang Temple (Thousand-Sand Figures Temple) which stands at the eastern foot of the Panshan Mountain, 12.5 kilometres from the seat of Tianjin County. The temple was destroyed by Chinese worshippers to ignore stones adjourning to the Tang Dynasty (618-907). Today, only the foundations of the temple exist.

Johannesburg, 11 Dec— South Africa is losing the war on skin cancer and a lot of lives too, warned Dagmar Whitaker, Kenilworth dermatologist and executive member of the Dermatological Society of South Africa.

The scientist was quoted by local English daily The Star as saying on Wednesday, while Australia, with its similar outdoor life-style and serious sun risk, is improving statistics with its dedicated sun awareness campaigns, South Africa is trailing miserably with the risk here for skin cancer at an alarming one in 36. The standard risk of developing melanomas is one in 75 in sunny countries like South Africa and Australia, but local dermatologists are warning that people are clearly ignoring the prevention campaigns.

The three-day meeting on fistula in South Africa was opened here on Tuesday.

The ceremony authenticated 19 world records altogether collated by the University of Cape Town, show South Africans now have a one in 36 chance of developing a melanoma. South Africa is losing the war on skin cancer and a lot of lives too, warned Dagmar Whitaker, Kenilworth dermatologist and executive member of the Dermatological Society of South Africa.

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Real Sociedad hold off Galatasaray to advance

SAN SEBASTIAN (Spain), 11 Dec — Real Sociedad clinched a place in the second phase of the Champions League with a nervy 1-1 draw at home to Galatasaray in their final Group D game on Wednesday.

Galatasaray, needing a win to pip the Spanish side to the runners-up spot behind Juventus and a place in the last 16, took the lead after 26 minutes when Halom Sukur converted a Berkant Goktan pass.

Sociedad, fighting to keep their debut Champions League campaign alive, surged forward and eventually claimed the equalizer six minutes after the break through Oscar de Paula.

The home side managed to keep Galatasaray at bay for the rest of the game, with only a couple of desperate punts forward in the final couple of moments hinting at a comeback from the Turks, who had to settle for a place in the UEFA Cup third round.

Sociedad went into the game still smarting from a 4-0 home defeat by Real Betis in the Primera Liga, a result that left them in the relegation places, but they were immediately back in their more assured European form against Galatasaray.

Needing just a win to go through, Raymond Denouez’s side took control of the midfield from the start, with Xabi Alonso and Igor Gabilondo both in eye-catching form.

Juve set record with 7-0 thrashing of Olympiakos

Turin (Italy), 11 Dec — Juventus set a new Champions League record with a 7-0 victory over Olympiakos on Wednesday that assured them top spot in Group D.

The result was the biggest winning margin in Champions League history and means the Greeks finish bottom of the group and fail to qualify for the consolation spot in the UEFA Cup.

Juve had already qualified for the second phase but after three straight defeats in Serie A and Europe they showed no mercy as they ripped apart a woeful Greek defence.

After Serbian striker Predrag Djordjevic had forced a save out of Juve keeper Antonio Chimenti in the 10th minute, last season’s Keeper Antonio Chimenti in Serie A and Europe they took control.

David Trezeguet put them ahead in the 14th minute with a simple tap-in after being set up by midfielder Enzo Maresca. Five minutes later, Fabrizio Miccoli had the Greek side Olympus Lyon defeated Scotland’s Celtic 3-2 to top the standings.

Bayern had a number of chances in the first half, but after the English side Arsenal completed their Champions League resurrection on Wednesday with a 2-0 victory over 10-man Lokomotiv Moscow at Highbury that meant both teams qualified for the knockout phase from Group B.

Unconvincing Bayern edge into last 16

MUNICH, 11 Dec — Bayern Munich edged into the Champions League knockout stages by beating Anderlecht 1-0 in a tense Group A encounter at the Olympic Stadium on Wednesday.

The Germans were always in control of the match but after the English side Arsenal beat Lokomotiv but both teams qualify for the last 16 with a 2-0 win over 10-man Lokomotiv Moscow on Wednesday.

Arsenal won the group with an outcome that seemed implausible after the English side took only one point from their first three games. But after wins over Dynamo Kiev and Inter Milan, goals in each half by Robert Pires and Fabio Zuiverloon on Wednesday earned Arsenal the victory that sealed their place in the last 16.

Lokomotiv, who had defender Jacob Lekgetho sent off just moments after re-entering the match were then forced to settle for a UEFA Cup place.

Arsene Wenger’s team ended with 10 points, two more than Lokomotiv who pipped Inter, who also had eight points, on head-to-head record. Kiev finished bottom with seven points.

Needing a victory to be sure of qualifying, Lokomotiv went for the Russians’ threats straight from the kick off and needed only 12 minutes to pierce Lokomotiv’s massed defence.

Thierry Henry, who was key to their stunning 5-1 win at Inter Milan last month, was again the instigator, showing great pace to win the ball and then play a perfect square pass into the penalty area for the onrushing Pires to thrust his shot into the Lokomotiv net at the near post.

Henry, favourite for FIFA’s world player of the year award to be decided next week, almost made it 2-0 after 29 minutes but his curling shot after another slick build-up shaved the wrong side of the post.

Lokomotiv’s hopes of reversing the match were then dealt a terminal blow when South African left back Lekgetho was sent off for a second bookable foul on Zuiverloon on the stroke of halftime.

The Russians brought on Costa Rican striker Winston Parks for the second half and he at least forced a saved from otherwise redundant Arsenal keeper Jens Lehmann.

But Arsenal continued to carry the bigger threat and Zuiverloon made it 2-0 midway through the second half. Skipper Patrick Vieira linked with Henry who hooked the ball into the Swede’s path and he lifted it over Lokomotiv keeper Sergei Ovchinnikov.

Arsenal’s Thierry Henry (top) is tackled by Lokomotiv Moscow’s Vladimir Veysyeve during their Champions League Group B soccer match in London, on 10 Dec, 2003. Arsenal won 2-0. — Internet

Arsenal’sTotti Henry (top) is tackled by Lokomotiv Moscow’s Vladimir Veysyeve during their Champions League Group B soccer match in London, on 10 Dec, 2003. Arsenal won 2-0. — Internet

Arsenal’s Totti Henry (top) is tackled by Lokomotiv Moscow’s Vladimir Veysyeve during their Champions League Group B soccer match in London, on 10 Dec, 2003. Arsenal won 2-0. — Internet
Commander inspects regional development tasks on bank of Hline River in Kyimyinda

YANGON, 11 Dec — Chair-
man of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, accompanied by Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing, Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa and depart-
mental officials, this morn-
ing, inspected regional devel-
oping tasks in wards on the
other bank of Hline River in
Kyimyinda Township.

At 2 pm, the commander
and party arrived at Setsan
Township Peace and Devel-
oping Council Lt-Col
Maung Maung Shein and
Chairman of Kyimyinda
Township Peace and Devel-
oping Council U Tin Win
formally opened the library.

The commander and
party inspected the library
and fulfilled to the require-
ments.

They then went to Aungmingala Monastery in Setsan Ward and paid hom-
age to Sayadaw Visada and
donated provisions. Next, the
commander supplicated on
arrangements to be made for
providing assistance to the
wards in Kyimyinda Town-
ship on the bank of Hline
River for ensuring gradual
development of tasks.

At No 7 Post-Primary
School in Setsan Ward, a
ceremony to donate materi-
als for regional development
was held. Local authorities
reported on education, health
and transport sectors and
supply of drinking water for
the wards and future tasks.

Speaking on the occa-
sion, the commander gave
instructions on arrangements
for fulfilling requirements of
the wards in Kyimyinda
Township on the other bank
of Hline River. construction of
school buildings, concrete
(See page 9)

A&I Minister attends opening of paper-reading sessions of MAAFLF

YANGON, 11 Dec — The
opening of the paper read-
ing sessions of the
Myanmar Academy of Ag-
riculture, Forest, Livestock
and Fisheries took place at
the meeting hall of Myanmar
Farm Enterprise (Head Of-
face) on Pyay Road, here
yesterday, with an address
by Minister for Agriculture
and Irrigation Maj-Gen
Nyunt Tin.

Also present on the oc-
cassion were Minister for
Forestry Brig-Gen Thein
Aung, Minister for Livestock
and Fisheries Brig-Gen
Maung Maung Thein,
Deputy Minister for Forestry
Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein,
Deputy Minister for Agri-
culture and Irrigation U Oo-
Myint, Deputy Minister for
Electric Power U Myo
Myint, Chairman of the
Myanmar Academy of Ag-
riculture, Forest, Livestock
and Fisheries U Tin Hlaing,
Vice-Chairmen Dr Myint
Thein, Dr Nyan Tun and Dr
Maung Maung Sa, members
 directors-general and man-
aging directors from the min-
istries, officials, researchers
and resource persons and
distinguished guests.

On the occasion, Minis-
ter Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin made
an opening address. He said he was delighted to see the scholars of agri-
culture, meat and fish and
forestry sectors holding
meeting to present papers and
discuss them.

It was an effort to imple-
ment the State’s objectives
with their own knowledge
and skills, he elaborated.

Nowadays, it is known
to all the government that
making efforts for the coun-
try to keep abreast of others.
Emphasis is placed upon de-
velopment of national
economy with momentum to
uplift the living standard of
the people. In so doing, uti-
lizing of abundant natural
resources with far-sighted-
ness plays a vital role. Intel-
lectuals and intelligentsia are
essential for the State’s in-
terests, he added.

As the world is changing
rapidly with the advance-
ment of technology, a devel-
oping country like Myanmar
is to make all-out efforts in
all sectors to be able to keep
pace with the international
development and to success-
fully implement the State’s
objectives.

The importance of being
skilful and acquiring of
modern and advanced tech-
nologies should not be ne-
eglected.

So, Head of State Senior
General Than Shwe had cut-
different academies formed
with outstanding and experi-
enced scholars and guided
them for the development of
the country. So, the
MAAFLF became an impor-
tant academy for the devel-
opment of State’s economy.
The State exhibited its reli-
ance on the scholars by form-
ing the MAAFLF to utilize
their priceless knowledge
(See page 9)

SEA Games gold medalists

Myanmar women win silver in soccer

YANGON, 11 Dec —
Myanmar women’s soccer
team won silver in XXII SEA
Games today.

They lost 2-1 to host
Vietnam in the final.

Vietnamese got the first
goal in the second half. For-
ward Aung Myint equalized with her
fine header. The host team
concentrated on long passes
while Myanmar’s strategy
was based on dribblings and
short passes. Myanmar women
advanced to final after beating Malaya 8-0.
They also beat Thailand 4-2 and Singapore 3-0 in the
group matches. — NLM

Vehicle and ship
owners associations
meet in Kachin State

YANGON, 11 Dec —
A coordination meeting be-
tween vehicle owners asso-
ciation and ship owners as-
sociation in Kachin State was
held at the hall of Kachin
State Peace and Develop-
ment Council in Myitkyina
on 8 December afternoon.
It was attended by Chair-
man of Kachin State Peace
and Development Council
Commander of Northern
Command Maj-Gen Maung
Maung Swe, departmental
officials, authorities of
Myitkyina, Mogang, Mohnyin
and Waingmaw townships,
officials of the associations in
Myitkyina, Mogang, Mohnyin,
Bhamo, Shwegu, Tanai and
Phakant townships and guests.

The commander gave a
speech. Then, Head of
Kachin State Transport Plan-
ning Department U Khin
Maung Myint reported on
running of vehicles and ships
in the state. Next, the com-
mander gave necessary in-
structions and attended to
their needs. — MNA

Perspectives
Strive for emergence of reliable industrial zones

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Article
Pindaya, first prize winning township for outstanding performance in tea cultivation

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