**Volume XI, Number 240**

5th Waning of Nadaw 1365 ME

Saturday, 13 December, 2003

---

**EPABX extension carrier board launched at Pazundaung**

*YANGON, 12 Dec — The opening ceremony of EPABX extension carrier board installed by FISCA Enterprise, under the supervision of the Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telecommunications, and Yangon City Peace and Development Committee, was held at Pazundaung Market in Yangon City. It was attended by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe.*

*Also present were Minister for Communications, Posts and Telecommunications Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, Chairman of YCDC Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Joint-Secretary U Kyi Win and officials. Managing Director U Tin Kha of FISCA Enterprise reported on implementation of the extension project and arrangements for operating of the carrier board which can serve local and overseas calls at the service rate of Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications.*

A total of 16 CO lines including 110 extension lines are installed at the carrier board which can serve local and overseas calls at the service rate of Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications. FISCA Enterprise produces equipment of telecommunication exchanges in the country.

---

**Agricultural tasks, regional development projects inspected in Maubin District**

*YANGON, 12 Dec — Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Chairman South-West Command Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing inspected land preparations for cultivation of summer paddy along Pathein-Maubin road and plantations of cold season crops and beans and pulses and left necessary instructions yesterday.*

*The commander proceeded to Maubin paper mill near Pantaput village, Maubin Township. An official of Myanmar Jute Enterprise reported on implementation of the mill construction project and arrangements for operating of the mill. The commander gave instructions and inspected the mill.*

*The commander looked at Maubin Government Technical College.*

*In the afternoon, he met local authorities and departmental officials at the office of Maubin District Peace and Development Council. Speaking on the occasion, the commander gave instructions on greater development of the agricultural sector of the division, tasks to be implemented under supervision of the officials at all levels for exceeding the target of summer paddy cultivation and timely fulfilment of requirements.*

*Local authorities and officials reported on progress in harvesting monsoon paddy, arrangements for cultivation of summer paddy, measures being taken for meeting the target of sown acreage, requirements, and agricultural tasks being carried out by the companies in wetlands and assistance to be rendered for development of the agricultural sector. The commander attended to the needs.*

*In the evening, the commander held a meeting with departmental officials at the division General Administration Department and discussed matters on development of the township, rural development and better transportation. He attended to the requirements.*

---

**MFPTRA Meeting on Dec**

*YANGON, 12 Dec — The Myanmar Forest Products and Timber Merchants Association will hold the tenth annual general meeting at International Business Centre on Pyay Road at 5 pm on 26 December. Members of the association were invited to attend the meeting without fail.*

---

**Course on calculation of GDP opened**

*YANGON, 12 Dec — The opening ceremony of GDP Calculation Course No 4/2003 of the Planning Department of the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development was held at the department this morning. Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha made an opening speech.*

*Present on the occasion were departmental heads of the departments and organizations under the ministry and directors and assistant directors of the department.*

*In his speech, the minister said the course was conducted to enhance the competence of staff of the department in accord with the objectives of the ministry and to nurture the staff capable of effectively contributing towards the economic development of the State. In the world today, wealth and development of a nation is measured by GDP, he said. As the department is responsible for calculation of GDP of the country, all the staff of the department are required to correctly calculate GDP, the most important indicator. The staff are also responsible for compiling the correct statistical indices.*

*Minister U Soe Tha addresses the opening of GDP Calculation Course No 4/2003.*

---

**Four political objectives**

- Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order
- National reconsolidation
- Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution

**Four economic objectives**

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

**Four social objectives**

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

---

**Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.**
For improvement of Yangon-Mandalay Union Highway

The Government, enlisting the strength of the entire national people, is striving for the nation to become a peaceful, modern and developed one.

Head of State Senior General Than Shwe, on one occasion, said that transportation plays a vital role in national development; that only when there is better transportation, will there be progress in the economic and social sectors; and that roads and bridges are being built with the aim of promoting friendship among national brethren residing in various parts of the Union.

In accord with the guidance of the Head of State, measures are being taken to improve the transportation sector after designating 80 Union Highways throughout the nation. As a result, there emerged 173 bridges with the length of 180 feet and above.

To connect the east and the west and the south and the north, new motor roads and railroads have been built. Some new roads were built while the old ones have been renovated.

At present, Yangon-Mandalay Union Highway is being upgraded into a modern facility. The highway is crucial for development of economy, trade, social and other sectors of the State.

Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence, on 7 December, inspected the Yangon-Mandalay Union Highway Extension Project and upgrading tasks being carried out at Bago-Nyaunglebin section.

The 48-mile long Bago-Nyaunglebin road section will be expanded by 25 feet. In addition, gravel roads will be built on both sides of the roads and tarring on 24 feet wide road will be carried out.

Private companies are engaged in the Yangon-Mandalay Union Highway Extension Project and Shwe Thanwin Highway Co Ltd is taking charge of constructing the Bagonyaunglebin road section. The company is carrying out the upgrading tasks after collecting gravel, tar and machinery.

In meeting with officials of the company, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than said that as Yangon-Mandalay Union Highway is important one for the State, efforts are to be made for early completion of the project.

We would like to urge those who are engaged in the Yangon-Mandalay Union Highway Extension Project to strive for timely completion of the project meeting the set standards.

Extension Project to strive for timely completion of the project meeting the set standards.

For improvement of Yangon-Mandalay Union Highway

Ministry of Defence, on 7 December, inspected the Yangon-Mandalay Union Highway Extension Project and upgrading tasks being carried out at Bago-Nyaunglebin section. The company is carrying out the upgrading tasks after collecting gravel, tar and machinery.

In meeting with officials of the company, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than said that as Yangon-Mandalay Union Highway is important one for the State, efforts are to be made for early completion of the project.

We would like to urge those who are engaged in the Yangon-Mandalay Union Highway Extension Project to strive for timely completion of the project meeting the set standards.
Blasts near US camp rock Baghdad

Baghdad, Dec 12—Three or four explosions 'shook Baghdad late on Thursday but there was no immediate word on casualties.' Witnesses said the blasts took place inside the compound that hosts the US headquarters in the city.

A US army spokesman inside the compound said the explosions were isolated.

Immediately after the explosions around midnight (21:00 GMT) sirens could be heard coming from the direction of the US headquarters building.

The compound is a sprawling complex of palaces and parkland which the US authorities in Baghdad have turned into a heavily defended fortress.

Earlier on Thursday, one US soldier was killed and 14 others wounded when at least one bomber blew up a truck outside Ramadi.

US military officials said the bomber was concealed in a furniture truck. The vehicle was driven by an abductee and it is believed that two other Iraqis in the truck also died in the explosion.

At least 196 US troops have been killed in Iraq, US President George Bush declared an end to major combat on May 1.

A very, very loud explosion went off and shook my shop,' said Muhammad Hamad Majid, who runs his business 700m from the Ramadi camp where a residential zone begins.

'I went outside and saw a column of smoke rising in the sky from inside the base,' said the 35-year-old. Delivery and construction trucks are allowed inside the compound, a few km from the town, on the east bank of the Tigris river.

Meanwhile, two journalists from the US weekly newsmagazine Time and two American soldiers have been wounded by a grenade explosion while on patrol in Baghdad.

A US military official said the attack took place late on Wednesday as the journalists accompanied troops. He declined to name the wounded.

At least 17 journalists have died in Iraq covering the war to topple Saddam Hussein and its aftermath, including at least four killed by US forces.

IRAQ CAR BOMBING KILLS ONE US SOLDIER, WOUNDS 14

Baghdad, Dec 12—One US soldier was killed and 14 wounded in a suicide car bomb attack on an American military base west of Baghdad Thursday, the US Army said.

In a statement, the army said the vehicle was driven by a suicide bomber. The attack occurred outside a base of the US 82nd Airborne Division near the flashpoint town of Ramadi.

The statement said improvements in barriers and other security measures had minimized injuries.

Suicides dog US troops in Iraq

Washington, Dec—Of the more than 450 US fatalities since the beginning of the war in Iraq, 20 have 'reportedly been suicides, or self-inflicted deaths' as the military prefers to call them.

While officials at the Pentagon say they are looking at these cases seriously, there is no evidence yet to suggest that the stress, fatigue and uncertainty associated with combat environments such as Iraq contribute to an abnormally high rate of suicides, health experts say.

Even so, the United States military considers the situation disturbing enough to send Lt Col Jerry Swanner, its suicide-prevention programme manager to Iraq in late September as part of a 12-person Mental Health Advisory Team.

The group wants to evaluate the effects of combat stress and extended deployments on US troops. Findings from the study are yet to be released.

Auto prices in Vietnam to increase early next year

Hanoi, Dec 12—Car makers in Vietnam are scheduled to raise prices of their products early next year when the government will increase special consumption and value-added taxes on automobiles.

The producers will also have to hike the prices to gain benefits because local car market is too small, local newspaper Pioneer on Thursday quoted deputy director of Toyota Vietnam Lam Chi Quang, as saying.

Only prices of vans and buses will remain unchanged in 2004, while those of all under 26-seat vehicles will increase, he predicted.

Prices of 5-15 seat automobiles will rise by 16-17 per cent and prices of those under five seats will be up 20 per cent by early next year. The current prices of automobiles in Vietnam are 1-2 times higher than those in regional countries, and 2-7 times in Japan, according to the Ministry of Industry.

Chinese mainland, HK, Macao discuss intellectual property

Beijing, Dec—Govt officials and intellectual property experts from the Chinese Mainland, Hong Kong and Macao special administrative regions convened here Thursday, to discuss how to protect intellectual property and strengthen law enforcement.

At the opening ceremony, Li Yuguang, vice-commissioner of the State Intellectual Property Office (SIPO) said intellectual property is becoming more important in economic globalization.

After China's entry into the World Trade Organization, Li said, the Chinese Mainland, Hong Kong, and Macao needed to coordinate property protection. He said the two-day symposium might help the three sides better coordinate with each other.

German company builds dialysis centre in China

Chengdu, Dec—German company Fresenius Medical Care, one of the leading dialysis products and services providers in the world, will invest over 2.42 million US dollars to build a dialysis centre in southwestern China's Sichuan Province.

An agreement was signed between the provincial people's hospital affiliated to the Sichuan Provincial Academy of Medical Sciences and the German company on Wednesday.

The first phase project of the centre will have 50 beds with accompanying dialysis sets, and will begin operation in two months. The second phase project will have another 50 sets of dialysis apparatus, said Xu Ruiling, president of the provincial hospital.

Statistics show that China now has more than one million patients suffering from kidney failure.

The Sichuan Provincial People's Hospital now has 20 sets of dialysis equipment, far from enough to meet demand, said Wang Li, a doctor with the hospital.

CGI to provide $2.8b for Indonesia's budget

Jakarta, Dec 12—The Consultative Group on Indonesia (CGI) will provide 2.8 billion US dollars to support Indonesia's next year budget, according to a release issued by the CGI meeting here on Thursday.

The figure is well within the range the Indonesian Government requested.

The release said that 0.2 billion US dollars of the amount is in the form of grants and the rest in form of concessionary loans.

In addition to the support through the budget, the 30 donor countries pledged technical assistance and other support in the amount of 0.6 billion US dollars through other channels, including non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and local government, it said.

During the two-day meeting, the participants expressed their strong support for the macroeconomic achievement and the commitment of the Indonesian people to improving investment climate, fundamentally reforming the court system, said Jumaludin Kassum, chairman of the CGI meeting and World Bank vice-president for East Asia and the Pacific region.

An Iraqi child runs between rubble inside a former Iraqi rocket factory that was damaged in a US bombing mission during the war in Iraq, in Baghdad, on 11 Dec, 2003.
Australian companies urged to bid for Iraq contracts

CANBERRA, 12 Dec — Australian Prime Minister John Howard urged companies on Friday to bid for reconstruction work in Iraq amid a row sparked when the United States barred nations that opposed the war from the lucrative contracts.

Howard, said there were plenty of opportunities in Iraq for Australian companies, particularly those involved in construction and mining.

“If there is anything in the nature of the two areas in particular, I think we have very strong prospects,” Howard told a Melbourne radio station. “I would encourage Australian companies to bid.”

The United States has effectively banned companies from countries that did not support the war against Iraq, such as France, Germany and Russia, from bidding for about 18 billion US dollars worth of US-funded reconstruction contracts.

Washington argues the US-led and funded Coalition Provisional Authority that runs Iraq is not bound by US free trade commitments, as it is a multi-national agency and not a government entity that signed onto World Trade Organization (WTO) rules.

But European Commission officials say they are studying the 26 contracts at stake to determine whether the restrictions violate the WTO’s government procurement agreement.

Australia, which sent 2,000 military personnel to the war in Iraq, is one of a list of countries that have been cleared to bid for the contracts.

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade said six Australian companies have already secured seven contracts in postwar Iraq. It was unable to disclose the total value of the contracts.

US “Apache” catches fire, lands in northern Iraq

BAGHDAD, 12 Dec — A US Apache helicopter made a “controlled landing” south of Mosul in northern Iraq on Wednesday after a fire broke out on board, a spokesman for the 101st Airborne Division told Reuters. The spokesman said he had no information on whether the helicopter had come under fire from guerrillas. There were no reports of any casualties.

“The helicopter did not crash,” the spokesman said. “It made a controlled landing, although it was on fire.”

BP to sell LNG from Indonesian field

JAKARTA, 12 Dec — Anglo-American energy giant BP Plc is expected to sign an agreement next week to sell some 3 million tons per year of liquefied natural gas (LNG) to the US-based ExxonMobil Energy, Indonesian Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Purnomo Yusgiantoro said.

The LNG would come from BP’s Tangguh gas field project in Papua Province, he added.

“The plan is to sign the heads of agreement (HOA) sometime in the middle of December in the United States,” Purnomo was quoted Wednesday by The Jakarta Post as saying.

If realized, the deal will give a significant boost to BP’s Tangguh project, which will have an installed capacity of 7 million tons of LNG per year. But thus far, the project has only secured a contract to supply 2.6 million tons per year to China’s Fujian project, starting from 2007. An HOA was also signed earlier with South Korean buyers.

The Indonesian Government has been helping BP to seek buyers for Tangguh LNG so that development of the project can begin next year as scheduled.

The government has been in intense negotiations with Sempra and another US oil firm, Marathon Oil, to sell around 5 million to 6 million tons of LNG per annum to Mexico and the US west coast, starting from 2008. Both companies are planning to construct LNG-receiving terminals and facilities in Mexico.

The LNG in Mexico will come from Tangguh, Bontang LNG facility, East Kalimantan, and possibly from state oil and gas firm PT Pertamina’s Donggi gas field, Central Sulawesi.

The Tangguh LNG project will become the country’s third LNG plant after Bontang and Arun, Aceh. The last two facilities have a combined installed capacity of 31.6 million tons per year.— MNA/Xinhua

Gliarial cells play larger role than most people think

SHANGHAI, 12 Dec — Gliarial cells, which make up 90 per cent of the human brain but are widely believed to play a lesser role than nerve cells, actually prevent the latter from getting overexcited, scientists have found.

In addition to supporting nerve cells — a media that transmits and processes signals in the human brain, glielial cells are believed to prevent excessive activities of nerve cells, whose overexcitation can lead to brain damage including epilepsy and stroke.

The recent issue of Neuron, a leading international magazine on neuroscience, carries a thesis on the subject that is the result of studies by scientists with the Institute of Neuroscience of the Shanghai Institute for Biological Sciences, under the Chinese Academy of Sciences. The research team, headed by Duan Shumin, found that when nerve cells get overexcited, nearby glielial cells release ATP, a nucleotide that supplies large amounts of energy to cells for various biochemical processes — including muscle contraction and sugar metabolism — to protect the nerve cells. — MNA/Xinhua

Industrial accidents take 165 lives in Beijing this year

BEIJING, 12 Dec — Industrial accidents claimed the lives of 165 people in Beijing in the first 11 months of this year, according to a bulletin released Wednesday by the Beijing Municipal Industrial Safety Bureau.

Statistics showed that of the 165 dead, 143 had been migrant workers, accounting for 86.7 per cent of the total and up 36.2 per cent from the same period of last year.

Li Jianwei, the director of the bureau, said that the industrial safety situation in Beijing is alarming, especially in the construction sector, which has witnessed the deaths of 81 workers so far this year, an increase of 44.6 per cent over the same period of 2002. — MNA/Xinhua

No more Iraqi casualty counts?

BAGHDAD, 12 Dec — Iraq’s Health Ministry has ordered a halt to a count of civilians killed during the war and told its statistics department not to release figures compiled so far, the official who oversaw the count told The Associated Press on Wednesday.

The health minister, Dr. Khodier Abbas, denied in an email that he had anything to do with the order, saying he didn’t even know about the study.

Dr. Nagham Mohsen, the head of the ministry’s statistics department, said the order was relayed to her by the ministry’s director of planning, Dr. Nizar Shabandar, who said it came on behalf of Abbas. She said the U.S.-led Coalition Provisional Authority, which oversees the ministry, also wanted the counting to stop. “We have stopped the collection of this information because our minister didn’t agree with it,” she said, adding: “The CPA doesn’t want this to be done.”

Abbas, whose secretary said he was out of the country, sent an email denying the charge. “I have no knowledge of a civilian war casualty survey even being started by the Ministry of Health, much less stopping it,” he wrote. “The CPA did not direct me to stop any such survey either.”

Plain and simple, this is false information,” he added.

Despite Abbas’ comments, the health ministry’s civilian death toll count had been reported by news media as early as August, and the count was widely anticipated by human rights organizations. The ministry issued a preliminary figure of 1,764 deaths during the summer.

Internet

US soldier shot dead in northern Iraq

MOSSUL, Iraq, 12 Dec — An American soldier was killed in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul on Wednesday when guerrillas fired upon troops guarding a petrol station, the US Army said.

Another US soldier was wounded in the incident.

“One of the two soldiers has died,” said Marine Capt. Trey Cate, spokesman for the 101st Airborne Division in Mosul.

Since US President George W Bush declared major combat in Iraq over on 1 May, 194 American soldiers have been killed in hostilities. — MNA/Reuters

Five missing as sand barge capsizes in S China river

GUANGZHOU, 12 Dec — Twenty ships have been sent to the Gaoming section of the Xijiang River, in Foshan City of south China’s Guangdong Province, to help rescue five people who have been missing since their sand barge capsized early Wednesday morning.

Rescuers said the chances of survival for the missing sailors was very slim.

The provincial and local maritime affairs bureaus planned to salvage the sunken ship on Thursday.

The ship, 63-metre long and 12-metre wide, had a loading capacity of over 1,300 tons.

The owner of the ship reported the accident to Foshan sub-bureau of the Guangdong Provincial Maritime Affairs Bureau at 3 a.m. Wednesday. The owner said he lost contact with the vessel at 11 pm Tuesday. — MNA/Xinhua
IRAQ UNDER US OCCUPATION


Soldiers of the US Army’s 4th Infantry Division secure an area during an operation in Buhrez in the town of Baquba in central Iraq, on 11 December, 2003. US troops were attacked by a hand grenade and one soldier was injured.

A US soldier shouts orders as they raided a house in Baghdad, on 11 Thursday, December, 2003.

A Greek army mine sweeper marks a grid with tape before searching for mines on the outskirts of Hillah, south of the Iraqi capital Baghdad, on 11 Thursday, Dec, 2003.

Iraqi police officers search Iraqi men during a raid searching for weapons and drugs in Baghdad, Iraq on 11 December, 2003.

Annan, Schroeder attack US stance on Iraq contracts

**BERLIN, 12 Dec —** UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan urged the United States on Thursday to reverse a controversial decision to exclude war photographers from bidding on contracts to rebuild Iraq.

Speaking in Berlin after a meeting with German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder, Annan again questioned the wisdom of the move announced in Washington on Wednesday, which had already caused decisive and unhelpful in stabilizing postwar Iraq.

“It is up to those who took the decision to reverse it or maintain it and I hope something will be done about it. I think the decision was unfortunate,” he added. “I believe it is time we tried to rebuild international consensus and work together and pool our efforts to stabilize Iraq.”

The United States said on Wednesday its decision was to bar war photographers like France, Germany and Russia from 18.6 billion US dollars in US reconstruction projects was appropriate and a reward for US supporters.

The decision renewed bitter trans-Atlantc tensions over the war just as the United States was beginning a separate effort to gain an international consensus on relieving Iraq’s 125 billion US dollars in foreign debt. Schroeder, speaking next to Annan, said that International Law must apply to the awarding of reconstruction contracts in Iraq and said it was the task of all countries to help with reconstruction in Iraq. “It makes little sense to discuss who can and who cannot participate economically in reconstruction. International law applies here and it does not help things to look backwards and is more directed at the past,” he said. Paris, Berlin and Moscow reacted angrily on Wednesday to the US decision, which rattled efforts to rebuild ties damaged by the war, and the European Commission said it was investigating whether the move complies with global trade rules. Washington also faced the risk of a row with its neighbour Canada as well as China, which were also excluded from bidding for 26 contracts worth 18.6 billion US dollars.

**ION-Reuters**

Two “Time” journalists hurt in attack on US Iraq patrol

**BAKU, 12 Dec —** A journalist and prize-winning photographer with Time magazine were wounded when a hand-grenade was thrown at US forces they were accompanying in Baku, a US military official said here.

The official said the incident happened on Wednesday night as the journalists accompanied troops on a patrol in the Iraqi capital, where US forces are struggling to restore security that collapsed after they invaded Iraq in March.

The magazine identified the two as senior correspondent Michael Weisskopf and James Nachtwey, one of the world’s most respected news photographers. “There were two journalists from Time magazine... They were participating in a patrol in the First AD (Armed Division) area in Baghdad with US soldiers,” the US military official told reporters.

“An individual threw a hand-grenade into the Humvee. It occurred last night... One of the journalists was slightly wounded, the other more severely.”

In a statement, Time said the two were in a stable condition and were being transferred to a US military hospital in Landstuhl, Germany. It said two soldiers were also wounded.

At least 17 journalists have died in Iraq and its aftermath, including four from US forces. Nobody has been with Time since 1984, has won numerous prizes including the prestigious Robert Capa Gold Medal, World Press Photo, World Press Photo and Magazine Photographer of the Year. His work documenting wars and conflicts has taken him to the West Bank and Gaza, Afghanistan, Somalia, Sudan, Rwanda, Northern Ireland, Bosnia, Chechnya and Kosovo — MNA/Reuters

Coalition says nearly half of new Iraqi army has quit

**BAGHDAD, 12 Dec —** About 300 of 700 members of the new Iraqi army have resigned, citing unhappiness with terms, conditions and pay and with instructions of commanding officers, a representative of the US-led coalition said Thursday.

“It’s a new force, and ... we face some difficulties,” the representative said.

In response to the resignations, the coalition will review the terms and conditions and compare them with other security services, the police and Civil Defense Corps, the representative said. The first and only battalion of the new army, under the US Army’s 4th Infantry Division.

Last month, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said the Pentagon and the Coalition Provisional Authority were discussing recalling some units of the former Iraqi army. The discussions followed a letter two senators sent President Bush about the “need to speed up the process by which Iraqis assume greater responsibility” for security as the coalition prepares to cede power back to Iraqis in the coming year.

The letter, from Sens. Carl Levin, D-Michigan, and Richard Lugar, R-Indiana, said the new Iraqi army, “which is being created from scratch, currently has less than 1,000 members. We cannot afford to transfer security functions to Iraqis that slow a pace. The quicker we get the new Iraqi army in place, the more secure we are likely to have and the better services we will be able to provide,” the senators wrote.

Sharp international consternation occurred last night... One of the journalists was slightly wounded, the other more severely.”

In a statement, Time said the two were in a stable condition and were being transferred to a US military hospital in Landstuhl, Germany. It said two soldiers were also wounded.

At least 17 journalists have died in Iraq and its aftermath, including four from US forces. Nobody has been with Time since 1984, has won numerous prizes including the prestigious Robert Capa Gold Medal, World Press Photo, World Press Photo and Magazine Photographer of the Year. His work documenting wars and conflicts has taken him to the West Bank and Gaza, Afghanistan, Somalia, Sudan, Rwanda, Northern Ireland, Bosnia, Chechnya and Kosovo — MNA/Reuters

Iran approves signing of protocol on snap n-inspections

**TEHRAN, 12 Dec —** Iranian Government has authorized its Foreign Ministry to sign an additional protocol to allow snap inspections of the country’s nuclear facilities, an Iranian official said here.

The government has given permission to the Foreign Ministry to sign the NPT (Non-Proliferation Treaty) additional protocol,” Vice-President Mohammad Ali Aftabi told the announcement after a Cabinet meeting.

Iran agreed with visiting British, French and German foreign ministers on 21 Oct.

The protocol to sign up the additional NPT protocol, accept nuclear facilities inspections in the nuclear sites, show full transparecy of its nuclear program and suspend uranium enrichment.

In accordance with the agreement, Tehran handed over documentation of its past and present nuclear activities to International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on 24 October and has suspended its uranium enrichment activities since 9 November. Hassan Rowhani, Secretary of Iran’s Supreme National Security Council, said last week that the government would authorize its representative to IAEA to sign the protocol.

**MNA/Xinhua**

Singapore’s Changi Airport handled more passengers in Nov

**SINGAPORE, 12 Dec —** Singapore’s Changi Airport handled 2.4 million passengers in November, a 2.3-per-cent increase over the same month last year, local TV reported on Thursday.

This was the first year-on-year increase since the outbreak of the SARS (Severe acute respiratory syndrome) epidemic in March, said Channel U, a local Chinese language TV station.

The number of passengers at Changi Airport has been growing steadily in recent months, with September and October seeing 2.2 million and 2.3 million passengers respectively, said Channel U and the Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore.

But the October figure was still 4.1 per cent lower than the same month last year, it said.

**MNA/Xinhua**

Vietnam to open direct flights to US in 2005

**HANOI, 12 Dec —** The Vietnam Airlines will open its first direct air link with the United States in 2005, instead of 2006, as scheduled, the Vietnamese News on Thursday quoted an official of the national flag carrier as saying.

The carrier plans to operate at least seven flights per week to the United States, Deputy General Director of the Vietnam Airlines Pham Ngoc Minh said, adding that San Francisco will be the first destination.

The number of travellers to Vietnam from the West Coast, including San Francisco and Los Angeles, account for 60 per cent of the total US arrivals.

**MNA/Xinhua**

**An unidentified US soldier tells Iraqi children to move on the side, next to a building which was bombed in Baghdad’s western Hurriyah district, Iraq on 11 Dec, 2003. —INTERNET**
On this centenary of Myanmar novels show  Yenammyay Ko Tin

Every year, the Sar-sodaw Day was celebrated on the 1st day of the waxing of the month of Nadow - and for this reason, Myanmar New Year, 1365, fell on the 24th November, AD 2003. The 1st of Nadow was designated by the Sar-sodaw Day 59 years ago. This year is therefore the 59th Anniversary. It has thus passed its Golden Jubilee.

This year’s Sar-sodaw Day celebrated in conjunction with the Life-long National Literary Award to Writer U Hnin Fatt (Maung Hnin); the National Literary Awards to 11 deserving stalwarts; the Sarpay Beikman Manu-scipedia to 28 emerging writers and the 14th National Literary, Literary and Photo Competitions Awards to 21 budding legislators.

It was held at Myanmar’s National Thea-ter in Mingaladon, grace by the Prime Minister, Members of the State Peace and Development Council, Doyen, Dignitaries, the Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association and Social Organisations.

In com-bination, the Centenary of Myanmar Novels Show and the Book Fair marking the 1365 Sar-sodaw Day was held by the Ministry of Information at the Shwedaung Township Bago (Former Yangon Gazette Building).

A unique event at the opening of the Book Fair happened to be the handing over of photos of James Hla Kyaw, the late Myanmar writer, to the Prime Minister of Information and the Chairman of the Myanmar Writers Association by James Hla Kyaw’s grand and great granddaughters.

It has been contended that James Hla Kyaw was the first Myanmar writer to have made a debut with a Myanmar writer, Maung Yin Maung Ma Me Ma. It first made its appearance in 1265 (1903 AD) and this year happens to be the centenary year for James Hla Kyaw’s novel. Similarly the novel “Chin-baung-yet-the” by Maung Hnin (Sayayi U Lunn) has also reached its centenary, and it might be inferred that this year’s Sar-sodaw Day and Centenary of Myanmar Novels Show is also a tribute to those two past doyens.

Writer James Hla Kyaw was the offspring of U Sutt and Daw Saing. He was born on Wednesday, the 10th waxing of First Waw, 1228 (1866 AD), at Sayadaw, Bago Division. Both his parents had died while he was still young and he was brought up by his Aunt. Daw Hnin and his Aunt’s husband, U Nyo. His Uncle and Aunt latter converted to Christianity and hence the prefix, James to his name.

He began his studies at Saya Hma’s School (St John’s, Yangon), and next moved to the Anglo Vernacular High School, Yangon, from which he passed his Entrance Examination at the age of 20. It was the year 1886 AD, just after the founding of the schools of Myanmar, and as a Myanmar versed in English, he had no difficulty landing a job. He accompanied a Translator assignment and accompanied a Police Commissioner to Mandalay. Next returning to Yangon, he continued as a Translator while taking up the study of medicine. In its infancy, he made attempts to be a Lawyer and Township Officers exams, passing both. Subsequently he served as a Personal Officer to the Governor; as a Township Officer in ChaungOo and Budalin, Upper Myanmar; as a Treasury Officer in Hanthawady and again as a Sub-Divisional Officer in Hanthawady and Myinnaw. Frail health, however, compelled him to seek a valid pension at the age of 37. All the same, he faced his adversity with grace and courage by engaging in law practice, and opening up a Lawyers School.

Later, he was stricken with cancer, which had just attained the age of 37. All the same, he continued his studies at the Sayadaw of “Kyiti” Monastery, Mandalay, and when King Thibaw was deposed in 1247 (1885 AD), he was only 10 years old. The humbling scences that he had personally witnessed, gave him indelible marks, invaluable to hit his indomitable spirit and nationalistic fervour.

After the end of the Myanmar Kingdom, Mg Lunn worked the rounds of ChaungU, Ahlon, Monywa, Kyemon and Budalin Township, etc; as a novice monk and is believed he had been indulging in sympathetic pro literature even by then.

His father died when he had just attained the age of 19. He was compelled to discard his robes, cut short his religious purnose and returned home to care for his mother. He secured a job as a composer of “Zabo-kyet-tha-ye Press”, Yangon and later rose to be Editor of proof reading. He started writing plays under the pen-name of Shwedaung-shwebo. In that midst he was offered a post in the Government and Government, and refused and instead moved as a Newspaper Editor to the Yangon Times. When that Newspaper closed down, he joined the Mawlamyine Times and it was there, he once again changed his pen-name to “Maung Thamadi,” and started penning classical songs of various themes.

Next in 1273 (1919 AD), he shifted to the “Thuriya Newspaper” as Editor, and reverting to his original name “Sayayi Lunn” started writing treatises on “Myanmar Handicrafts”; and as Editor of the “Thuriya”, he also penned numerous articles on politisc, education, the economy and political satires. But by that time, his seeds of national fervor and unquencherable spirit, sparked at the time of King Thibaw’s demise, had perhaps grown into a burning flame; for in his latter days he came to take part in anti-colonial movements. He was conferred the title of “Alingar-Prize”, and an Honorary PhD by the East Berlin University.

Sayayi U Lunn lived to a ripe age of 89 and was laid away on the 28th July, 1964 (1326 Myanmar Era). He was entombed in the U Ditta Gardens (formery Castonment Gardens), near the tomb of Queen Supayalat.

Sayayi U Lunn’s novel “Chin-baung-yet-the” was a rebuff and snipe against some of the students of the colonial days, who liked to prefix their names with Mr. as an honour. James Hla Kyaw’s novel a Myanmar version of Alexandre Dumas’s “The Count of Monte Cristo” together with Sayayi U Lunn’s “Chin-baung-yet-the” has attained centennial status and has significantly coincided with Centenary of Myanmar Novels Show. The Two writers have contributed meaningfully and substantially to Myanmar’s literature and we join the tribute to them on this year’s Sar-sodaw Day.

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 if 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
* Do not be buoyed whenever flattered
* Do not be bolstered whenever flattered

Great thanks to –

Generosity and respectable characters of yours
You make a difference between life and death.

On behalf of those whose lives have been saved by yours,
National Blood Centre Department of Health
Ministry of Health
**All-round upgrading of Kandawgyi Park and Zoological Gardens (Yangon) coordinated**

**YANGON, 12 DEC**— The coordination meeting on all-round upgrading of Kandawgyi Park and environs and Zoological Gardens (Yangon) was held at Water Plaza construction site in Central Forest Zone of Kandawgyi Park this afternoon, attended by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe. Also present were Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa, departmental heads, military region commanders, the secretary, and members of all-round upgrading committee of Kandawgyi and Zoological Gardens (Yangon).

In his address, the commander said that all-round upgrading tasks are being carried out at Kandawgyi Park and Zoological Gardens (Yangon). There are four zones in the upgrading works. So, drawing of design and signs and future tasks are to be undertaken with momentum. Then, the commander invited the officials concerned to report progress of work and requirements. Afterwards, the vice-mayor reported on land decotation being made in relaxation zone by YCDC, modern design of fences, construction of wooden bridges between islands, laying of marble slabs with crazy pattern at the viewing plaza and construction of car parking.

**Minister for Information** Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan addressed coordination meeting to telecast new educative channel.— MNA

**Yangon** 12 Dec.— The coordination meeting on all-round upgrading of Kandawgyi Park and environs and Zoological Gardens (Yangon) was held at Water Plaza construction site in Central Forest Zone of Kandawgyi Park this afternoon, attended by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe. Also present were Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa, departmental heads, military region commanders, the secretary, and members of all-round upgrading committee of Kandawgyi and Zoological Gardens (Yangon).

In his address, the commander said that all-round upgrading tasks are being carried out at Kandawgyi Park and Zoological Gardens (Yangon). There are four zones in the upgrading works. So, drawing of design and signs and future tasks are to be undertaken with momentum. Then, the commander invited the officials concerned to report progress of work and requirements. Afterwards, the vice-mayor reported on land decotation being made in relaxation zone by YCDC, modern design of fences, construction of wooden bridges between islands, laying of marble slabs with crazy pattern at the viewing plaza and construction of car parking.

**Minister for Information** Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan addressed coordination meeting to telecast new educative channel.— MNA

**New MRTV-4 to telecast entertainment programmes and education programmes**

**YANGON, 12 DEC**— The coordination meeting on the launching of a new television channel to telecast education programmes of the ministries concerned at the meeting hall of YCDC, modern design of fences, construction of wooden bridges between islands, laying of marble slabs with crazy pattern at the viewing plaza and construction of car parking.

**Minister for Information** Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan addressed coordination meeting to telecast new educative channel.— MNA

**Minister for Information** Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan addressed coordination meeting to telecast new educative channel.— MNA

**Armed Forces Day commemorative contests to be held**

**YANGON, 12 DEC**— The Work Committee for Organizing Literary and Photo Contests in commemoration of the 59th Anniversary of Armed Forces Day (2004) today announced that it would conduct novel, short story and article contests. Entries must reflect the 12 fine traditions of the Tatmadaw and contestants are to give suitable titles for respective works. Word count of a novel must be between 50,000 and 70,000, a short story, between 4,000 and 10,000 and an article, between 3,000 and 5,000. Title prescribed for the article contest is “Tatmadaw striving for the interest of the cultural heritage and Myanma customs, on sport success and development, on crime reduction, on cooperation with NGOs and UN agencies, on disaster cautions, and on diseases common to animals.” The receivers of MRTV-4 channel can receive not only the education programmes and entertainment programmes but also mov— MNA

**Armed Forces Day commemorative contests to be held**

**YANGON, 12 DEC**— The Work Committee for Organizing Literary and Photo Contests in commemoration of the 59th Anniversary of Armed Forces Day (2004) today announced that it would conduct novel, short story and article contests. Entries must reflect the 12 fine traditions of the Tatmadaw and contestants are to give suitable titles for respective works. Word count of a novel must be between 50,000 and 70,000, a short story, between 4,000 and 10,000 and an article, between 3,000 and 5,000. Title prescribed for the article contest is “Tatmadaw striving for the interest of the cultural heritage and Myanma customs, on sport success and development, on crime reduction, on cooperation with NGOs and UN agencies, on disaster cautions, and on diseases common to animals.” The receivers of MRTV-4 channel can receive not only the education programmes and entertainment programmes but also mov— MNA
Shan State (North) Inter-TS soccer ends

YANGON, 12 Dec — The prize presentation of the Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Chairman’s Trophy Inter-Township Men’s Soccer Tournament was held at the sports ground in Lashio on 10 December afternoon.

Present were Chairman of Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Commander of North-East Command Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing and wife, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Hla Myint, senior military officers, departmental staff and local authorities, teachers, students and soccer fans and players.

First, the commander and soccer fans watched the match between Hsipaw and Nawangkhto township teams.

After the final match, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Hla Myint and officials presented prizes to the winners. Later, the commander presented championship trophies to Nawangkhto township team. — MNA

Minister meets IWT officers

YANGON, 12 Dec — Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe this morning met officers of Inland Water Transport at the meeting hall of IWT on Pansodan Street.

Also present were Deputy Minister U Pi Than, Officer on Special Duty Brig-Gen Myo Tin, departmental staff and local Tatmadawmen, members of local intelligence unit, local Tatmadawmen, members of the division sports and physical education committee, President of Myanmar Hiking and Mountaineering Federation Dr Paing Soe and executives and wellwishers.

First, the minister made a speech and handed over the State Flag and K 300,000 donated by Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Maj-Gen Ye Myint and wife, Chairman of Mandalay City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Yan Thein and wife, Secretary of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Tin Ohn and members, members of the division sports and physical education committee, President of Myanmar Hiking and Mountaineering Federation Dr Paing Soe and executives and wellwishers.

The minister presented championship trophies to the winners. Later, the minister and officers of IWT gave a speech and presented championship trophies to the winners. — MNA

Mr, Miss Myanmar contests on 27 Dec

YANGON, 12 Dec — The Mr Myanmar and Miss Myanmar Contests 2003, organized by Myanmar Body Building and Physical Culture Federation, will be held at Yangon City Hall on 27 December. The contest will include Mr Myanmar (Senior), Mr Myanmar (Junior) and Miss Myanmar (Open).

Everybody may participate in the Mr Myanmar (Sr) event.

Those who won first, sec-

Development projects coordinated

YANGON, 12 Dec — Taninthayi Division Development Affairs Committee held a coordination meeting on accelerated development tasks at Myek Township DAC on 8 December.

Officials reported on work progress and future plans. The deputy director-general of the DAD dealt with harmonious progress of tasks for beautifying the region and rural development, and timely completion of road and bridge construction and water supply tasks. — MNA

State Flag handed over to mountaineers

YANGON, 12 Dec — A ceremony to hand over the State Flag to the mountaineers who will climb Mount Fangarag in Patuas District, Kachin State, was held at the office of Mandalay Division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee in Chanayet- thanaz Township, Mandalay, on 10 December morning.

It was attended by Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint and wife, Chairman of Mandalay City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Yan Thein and wife, Secretary of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Tin Ohn and members, members of the division sports and physical education committee, President of Myanmar Hiking and Mountaineering Federation Dr Paing Soe and executives and wellwishers.

First, the minister made a speech and handed over the State Flag and K 300,000 donated by Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council to President Dr Paing Soe. Next, the minister accepted K 1,030,000 donated by wellwishers including K 50,000 by the commander and family. K 100,000 by Mandalay City Development Committee and K 50,000 by Mandalay Division Women Sports Federation, and medi-
cine worth K 21,400. Joint-Secretary of Myanmar Hiking and Mountaineering Federation Dr Khin Maung and members including 18 men and 18 women will scale the Mount Fangarag. — MNA

Minister inspects construction works

YANGON, 12 Dec — Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, accompanied by Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Myint Thein, left here for Pathein by car yesterday morning. Responsible engi-

278.4 acres of poppy plantations destroyed

YANGON, 12 Dec — A combined team comprising local Tatmadawmen, members of local intelligence unit, Myanmar Police Force, departmental staff and local people destroyed 278.4 acres of poppy plantations in the northern valleys of Rawar Village and Lwailon Village in Kham-ee Village-tract, Phekton Township, Shan State (North), from 29 November to 2 December.

Up to 2 December during this poppy cultivation season, a total of 2963.42 acres of poppy cultivation had been destroyed. — MNA

Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and Managing Director U Zaw Weik of FISCA Enterprise formally open EPABX extension telephone carrier. — MNA

Drug pushers jailed

YANGON, 12 Dec — A combined team comprising members of Pyu Police Station of Bago Division and the Bureau of Special Investigation, acting on informa-
tion, searched the house of Tun Tn (a) Yu Nu in north Zaiganai, Bago, on 3 Febru-
ary. The authorities discovered 355 stimulant tablets in the kitchen of the house. They also found Ma Ar May (a) Xilian in there and arrested both of them.

In connection with the case, the No 3 Police Station of Bago filed lawsuits against Tun Tn, son of U San Mya of north Zaiganai in Bago, and Ma Ar May, daughter of U Xi Wan Ai of Ward 12, Lashio, under Sections 15/19A and 17 years’ imprisonment on Ma Ar May under Section 19(A) on 29 October. — MNA

278.4 acres of poppy plantations destroyed in Phekton Township. — MNA

Mawchi national races visit Yangon City

YANGON, 12 Dec — At the invitation of the chairman of Work Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races, study tour members of Mawchi region of Kayah State led by Assist-

278.4 acres of poppy regions visit Yangon Zoological Gardens. — MNA

Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, accompanied by Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Myint Thein, left here for Pathein by car yesterday morning. Responsible engi-

...
**YCDC Sewage Treatment Plant**

Under the guidance of the Head of State, the Yangon City Development Committee launched the Sewage Treatment Plant Project on 12 April 2003. It is included in the major projects laid down by the State.

The plant is being built on a 5.66-acre plot on Yangon River bank at Thanlyetsoon, Botahtaung Township, Yangon Division. Up to 9 November 2003, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt has inspected the Sewage Treatment Plant Project for four times.

The Work Committee to Build the Sewage Treatment Plant was formed with YCDC Chairman Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin as its head, and YCDC Joint Secretary U Kyi Win as the secretary. The members included technicians and intellectuals. The retired professors of Yangon Technological University are the advisers of the body.

The Sewage Treatment Plant was built on a 5.66-acre plot in Yangon in 1888 for a population of only over 40,000. During the time, the population of Yangon was just around 20,000. The present sewerage system in Yangon is the same with the systems of many modern cities of the world. Use of the pipeline system ensures safety from harmful diseases and quick disposing of the sewage.

As Yangon had less population when the installation of the pipeline sewerage system in Yangon started, the city would have a cleaner environment. But now population density and the number of industries in and around the city is getting higher. The sewage treatment plant is built for over 300,000 people living in the downtown six townships. The plan includes calculations to extend the capacity of the plant in accord with the growing population. When completed the plant will release clean and fully oxygenated water into Yangon River. The oxygenated water will help Yangon river reach its normal condition. Because of the chemicals that kill harmful gems in the waters of Yangon River its tributaries will become safer for human beings. Because of the availability of oxygen, the number of aqua creatures in the river will grow.

The latest technologies of the world are being used in erecting the plant. Oxygenation of the water will help activate the friendly gems chemically changed the sewage for eight hours. Afterwards the water is channeled into an oxygenated pond where friendly gems chemically changed the sewage for eight hours. Afterwards the water is diverted into second silting tank. In the tank the water becomes cleaner and all the substances destroyed by the gems silt. In the third tank the water is chlorinated to kill the remaining harmful bacteria. When the water reaches the safety level, it is released into Yangon River. The plant will release 3.25 million gallons of clean and oxygenated water into Yangon river daily. The standard of the safety of water is the same with those of the developed nations. The silt is condensed into solid forms through different stages of process. As the solidified silt is free from harmful gems and full with nitrogen and hydrogen, it can be used as natural fertilizer.

As the plant is being built by the Myanmar engineers, we can know that the national strength is growing and its qualification developing.

---

**China sees record winter daily electricity consumption**

BEIJING, 12 Dec — According to the national electricity distribution centre, China’s electricity consumption totalled 5.49 billion kilowatt-hour from 8 December to 9 December, a record winter daily consumption, China Central Television has reported.

Electricity consumption rose by 16.5 per cent over the same period last year.

The power shortage in China has affected the lives of ordinary people as well as industrial production, the report said.

In Changsha, capital of central China’s Hunan Province, open only five days a week in accordance with the blackout schedule. The State Electric Power Regulatory Commission attributed the situation to a number of factors, which include: — Dry spells plagued China this year, and water levels are especially low this winter, and hydroelectric plants are unable to operate to their full capacity.

Many thermal power plants, which constitute the bulk of China’s power supply, are operating below their capacity due to inadequate coal supply. — Use of electricity in heating systems rose drastically this winter.

— Energy-intensive industries, including the production of steel and non-ferrous metals have been growing fast.

— The State Grid Corporation forecast China’s electricity consumption would grow to 2.091 billion kilowatt-hour in 2004, up some 207 billion kilowatt-hour over 2003. The power shortage would worsen and more areas would experience blackouts.

---

**Construction of the Sewage Treatment Plant in progress.**

---

**Fourth  ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication 15-16 December 2003 Yangon, Myanmar**

---

**The Ninth  ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Environment 8th and The 2nd ASEAN+3 Environment Ministers Meeting Yangon, Myanmar 16-18 December 2003**
Implementation of irrigation facilities nationwide to boost agricultural sector and to ensure food sufficiency in the country

The Minhla Dam, 132 feet in height and 3,044 feet in length, is situated in Okpo Township and supplies irrigation water to 5,260 acres of farmland in Okpo township and 9,740 acres of cropland in Minhla Township. — PHOTO: MNA

The Zaikkaye Sluice Gate, which was built with the aim of letting rain water flow out rapidly during the rainy season and supplying water to needy areas in summer, lies beside the Zaikkaye canal near Aungkantha Village in Thaonth Township in Mon State. It is of reinforced concrete type and has 21 gates, each of which measures 6 feet by 12 feet. It will benefit 20,000 acres of farmland in the area. — PHOTO: MNA

The Zwebat Sluice Gate in Waw Township, Bago Division, was constructed with the aim of preventing floods and flow of brine. The sluice gate is also providing greater assistance to reclaiming wetlands and enough water for cultivation of monsoon and summer paddy and other crops and plants. — PHOTO: MNA

River water pumping projects are being implemented in the country with the aim of supplying irrigation water for agricultural purpose. The photo shows the Lawkananda River Water Pumping Project in NyaungU District, Mandalay Division. — PHOTO: MNA
London police arrest 12 in raids on organized crime

LONDON, 12 Dec— London police arrested 12 people Wednesday morning in its biggest ever coordinated swoop on organized criminals involved in drug dealing, blackmail, extortion and gun crime, Scotland Yard said.

The police searched 15 places, especially in the Turkish Kurdish community, and found drugs, counterfeit currency, stolen mobile phones, equipment for forging passports, firearms and other weapons.

More than 500 police officers, some 90 of whom were armed, took part in Operation Tiller, the climax of more than two months of patient intelligence gathering, the police said in a statement.

An oil painting on wood, 'Laboureurs', attributed to Dutch painter Vincent Van Gogh is seen at auction house in Portets, in Southwestern France, on 10 Dec, 2003. The small oil on wood painting measures 36cm x 46cm, bears the signature 'Vincent' at the lower left, and was painted in 1883 in Drenthe, Netherlands. —INTERNET

Hong Kong, 12 Dec— Hong Kong Wednesday signed its first comprehensive agreement for the avoidance of double taxation with another economy (Belgium).

Hong Kong Government and Belgium entered into the Agreement on the Avoidance of Double Taxation & the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income & on Capital.

It will bring tax savings to Hong Kong and Belgian investors doing businesses in each other's jurisdictions, and provide a further level of thus helping promote investment and trade between the two places. Establishing a network of comprehensive agreement for the avoidance of double taxation will put Hong Kong on a par with other places in the region and further enhance its competitiveness in attracting foreign investment.

HK, Belgium sign agreement to avoid double taxation

WASHINGTON, 12 Dec— The World Bank announced Wednesday the appointment of Yukiko Omura to the position of Executive Vice-President of the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA).

Omura joins MIGA, a branch of the World Bank, from her most recent post as CEO and Executive Director of AIDS Prevention Fund, a charitable company based in London that aims to raise funds for worldwide HIV/AIDS prevention, according to the World Bank.

Omura will start with the bank in March and assume her responsibilities in May 2004.

"It is with great pleasure that I welcome the appointment of Ms. Omura. She brings to the table a unique combination of private sector experience, as well as a commitment to development issues, which will no doubt serve MIGA well," said World Bank President James D Wolfensohn.

"At the same time, I would like to express my deep appreciation to the current head of MIGA, Motomichi Ikawa, for his dedicated service to the agency over the last five years," Wolfensohn added.—MNA/Xinhua

WB names new Executive Vice-President of MIGA

Wen Jiabao highly comments on trade, eco ties with Canada

OTTAWA, 12 Dec— Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao, at a luncheon held by the Canada-China Business Council here on Thursday, highly commented on China-Canada trade and economic relations and friendship between the two peoples.

Wen described the establishment and development of diplomatic relations between China and Canada in 1970 as "opening up a new page in the annals of bilateral exchanges", and said "the past 33 years have witnessed an ever-growing bond of friendship and cooperation between China and Canada."

The two countries respect each other politically, complement and reciprocate for mutual benefit economically and learn from each other for mutual progress culturally, Wen said.

In international affairs, Wen added, China and Canada coordinate positions closely and cooperate on an equal footing.

"Indeed, China-Canada relations have set a good example for countries with differing social systems, cultural traditions and economic development levels to live in peace and engage in friendly cooperation," he said.

The Premier expressed his belief that "the deepening economic partnership has become a key component of and important driving force for China-Canada relations".

The two-way trade volume between China and Canada last year reached eight billion US dollars, up almost 50 times over 1970. China is now Canada's third largest trading partner while Canada ranks the 10th among China's trading partners.

Wen said that more and more Canadian firms have set up production bases in China and more Chinese enterprises are being attracted to Canada by its sound investment environment.

Currently, there are 6,740 Canadian-funded projects in China with a total paid-in investment of 3.8 billion dollars, the Premier said.

He also mentioned that the Qinshan Phase III Nuclear Power Plant has been exemplary of mutually beneficial cooperation.

The construction of the third phase of the nuclear power plant, located in east China's Zhejiang Province, was completed earlier this year in cooperation with the Candu Technology Corporation of Canada.

In Canada, Chinese-made garments, toys and sports articles are favoured consumer items and Chinese-made colour TV and machinery are sold very well.

"Facts have fully proved that trade and economic cooperation have delivered tangible benefits to both Chinese and Canadians," the Chinese Premier said.—MNA/Xinhua

Black Sea countries condemn international terrorism

BUCHAREST, 12 Dec— The 22nd plenary session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PABSEC) ended Wednesday with the adoption of a declaration condemning international terrorism.

"Taking into account the recent terrorist attacks in Turkey and Russia, both of them PABSEC member countries, we have decided to strongly condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations," the document said.

"Terrorism is a deep challenge to peace and security and an extremely dangerous threat to the political, social and economic stability of the PABSEC countries and of the international community as a whole, the document said.

"It repeats the strong determination of PABSEC members to take all the necessary measures to counteract terrorism, to eradicate illegal activities, while firmly respecting fundamental human rights and freedom. This plenary session started on Monday at the Parliament Palace in Bucharest, the capital of Romania. At the session, the PABSEC's half-year presidency was taken over by Russia.

MNA/Xinhua

Adverts
**WHO says climate change killing 150,000 a year**

**Milan, 12 Dec —** Global warming killed 150,000 people in 2000 — and 20,000 this year alone in a European heatwave, the World Health Organization said on Thursday.

Climate change, linked by scientists to human emissions of gases like carbon dioxide from cars and factories, is causing more frequent floods and droughts and melting ice caps.

In a book launched at an UN environment conference in Milan, the WHO estimated climate change was to blame for 2.4 per cent of cases of diarrhoeal worldwide, and 2 per cent of all cases of malaria.

“An estimated 150,000 deaths... were caused in the year 2000 due to climate change,” it said. A further 5.5 million healthy years of life were lost worldwide due to debilitating diseases caused by climate change.

“The 1990s were the hottest decade on record and the upward trend in the world’s temperature does not look like abating,” it said. “In Europe this past summer, for example, an estimated 20,000 people died...”

More rainfall, for instance, can collect and stagnate in pools. “Still water provides ideal breeding grounds for mosquitoes and other vectors which transmit diseases such as malaria and dengue fever,” it said.

The book, Climate Change and Health, offers governments guidelines for slowing the adverse impacts of global warming. The 180-nation conference in Milan is trying to work out ways to slow climate change, mainly via the UN’s Kyoto Protocol which seeks to curb emissions of greenhouse gases. — MNA/Reuters

---

**New Ebola vaccine shows promise in mice**

**Los Angeles, 12 Dec —** US scientists have successfully immunized mice against the deadly Ebola virus which has killed thousands in Africa, according to a study report released on Wednesday. The study report, conducted by the US Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases, is published in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.*

The vaccine uses proteins called virus-like particles (VLP) that stimulate the body to mount an immune attack in mice. VLPs are created from two Ebola virus proteins. They resemble the outer covering of infectious viral particles, but lack the genetic material necessary to reproduce themselves.

The researchers tested the effects of VLPs in mice. Mice were vaccinated with VLPs three times at three-week intervals and exposed to the Ebola virus six weeks after the last vaccination. The result was 100 per cent protection with no signs of illness in the immunized mice.

In the next stage, the researchers will test the vaccine in primates. — MNA/Xinhua

---

**Yunnan Province set up China’s domestic “AIDS” prevention centre**

**Kunming, 12 Dec —** Southwest China’s Yunnan Province is setting up the first domestic AIDS prevention and care centre in China, the provincial AIDS prevention and control office announced here Wednesday.

Located 28 kilometres from Kunming City, the capital of Yunnan Province, the centre will cover an area of 10,000 square metres with 200 beds.

According to the report released by the office, the centre will serve as China’s first special institute providing patients with AIDS consultation, prevention, testing and treatment services.

The report also said the centre would particularly focus on treatment and care for HIV carriers, including anti-HIV treatment, psychological counselling, HIV spread control education and medicine research.

Apart from AIDS sufferers in China, the centre would also accept patients from overseas, so as to accumulate and exchange experience in international anti-AIDS undertakings.

Statistics released by the office showed that in the first three quarters of 2003, 47.5 per cent of HIV carriers in Yunnan Province were infected through blood transmission and the ratio of those contracted the virus through sexual intercourse rose to 21.9 per cent.

Experts warned that the HIV virus had become an epidemic not only within high-risk groups, such as drug abusers and commercial sex workers but also among normal people.

The establishment of the centre is expected to provide treatment and care for a large number of AIDS sufferers, who, however, do not have the capacity to care for, and give professional guidance on the usage and research of HIV medicines. — MNA/Xinhua

---

**Unicef says girls education vital in fighting poverty**

**United Nations, 12 Dec —** Some 65 million girls around the world are unable to go to school, increasing the likelihood they will die in childbirth or live in dire poverty, the UN Children’s Fund said on Thursday.

In its annual *State of the World’s Children* report, UNICEF said 121 million children worldwide are out of school, nine million more girls than boys.

“We stand no chance of substantially reducing poverty, child mortality, HIV/AIDS and other diseases if we do not ensure that all girls and boys can exercise their right to a basic education,” said Carol Bellamy, UNICEF’s executive director.

As mothers, educated women are more likely to have healthy children, and more likely to ensure that their children, both boys and girls, complete school.

But illiteracy and ignorance puts women at risk in knowing how to space children and protect them as well as themselves from infections.

“Women are more likely to be illiterate and lack the knowledge and life skills that schools can provide, there are immediate and long-term effects. She is exposed to many more risks than her educated counterparts and the consequences are bequeathed to the next generation,” UNICEF said in the report.

In most industrialized countries as well as large parts of Latin America, there was a “reverse gender gap” with boys dropping out of school or getting low grades while girls did well in academic subjects, the study said.

But the opposite is true in much of Asia and particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, where 24 million girls did not go to school in 2002, an increase of four million since 1990, reflecting in part a sharp drop in foreign aid.

Somalia scored lowest at 11 per cent when overall primary school enrollment was measured from 1996 to 2002.

In the same period, Tajikistan, the Netherlands and Sweden, for example, achieved 100 per cent, while Saudi Arabia was at 58 per cent.

The score for enrollment in the United States was 95 per cent — the same as Vietnam.

Foreign aid, grants and contributions to education in poor countries, with a few exceptions, failed to make the type of investment in education that would enable girls to attend and complete school, the report said.

— MNA/Reuters

---

**US to warn women of mercury in tuna**

**Washington, 12 Dec —** The US Government plans to warn of childbearing age to limit their consumption of tuna because of concerns about mercury poisoning, *The Washington Post* reported on Thursday.

A draft advisory from the Food and Drug Administration and the Environmental Protection Agency cautions pregnant women, nursing mothers, young children and women of childbearing age to limit their intake of tuna and other fish and shellfish to 12 ounces a week, *The Post* said.

The FDA has previously warned pregnant women against eating shark, swordfish, king mackerel and tilefish because of their high levels of mercury, but had not included tuna on that list because it feared women would substitute it with less nutritious food.

Among seafood, tuna ranks second only to shrimp in popularity in the United States. — MNA/Reuters

---

**The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. Second best time is now.**

---

*A THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Saturday, 13 December, 2003*
Els wins European Tour player of the year award

LONDON, Dec. — South Africa’s Ernie Els has won the European Golf of the year award for the second successive year.

Els, 34, ranked third in the world, won five individual titles on the schedule and finished leading money winner with 34.7 million US dollars despite playing in only 17 tournaments on the circuit including the World Matchplay at Wentworth. It was his first European order of merit.

In addition, Els won back-to-back on the US PGA Tour at the start of the year with victory in the Mercedes Championships and the Hawaii Open.

He also won the award last year after clinching the British Open for the first time with success in a play-off at Muirfield. A panel of golf media representatives and European Tour officials meet annually to decide the prize. — MNA/Reuters

Deportivo qualify despite 3-2 defeat at PSV

EINDHOVEN (Netherlands), Dec. — Second-half goals from substitute Albert Luque and Walter Pandiani ensured Deportivo Coruna a place in the knockout stage of the Champions League on Wednesday, despite a 3-2 defeat by PSV Eindhoven.

Strikes from John de Jong in the 14th minute and Ayen Robben just after halftime had given PSV hopes of qualifying but these faded when Luque’s 58th minute free kick span into the bottom corner of Ronald Waterreus’s net.

Because of the League’s head-to-head results rules, Gius Hiddink’s side then needed to win by three clear goals to make that task proved too tough.

Pandiani rolled salt into Dutch wounds seven minutes from time poking home a goalmouth cross and De Jong’s injury time winner made no difference to the qualification outcome.

Deportivo qualify in second place in Group C behind Monaco who drew 0-0 with AEK Athens also on Wednesday.

Hiddink had to go for goals from the start and had strikers Mateja Kezman and Jan Vennegoor of Molina for a 2-0 lead.

But they were surprised by Deportivo’s attacking mentality and after 11 minutes Lionel Scalonni escaped to head the right flank before feeding Diego Tristan who missing the close range.

Three minutes later the ball was at the other end and when Luque combined with Mateja Kezman to offer De Jong the chance PSV needed.

Deportivo reacted immediately and PSV goalkeeper Ronald Waterreus had to make saves from Sergio and Jorge Andrade.

With action switching fast and furiously to end from end to end, Jan Vennegoor of Hesselink missed a chance for PSV on 32 minutes followed by another fine save from Waterreus from Scalonii.

After the break Hiddink brought on Dennis Rommedahl to boost pressure on the Spanish defence.

With one of his first moves the Danish winger cut through Deportivo’s back row. A throw in from the right back to Kezman who the Serbian failed to control the ball and Robben picked it up in the goalmouth and calmly slotted it low to the left of the diving Jose Molina for a 2-0 lead.

Ten minutes later PSV’s dream was shattered when Luque, who had come on a minute earlier, expertly guided his 25 metre free-kick past the keeper. It was Luque who crossed to Pandiani to level the match, De Jong adding the winner in front of a now subdued home crowd whose team will joint the UEFA Cup. — MNA/Reuters

Monaco top group despite goalless draw at AEK

ARLES, Dec. — Monaco sealed their place in the last 16 of the Champions League as Group C winners after holding bottom-placed AEK Athens in a lacklustre 0-0 draw on Wednesday.

The «free-scoring» French side needed only a draw to guarantee their berth in the next round and rarely ventured into the attacking third of the pitch on a low-key night in Athens.

Monaco finished top with 11 points ahead of Deportivo Coruna, who lost 3-2 at PSV Eindhoven to finish level on 10 points with their Dutch hosts but still went through in second place because of a better head-to-head record.

With AEK long since out of contention — they finished with just two points and Monaco prepared to defend in numbers, chances were few and far between for much of the 90 minutes.

AEK midfielder Vasilis Tsitas rose above the medicocrity with a series of testing shots that began with an eighth minute effort that Tony Silva did well to turn away for a corner AEK dominated possession on the rain soaked surface early on but showed little sign of breaking down a packed defence.

The Greeks had yet to record a win in Europe’s top club championship and managed only one goal in five outings this term — erased they rarely looked like improving on Wednesday. It was Monaco’s Fernando Morientes who had the best chance to light up the proceedings 10 minutes before the break but the usually lethal Span forward sliced his close range shot high and wide with the goal gaping. — MNA/Reuters

South African Ernie Els has won the European PGA Player of the Year award for the second successive year.

Goalless draw gives South Korea East Asian title

YOKOHAMA, Dec. — South Korea won the East Asian Championship after a 0-0 draw with bitter rivals Japan on Wednesday, taking Japan’s captain Tsuneyasu Miyamoto (above C) and defender Yui Nakazawa defend their goal against South Korea defender Choi Jin-choul (R) while Choi’s teammate Kim Dong-jin looks on, during the East Asian soccer championship at the International Stadium in Yokohama, south of Tokyo on 10 Dec, 2003. The match ended 0-0 draw. South Korea placed first and Japan placed second in the round-robin tournament. — Internet

Late penalty books Lyon into last 16

Lyon (France), Dec. — Olympique Lyon’s Brazilian midfielder Juninho converted a penalty with just four minutes left to clinch a 3-2 win over Celtic in Wednesday’s Champions League knockout stage.

Lyon toppled Group A with 10 points ahead of Bayern Munich on nine and Celtic, who go into the UEFA Cup, with seven points.

Two goals from Juninho, who also scored Lyon’s second, and an early strike from fellow Brazilian Giovane Elber proved decisive on a night-of-tempo football and total commitment from both sides.

Celtic, full of passion and fight, levelled twice through John Hartson and Chris Sutton, but had no answer when Swiss referee Urs Meier awarded a penalty against Bobo Balde for handball in a wild melee in the final minutes.

Juninho stepped up, reigned calm amid bedlam and stroked a low shot to the right and beyond Magnus Hedman. The Celtic goal-keeper had earlier been deceived and embarrassed when the same player beat him with a bouncing speculative effort from 35 metres to put Lyon 2-1 ahead.

The Brazilian duo’s goals and leadership coupled with the great technical skills and organization of their teammates, enabled Lyon to qualify for Friday’s draw.

Celtic’s physical strength, courage and enormous passion were not enough in a game when they were outplayed for long spells by a team with superior touch, movement and ideas.

Juninho inadverently set up Lyon’s opening goal when he hit the bar with a terrific shot and Elber rose to head in among a ruck of players after six minutes.

Celtic fought back at most immediately and levelled in the 24th minute when Lyon’s captain Costacou missed his clearance in de- fence, Swedish striker Henrik Larsson pounced for a shot that was deflected and Hartson steered in the re-bound. — MNA/Reuters

Loscvos, Dec. — Czech midfielder Pavel Nedvéd has been named as the World Player of the Year by readers of the magazine World Soccer. The 31-year-old gained more than a third of the votes in the magazine’s 22nd annual poll after a series of outstanding performances for Juventus as they retained the Italian League title and reached the Champions League Final in May.

Nedvéd, linked on Thursday by London’s Sun newspaper with a move to Chelsea in the transfer window, missed the final through suspension after being booked in the semi-final, when his spectacular performance was a major factor in the defeat of competition favourites Real Madrid.

Juventus lost the final on penalties to AC Milan, winners of World Soccer’s Team of the Year award and coached by Carlo Ancelotti.

The magazine’s World Manager of the Year.

Nedvéd topped the player in front of Rudd van Nistelrooy of Manchester United and the Netherlands and Real of Madrid and Spain.

French international striker Thierry Henry of Arsenal, favourite to win FIFA’s World Player of the Award in next week, finished fifth. — MNA/Reuters
13-12-2003 (Saturday)  Morning Programme (9:00 - 10:00)
9:00  Signature Tune
9:02  Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights “Mingalabar”
9:06  Maw Maway
9:10  Headline News
9:12  Easily Cooked Tasty Dishes (Curry of Fish)
9:15  National News
9:20  Journey to research Taron Race
9:25  Sound of the harp attracting love
9:30  National News
9:35  The Mountain with Antique Stone Sculptures
9:40  Song “To a silvery seagull”

13-12-2003 (Saturday)  Regular Programmes for Viewers from Abroad (15:30 - 17:30)
15:30  Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights “Come and See Myanmar”
15:36  Maw Maway
15:40  Border Town in Kangin State Song
15:42  Easily Cooked Tasty Dishes (Curry of Fish)
15:46  National News
15:50  Journey to research Taron Race
15:55  Sound of the harp attracting love
16:00  National News
16:05  The Mountain with Antique Stone Sculptures
16:10  Song “To a silvery seagull”

Saturday, December 13

View today:
7:00 am  1. Morning News
7:30 am  3. To be healthy exercise
7:30 am  4. Morning News
7:40 am  5. Nice and sweet song
7:55 am  6. Be aware of the weather
8:05 am  7. Myanmar News
8:15 am  8. Myanmar News
8:20 am  9. International news

8:45 am  10. Grammar made easy
11:00 am  1. Musical programme
11:30 am  1. News
11:40 am  4. Games for Children
12:00 am  5. Round-up of the week’s TV News

1:05 am  6. “Myanmar Panorama & Slogan”
1:35 am  7. “A Journey to research Taron Race”
2:35 am  9. Dance of National Races
2:45 am  10. International News
4:00 pm  1. Martial Song
4:15 pm  2. Songs to Uphold National Spirit
4:30 pm  3. Musical Programme
4:45 pm  4. Myanmar Artistic Works “Gold Leaf works”
5:30 pm  5. Dinner Variety
5:15 pm  6. Musical programme
5:30 pm  7. Games for Children
5:55 pm  8. “Myanmar Panorama & Slogan”
6:15 pm  9. News
6:30 pm  10. Evening news
7:00 pm  11. Weather report
7:05 pm  12. Discovery
7:10 pm  13. Performance of King "Lalubha Aye" (Part-XIII)
7:35 pm  14. “Myanmar Panorama & Slogan”
8:00 pm  15. News
8:15 pm  16. International news
8:30 pm  17. Weather report
8:35 pm  18. “Myanmar Panorama & Slogan”
9:30 pm  19. “The next broadcast” programme

Saturday, December 13

MRTV-3

National News
16:15 National News
16:20 Myanmar Ramayana “Serta And Hanuman”
16:30 National News
16:45 National News
17:00 Weekly News Highlights
17:05 Myanmar Traditional Gold Leaf works
17:10 Myanmar Modern Song “Peace Be with you”
17:15 Weekly News Highlights
17:20 Glimpses At Myanmar Movies
17:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights “Come and See Myanmar”

Evening Transmission
19:30 Signature Tune
19:32 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights “Mingalabar”
19:36 Myanmar Artistic Works in Pagoda Archways
19:40 Headline News
19:42 Easily Cooked Tasty Dishes (Prawn and Bamboo Shoot Fry)
19:45 National News
19:50 Maung Maung, The Sea Side Village
19:55 Performance of King Bradhmy Bird Dance
20:00 National News
20:05 Illusory handwork in Kyetkin
20:10 Songs On Screen “With a weak point
20:12 Where the Rhododendron blooms
20:15 National News
20:20 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights “Mingalabar”
20:25 Song "You take me but not my love”
20:30 National News
20:35 Excursion in Yangon River
20:40 Myanmar Cuisine “Traditional Mound banquet”
20:45 National News
20:50 Kutoppingaungar
20:55 Long Drum Folk Song and Dance
21:00 National News
21:05 Myanmar Traditional Songs
21:10 Song “Fech me in a Parmaciti”
21:12 Kanbawza Thadu Mian
21:15 Weekly News Highlights
21:20 National News
21:20 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights “Myanmar Panorama & Myanmar Sentiment”
21:35 Maw Maway
21:40 Headline News
21:42 Easily Cooked Tasty Dishes “Curry of Fish”
21:45 National News
21:50 A Journey to research Taron Race
21:55 Sound of the harp attracting love
22:00 National News
22:05 The Mountains with Antique Stone Sculptures
22:10 Song “To a silvery seagull”
22:12 Maw Maway (The Ruby Island of Myanmar)
22:15 National News
22:20 Myanmar Ramayana “Serta And Hanuman” (Part-XIII)
22:25 Song “We’ll greet you in our own language”
22:30 National News
22:35 Oil Painting Model Demonstration
22:40 Myanmar Cuisine “Molishinga”
22:45 National News
22:50 Glimpses At Myanmar Movies
22:55 Myanmar Traditional Gold Leaf works
23:00 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights “Come and See Myanmar”

14-12-2003 (Sunday)  Morning Transmission (7:00 - 7:30)
14-12-2003 (Sunday)  Evening & Morning Transmission (23:30 - 1:30)

“Myanmar Panorama & Slogan”

Radio Myanmar

WEATHER

Friday, 12 December, 2003

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:

During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in the whole country. The night temperatures were 3°C above normal in Taninthayi Division, 3°C to 4°C below normal in Bago, Ayeyawady Divisions and Shan State, 5°C below normal in Yangon and Sagaing Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas.

Maximum temperature on 11-12-2003 was 35.0°C (95°F), Maximum temperature on 12-12-2003 was 16.7°C (62°F), Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 12-12-2003 was 65%. Total sunshine hours on 11-12-2003 was (8.9) hours approx. Rainbow wind speed on 12-12-2003 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kyauk Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-12-2003 was 2211 mm (87.05 inches) at Yangon Airport, 2132 mm (83.74 inches) at Mahab Aye and 2394 mm (94.25 inches) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kya Aye) was 12 m/h from Northeast at (99.53 hours) MST on 11-12-2003.

Bay Inference: Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy in the Bay area.

Forecast valid until evening of 13-12-2003: Weather will be partly cloudy in Kayin, Karen, Shan States and Mayangon Divisions and isolated rain are likely in the remaining areas. Extreme uncertainty is 60%.

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Slight increase of night temperatures in lower Myanmar divisions.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 13-12-2003: Possibility of isolated rain in the area. Extreme uncertainty is 40%.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 13-12-2003: Partly cloudy.

Weather for 2nd weekend of December 2003: During the coming weekend, possibility of isolated rain in Yangon Division and weather will be partly cloudy in Mandalay Division.
Myanmar bags six gold, five silver and nine bronze in XXII SEA Games

Mya Sanda Oo — MNA
4. Mya Sanda Oo in the women’s 49-kilo weightlifting event

Cho Cho Win — MNA
5. Cho Cho Win in the women’s 75-kilo weightlifting event
6. Swe Swe Thant in the women’s Taekwondo Nanquan event of Wushu competition

Five silver medalists
1. Pyae Wai Phyo in the men’s Taekwondo-Ganshu event of Wushu competition
2. Women’s 400-m relay event
3. Swe Swe Thant in the women’s 58-kilo weightlifting event

Nine bronze medalists
1. Khin Maung Myint in the men’s 500-m kayak event of rowing competition
2. Aung Si Thu in the men’s Wushu competition (Sanshau)
3. Shwe Tin Win in the women’s 22-oar 1000-m traditional rowing event

Liquefied natural gas canister factory and dry cell factory opened in South Dagon industrial zone

YANGON, 12 Dec — The Ministry of Industry-2 held a ceremony to open its liquefied natural gas canister factory and dry cell factory at the factories in the industrial zone of Dagon Myothit (South) Township here this morning. Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council and Commander of Yangon Command, attended the ceremony and unveiled the signboards of the factories. Also present on the occasion were Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin, Deputy Minister Lt-Col Khin Maung Kyaw, Commander of No 2 Military Region Brig-Gen Myo Myint, directors-general and managing directors of departments and industries, local authorities and officials. At the briefing hall of the factory, Maj-Gen Myint Swe heard reports presented by the deputy minister on the industrial zone of U Kyaw Win, Managing Director of the Myanmar Machine Tool and Electrical Industries, also reported on matters related to the newly-opened factories. After the opening ceremony of the factories, the commander, the minister, the deputy minister and officials viewed round the factories.

YANGON, 12 Dec — The Premier League matches of Myanmar Football Federation continued at Aung San Stadium at 3 pm today. Construction team beat Commerce-A team 2-1.

Cornerstones laid for Kyauktan Township

MCWA Office, Day Nursery

YANGON, 12 Dec — A ceremony to lay cornerstones of the office of Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association and Day Nursery School was held in Kyauktan Township this morning. Present were President of MMCWA Dr Daw Khin Win Swe, Vice-President Dr Kyi Soe and executives, Patron of Yangon Division MMCWA Supervisory Committee Daw Khin Thet Hui and members of the panel of patrons, officials and guests. Chairman of Dagon International Co U Win Aung explained construction of the buildings. Next, the cornerstone laying ceremony followed. Later, President Dr Daw Khin Win Swe performed the rituals of golden and silver showers.

For improvement of Yangon-Mandalay Union Highway Page 2 Article
On this centenary of Myanmar novels show
Bryline
YCDC Sewage Treatment Plant Page 10
Circulation 23,593