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

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

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

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt arrives back from ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit

Yangon, 13 Dec—Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt arrived back here by special aircraft after attending the ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit in Tokyo, Japan, on 11 and 12 December at 2.30 pm today at the invitation of His Excellency Mr. Junichiro Koizumi, Prime Minister of Japan.

The Myanmar delegation led by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt was welcomed back at Yangon International Airport by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe, 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, member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, members of the State Peace and Development Council, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy) and the Commander-in-Chief (Air), the Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command, ministers, senior military officers, Dean of the Diplomatic Corps Ambassador of Singapore Mr. Simon Tensing de Cruz and heads of foreign missions in Yangon, the UN coordinator, Charge d’Affaires at of the Japanese Embassy Mr. Hiroshi Kawamura and staff and departmental heads. Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung, Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Win and departmental heads who accompanied the Prime Minister also arrived back on the same flight. —MNA

Myanmar Wushu team bags three gold more

Yangon, 13 Dec—The Myanmar sports contingent secured three gold, four silver and one bronze in the XXII South-East Asian Games in Hanoi, Vietnam, on 12 December.

Swe Swe Thant bagged one gold in the women’s nangun event in wushu contest. Khine Khine Maw won gold in the women’s taijijian event. Ha Hone also won gold in the men’s 65-kilo sanshou event, Yan Win Kyi silver in the men’s 52-kilo sanshou event, Thinza Soe in the women’s 48-kilo sanshou event, Pyi Wai Phyo silver in the men’s jianshu (fencing) event, Zaw Zaw Moe silver in the men’s nangun event and Aung Si Thu bronze in the men’s thongshou event.

A total of 15-member wushu team bagged five gold, six silver and six bronze, totalling 17. The latest medal standing of Myanmar is 16 gold, 43 silver and 50 bronze totalling 109. —MNA

Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, members of the State Peace and Development Council, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy) and the Commander-in-Chief (Air), the Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command, ministers, senior military officers, Dean of the Diplomatic Corps Ambassador of Singapore Mr. Simon Tensing de Cruz and heads of foreign missions in Yangon, the UN coordinator, Charge d’Affaires at of the Japanese Embassy Mr. Hiroshi Kawamura and staff and departmental heads. Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung, Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Win and departmental heads who accompanied the Prime Minister also arrived back on the same flight. —MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt being welcomed back at the airport by Senior General Than Shwe and party. —MNA

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

Sunday, 14 December, 2003

Strive for implementation of hydropower projects

The electric power sector plays an important role in taking measures for development of economic, production and social sectors of a nation. With the higher living standard of the people, it is essential for fulfilling the electric power requirement of the State.

The Ministry of Electric Power, with a view to generating more electricity, is implementing medium and large hydropower projects during the third five-year short-term plan launched in 2001-2002 fiscal year.

In his inspection tour of Kengtawng Hydropower Station in the course of construction on 7 December, 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 delivered a message, saying that Myanmar engineers are to do their utmost in order to be skilful at erecting medium hydel-power stations like the Kengtawng hydel-power station, applying their know-how and experiences, adding that plans are also to be drawn to constantly create human resources capable of handling all stages of construction. He called for timely completion of the project.

The 54-megawatt station expected to be completed in 2005-2006 financial year will benefit Loilem District, and the surplus electricity will be distributed to the grid.

Implementation of a hydropower project, in fact, requires a huge sum of money and it takes time. Looking forward to a good return for promotion of the State’s economic, industrial and electric power sectors, the Ministry of Electric Power is making feasibility tours of the regions with potential for hydropower projects. It is now constructing 11 hydel-power plants including Paunglaung hydropower project that will be able to generate 280 megawatts and Yeya hydropower, 790 megawatts.

At a time when the government is investing heavily in power supply projects, the people, on their part, will have to pay more attention to systematic use of electricity. In this regard, emphasis is to be placed on construction of buildings specially designed for obtaining natural light and use of the least possible amount of electricity in order to minimize waste of power supply. And the buildings that can get enough natural light should use only daylight as the main use of light.

Therefore, officials concerned are urged to exert endeavours for ensuring timely completion of hydel-power projects and departmental staff and the people, to minimize wasteful use of electricity.

Secretary-2 inspects farms of Myanmar War Veterans Organization, Dagon Jeep Assembling Workshop

YANGON, 13 Dec — Chairman of Central Organizing Committee of Myanmar War Veterans Organization Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein, accompanied by officials of the committee, this morning inspected the agricultural farm of the MWVO in Thayagon model village, Hmauby Township, and the Dagon Jeep car assembling workshop in Pale Myothit, Mingladon Township. At 8.30 am, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and party arrived at the agricultural farm where they were welcomed by farm in charge of the farm Lt-Col Lin Naing (Red) and officials.

First, the Secretary-2 inspected breeding of piglets in the farm and gave instructions on breeding of pedigree pigs and measures to be taken in prevention of pig diseases.

The piglet breeding farm is making arrangements for selling pedigree piglets to Thayagon model village and neighbouring villages at fair rate.

On arrival at Swan Arman Rice Mill of MWVO, the Secretary-2 saw over milling of rice and gave instructions on quality of rice and minimizing wastage and loss.

The Secretary-2 inspected the earth road linking Thayagon and Moegyopyit villages. He gave instructions on upgrading of the earth road to a laterite one and attended to the needs. At the construction site of bridge across Hmauby Creek, the Secretary-2 inspected progress of construction and gave instructions on completion of the works in the open season.

He then looked into harvesting and threshing of monsoon paddy cultivated by MWVO and land preparations for growing of summer paddy. He gave instructions on supply of water to be carried out for not only cultivation tasks but also breeding of duck and fish and extension of duck breeding.

Afterwards, the Secretary-2 arrived at MWVO Training Centre in Nyaung thankpinwin, Hlegu Township, where school in charge Lt-Col Thein Win reported on arrangements being made for opening of the advanced courses and digging of fish breeding ponds in the compound of the centre and planting of seasonal and perennial crops. The Secretary-2 also inspected pea plantations in the compound.

On arrival at the Dagon Jeep car assembling workshop in Pale Myothit, Mingladon Township, U Maung Maung (Mudon Maung Maung) conducted the Secretary-2 and party round the workshop. Next, the Secretary-2 gave instructions on extension of assembling passenger buses and cargo vehicles as well as Dagon Jeep and attended to their needs for assembling 10,060-passenger buses in 2004.

ANGON

Min Naing wins championship in Maruman Golf Classic Tournament

YANGON, 13 Dec — The prize presentation of the Maruman Golf Classic Tournament, the fifth leg of Myanmar Golf Federation tournaments in the 2003 season, was held at Yangon Golf Club yesterday afternoon.

Executive of Myanmar Golf Federation U Shwe Tun Hlaing presented daily best scorer awards to Zaw Zin Win, Thein Zaw Myint, Hla Myo, Myo Min Aung and Aung Aung Kyaw in the amateur division.

Operation Director Mr Lai Wei Chin of Rothmans of Pall Mall Myanmar Pte Ltd presented daily beat scorer awards to Soe Kyaw Naing (Pan-West), Myint Thaung (KGM Golf Centre), Win Hlaing (Srixon) and Zaw Zaw Latt (Pan-West) in the professional golfer division.

Country Agent U Maung Maung Myint presented first, second and third prizes to Thein Zaw Myint with 301 strokes, Myo Min Aung with 307 and Aung Aung Kyaw with 308 in the amateur division.

Myanmar PGA and MGF President Maj-Gen Win Hlaing gave away the first prize to Min Naing (Srixon) with 295 strokes in the professional division and the joint-second prize to Soe Kyaw Naing (Pan-West) and Zaw Zaw Latt (Pan-West) with 298 each. Joint Deputy Managing Director Maj Thein Aung (Red) of Rothmans of Pall Mall Myanmar Pte Ltd presented a cheque to the champion.

Director Mr Foo Cheik Kaing of Rothmans of Pall Mall Myanmar Pte Ltd presented a gift to U Aye Cho of Yangon Golf Club.

The tournament was held under the arrangements of Myanmar PGA and Myanmar Golf Federation and mainly sponsored by Rothmans of Pall Mall Myanmar Pte Ltd together with Maruman-Kaung Myat Co Ltd, Air Mandalay, Grand Slam (Munsing Wear), Loi Hein (Alpine), UPG, Canon and KM Golf Centre and Wilson.

The tournament was organized by Han Event Management. — ANA

The introduction of Panasonic air-conditioner (O2 Shower) in progress. — ANA
Blasts kill Iraqi officer, wound Poles as Bremer warns of more violence

Baghdad, 13 Dec — Roadside bombs exploded Friday, killing a police officer and wounding two Polish soldiers as US overseer Paul Bremer warned of an even worse security climate to come in Iraq and of a stiffer US riposte.

“An improvised explosion device killed the Iraqi police officer and wounded a number of soldiers, and also killed a soldier and wounded two others,” said an AFP correspondent at the scene.

US official Paul Bremer warned Iraq on Thursday that a “bleaker” security climate lay ahead as US forces gear up for an even bloodier battle with desperate insurgents.

Bremer, speaking at the annual general meeting on education, said that the enrollment of pupils in primary schools in the country has increased from 927 in 1999 to 58,841 in 2002.

The accident rate per 1,000 workers also dropped by 21 per cent from 24.3 in 1999 to 16.5. “As many of these incidents but did not know the location. Insurgents last month fired mortars into the “Green Zone,” a one-square-mile area that encompasses several buildings. After Thursday’s suicide attack, three wounded soldiers were evacuated from the headquarters of the 82nd Airborne Division west of Baghdad to a combat hospital and the other 11 wounded were treated and returned to duty, the US military reported.

There were no US fatalities in the previous two suicide attacks this week, indicating defenses erected at American facilities were paying off. Three Iraqis were killed in the truck that exploded Thursday at Champagne Base in Ramadi, 60 miles west of Baghdad. Also Thursday, the military reported one US soldier drowned and another was missing after a patrol boat accident on the Tigris River in Baghdad.

“The soldiers were conducting routine patrols on the Tigris River when one of the soldiers fell overboard, and the other soldier jumped in to save him,” the US Central Command said in a statement.

The incident occurred Wednesday, and the drowned soldier from the Army’s 1st Armoured Division was found Thursday morning, the statement said.

US soldiers said an Apache helicopter that crashed landed near the northern city of Mosul might have been hit by ground fire while making a low pass over the area.

Good housekeeping helps improve work safety

Hong Kong, 13 Dec — Good housekeeping practices can help reduce workplace accidents, said Permanent Secretary for Economic Development and Labour Matthew Cheung Kin-chung recently.

Speaking at the Good Housekeeping Seminar and Award Presentation, he said employers, employees, the government and other concerned parties should work together to create a safe and healthy work environment.

Cheung said the Labour Department had maintained a close partnership with all trades and industries and professional bodies for years to enhance their safety performance.

The occupational safety and health performance in Hong Kong has continuously improved in recent years. The number of occupational accidents dropped 20.1 per cent from 58,841 in 1999 to 47,023 in 2002. The accident rate per 1,000 workers decreased by 21 per cent from 24.3 to 16.5.

Cheung said that activities under the campaign were well-received. Over 100 organizations participated in the Good Housekeeping Competition while more than 200 companies signed the Workplace Hygiene Charter.

The hotel industry in particular, has a critical role to play in fighting terrorism.

Minister Wong Kan Seng said here on Tuesday that the hotel industry has a critical role to play in fighting terrorism.

“We must not stress too much the importance of investing in security measures. Security-related spending is a long-term investment and should be given priority,” Wong added.

Enrollment of pupils in Tanzanian primary schools up

Dar Es Salaam, 13 Dec — Tanzanian Minister of Education and Culture Joseph Mungai has disclosed that the enrollment of pupils in primary schools in the mainland increased from 4.2 million in 2000 to 6.5 million in 2003.

Speaking at the annual general meeting on education on Tuesday, the minister said that the number of secondary schools in the country has increased from 927 in 2000 to 1,830 in 2003 and the female students in schools have also increased about 31 per cent during the same period.

Singapore’s hotel industry important to fight terrorism

Singapore, 13 Dec — Singapore’s Home Affairs Minister Wong Kan Seng said here on Tuesday that the hotel industry has a critical role to play in fighting terrorism.

He said the hotel industry thrives on the stability and prosperity of the country, as well as that in the region.

“What terrorism continues to lay siege over a city or region, a similar siege would be cast on the hotel industry,” said the minister.

Hence, it is important for the hotel industry to recognize its responsibilities and take its role in the fight against terrorism “seriously,” he said.

“Security-related spending is a long-term investment and should be given priority,” Wong added.

China welcomes progress of Japan-ASEAN relations

Beijing, 13 Dec — China is pleased to see the new progress in the relations between Japan and the Association of the South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), said Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesman Liu Jianchao.

Liu made the remark at a regular Press conference when asked to comment on Japan’s upcoming declaration of joining the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in South-East Asia. He said that China congratulates the special summit opened Thursday between Japan and the ASEAN in Tokyo, capital of Japan.

US soldier killed, 14 wounded in Iraq

Baghdad, 13 Dec — Three suicide bombers in a furniture truck blew themselves up at the gates of a US Army base Thursday, killing one soldier and wounding 14. It was the third suicide attack on American troops in Iraq this week. Meanwhile, loud explosions boomed through central Baghdad early Friday, and sirens wailed in the compound housing the headquarters of the US-led coalition.

Smoke rose inside the compound, known as the “Green Zone,” a one-square-mile area that encompasses several buildings. After Thursday’s suicide attack, three wounded soldiers were evacuated from the headquarters of the 82nd Airborne Division west of Baghdad to a combat hospital and the other 11 wounded were treated and returned to duty, the US military reported.

There were no US fatalities in the previous two suicide attacks this week, indicating defenses erected at American facilities were paying off. Three Iraqis were killed in the truck that exploded Thursday at Champagne Base in Ramadi, 60 miles west of Baghdad. Also Thursday, the military reported one US soldier drowned and another was missing after a patrol boat accident on the Tigris River in Baghdad.

“The soldiers were conducting routine patrols on the Tigris River when one of the soldiers fell overboard, and the other soldier jumped in to save him,” the US Central Command said in a statement.

The incident occurred Wednesday, and the drowned soldier from the Army’s 1st Armoured Division was found Thursday morning, the statement said.

US soldiers said an Apache helicopter that crashed landed near the northern city of Mosul might have been hit by ground fire while making a low pass over the area.

Colourful dos: Chinese models show off the latest hair-dos and beauty make-up by local designers, at a hair dressing and cosmetology exhibition in Beijing on 11 December. — Internet
Prince Turki says Iraq war created new terror problem

JEDDAH, 13 Dec— Instead of snuffing out a terrorist threat, US President George W. Bush’s war on Iraq created a new one, Prince Turki Al-Faisal, the Kingdom’s ambassador in London, said on Thursday.

“When the United States and Britain invaded Iraq, the promise of bringing peace and security was important in the expositions of both the American and British leaderships,” Prince Turki said.

“Unfortunately, that promise still has to be realized. The daily firesights, explosions and violence are making even those who believed the initial promise skeptical,” he told a conference at London’s Royal United Services Institute.

“Instead of removing the terrorist threat which President Bush saw in Saddam’s Iraq, we find today that Bush’s Iraq has become a magnet for terrorists,” Prince Turki said.

Prince Turki said the world community could not afford to see Iraq remain without peace and security, noting that the Kingdom pledged $1 billion for reconstruction.

The prince, a former chief of intelligence, said ending the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, as well as conflicts in Chechnya, Kashmir and Iraq, was key to anti-terror efforts.

“We must not forget that terrorism is a by-product and not an alien being descended on us from a distant galaxy,” he said. “The international community ... must realize that terrorism hijacks causes and thrives on injustice. Solve these causes and redress these injustices and we not only win peace and security, we redeem our humanity.”

Asked about Bush’s recent call for more democracy in the Middle East, the ambassador said Saudi Arabia, like other nations, had a responsibility to reform, but poor governance was not the only reason for the existence of terrorism.

“(International) political problems also feed terrorists with their justifications,” Prince Turki said.

“Democracy has its problems... even in countries like Britain and the US, which have been practicing it for centuries now. Democracy until now has been best means for people to choose their government in many countries of the world, but democracy is a means for choosing a government and is not an ultimate end in itself”—Internet

China, Kenya to further enhance cooperation in field of health

Nairobi, 13 Dec— China and Kenya have enjoyed good relations of cooperation in the field of health, and such cooperation is bound to be further enhanced through joint efforts, a visiting senior Chinese official said here Thursday.

"After the first ministerial conference of the China-Africa Cooperation Forum in 2000, there are more and more cooperation in the field of health between our two countries," Chinese Vice-Minister of Health Ma Xiaowei said when holding talks with top officials of the Kenyan Ministry of Health.

He said that “I believe that there will be a bright prospect in the cooperation of our two countries in the areas of communicable diseases, traditional medicine and human resource training, especially in the area of pharmaceutical cooperation.”

Ma noted that the Chinese Government has paid great attention to the control of HIV/AIDS, and Kenya has gained experience in this area, which has much potential for further cooperation between the two countries.

Meanwhile, Kenyan Minister for Health Charity Ngilu said that her ministry noticed with satisfaction that the two countries’ cooperation on medical care and public health has been going on very well. She disclosed that currently Kenya has some “very unique problems — to give health care to even the poor people, to set up a national social helping charity, to treat the HIV/AIDS patients.”

“We like to continue working with you (the Chinese Government),” she said.

China and Kenya on Thursday also signed a memorandum of understanding on the cooperation in the field of health in Kenya’s capital Nairobi.

"I hope under the frame of the accord, there will be some concrete cooperative projects which will be beneficial to the peoples of both countries,” Ma said.

MNA/Xinhua

Press frowns at Iraq contracts policy

London, 13 Dec—Arabic papers disapprove of US President George Bush’s decision to award lucrative contracts to countries which supported US action in Iraq.

Ukaz - Saudi Arabia

US politicians claim that they are in Iraq to rebuild the country and propagate democracy, not for the sake of oil and loot ing. But where is the truth in that?

The truth has unfolded. Washington wants to take advantage of its presence in Iraq to allow its multinational companies to benefit from reconstruction contracts. Politically, the US want to punish those who opposed its war against Iraq by denying them the booty.

Al-Quds Al-Arabi - London

When we warned that US aggression against Iraq was aimed at achieving two important goals, to loot Iraq’s economy and wealth and to serve Israeli interests and remove any real Arab threats to the racist Jewish state, there were those who accused us of exaggeration.

Yesterday the US President, George Bush, announced that bids for contracts in Iraqi reconstruction will first be given to US companies, then other companies affiliated to allied countries which sent their forces to Iraq, risked the lives of their people, and served in the US project...

The US decision will create harsh divisions in the Western world and will increase the world’s hatred for the current arrogant US administration.

Internet

Nigeria embarks on nationwide screening of drug markets

LAGOS, 13 Dec— The National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) of Nigeria has embarked on the screening of drug markets across the country to enforce the use of letterheads for transactions in drugs.

In a statement issued in Enugu, south Nigeria, on Thursday, NAFDAC’s Director of Enforcement Dosa Ejiomuene said the shop-to-shop screening would enable the agency to apprehend defaulters.

The agency had given traders two weeks to restore all addresses of stalls and shops, as well as produce their invoice letterhead and receipt booklets for drug sales and purchases, he said.

The director reminded the traders that the agency had directed that defaulters should have their shops closed.

The agency had already commenced the screening at Onitsha, a leading commercial in south Nigeria, where some shops and stalls were sealed off, he said.

The NAFDAC was set up by the Nigerian federal government with a view to ensuring the safety and quality of drugs.

Its main missions are to control and regulate the manufacture, import and export of pharmaceuticals and food products and prosecute those selling unregistered, fake and expired products.

According to the Nigerian National Institute of Pharmaceutical Research, about 80 per cent of drugs in all major pharmacy shops in Lagos, the largest commercial city in the country, were fake or counterfeit.

Worse still, at least 7 per cent out of the fake or counterfeit drugs are dangerous to the health of the consumers.

Fake drugs, which are commonly and freely sold in open markets, specific shops and commercial buses, have already claimed lives of millions of innocent Nigerians.

MNA/Xinhua
US soldier killed in attack in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 13 Dec — Gunfire detonated a bomb alongside a US military convoy west of Baghdad on Friday, killing one soldier and wounding two others, the military said.

The attack occurred at 6:30 am in Ramadi, about 60 miles west of the Iraqi capital, the US Central Command said. One of the injured soldiers was evacuated to a military hospital and died of his wounds. His name, and the names of the wounded, were withheld pending notification of next of kin.

Also Friday, a bomb made from a land mine exploded on the outskirts of the southern city of Mahawal as a 19-person Polish convoy drove by. Two soldiers were wounded.

Warrant Officer Tomasz Kloc was seriously wounded in the stomach and evacuated to Baghdad. Wounded in the stomach is another Polish soldier from a land mine exploded along with a US military convoy west of Baghdad on Friday, killing one soldier and wounding two others, the military said. Warrant Officer Tomasz Kloc was seriously wounded in the stomach and evacuated to Baghdad.

Also Friday, the Iraqi military said a soldier from the 1st Armored Division in Baghdad died early Friday of a "non-hostile gunshot wound." No further details were released.

Two other coalition soldiers were slightly injured Friday when Iraqi insurgents fired at least two projectiles at US occupation headquarters in Baghdad.

A spokesperson said she did not know their nationalities.

A building in the Green Zone, the downtown area where the occupation forces are headquartered, was slightly damaged in the attack.

"I heard what appeared to be incoming mortar rounds," Charles Krohn, a spokesman for the US military, said from his room in the Green Zone. "I was shaken, and I heard a couple of thumps. I felt the vibrations."

Also, the US military said a soldier from the 1st Armored Division in Baghdad was killed Friday in a non-hostile gunshot wound. No further details were released.

In two studies comparing Gulf War veterans with other military personnel, scientists found that although those who served in the war did not have a higher rate of new illnesses or cancers, their health was not as good as those who did not go. There is a health effect of serving in the Gulf War, Mar- shew Hotopf of Guy’s, King’s, and St Thomas’ School of Medicine in London, said in an interview.

Veterans of the war reported significant health problems when he and his colleagues surveyed them in 1997 and the illnesses had persisted when they were questioned again in 2001.

"Gulf war veterans remain a group with many symptoms of all health," Hotopf added.

Veterans of the conflict in Kwait have complained of symptoms such as respiratory and digestive problems, nerve damage, fatigue, numbness and memory and psychological problems. The existence of Gulf War Syndrome and its possible causes have been hotly de- bated. It has been linked vari- ously to the inoculations the veterans received, pesticides they handled, smoke from oil-burning fires, stress and organophosphates — chemi- cals that have been shown to affect the human nervous sys- tem.

Earlier this year, British veterans won a landmark legal battle when High Court judges backed a war pensions tribu- nal ruling which had for the first time given official recog- nition of the syndrome.

The second study, pub- lished in the British Medical Journal by scientists from the University of Manchester in England, showed that cases and deaths from cancers among Gulf War veterans were no higher than in other military personnel.

China pledges to enhance friendship with all Mideast nations

BEIJING, 13 Dec — China is willing to develop its friendly, cooperative ties with all Mideast countries including Israel, Foreign Ministry Spokesman Liu Jianchao said.

China warmly welcomes the imminent visit by Israeli President Moshe Katsav from December 14 to 20, he said, acknowledg- ing that China will develop its friendly cooperation with all countries worldwide including Mideast nations based on the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence and Sino- Israeli friendship not only complies with the interests of the two nations and their people but benefits peace and development in the Mideast region.

The UN Asian Meeting on the Question of Palestine will be co-sponsored by the Chinese Government and the United Nations in Beijing from December 16 to 18, said Liu. With the theme of “Arousing International Support for a Peaceful Solution of the Ques- tion of Palestine”, the conference will have about 200 participants, including officials from the United Nations and relevant coun- tries and noted experts and scholars on the Mideast issue, he said.

Liu said Chinese Vice-Foreign Minister Dai Bingguo would attend and address the opening ceremony of the meeting.

Six Cubans convicted of hijacking in United States

WASHINGTON, 13 Dec — Six Cuban men were convicted in Florida Thursday of hijacking a passenger plane from Cuba to the United States after their argument that the crew cooperated in the hijacking was denied.

The Cuban pilots face 20 years of imprisonment for hijacking the DC-3 domestic flight plane with 37 people aboard, including the hijackers and crew members, from Cuba to Key West airport in Florida on 10 March. Prosecutors said the hijackers forced the pilot at knife-point to divert the plane. The defense argued that crew members went along with the hijacking, saying the knives were used only as props.

But in his testimony the pilot denied he was in on the plot.

All six were convicted of air piracy, which carries a maximum sentence of life in prison. Some of them were also convicted of conspiracy to commit air piracy, conspiracy to interfere with a flight crew and interfering with a flight crew.

The hijacking was among a string of air and boat hijackings that have caused ten- sions between Cuba and the United States. Cuba accused the United States of encour- aging the hijackings by being soft on the hijackers.

Fourteen people aboard the hijacked DC-3 plane opted to stay in the United States after it landed at Key West. — MNA/Reuters

Studies say health consequences of Gulf War persist

LONDON, 13 Dec — More than a decade after the end of the Gulf War, veterans of the conflict still suffer more health problems than their military colleagues, research- ers said on Friday.

In two studies comparing Gulf War veterans with other military personnel, scientists found that although those who served in the war did not have a higher rate of new illnesses or cancers, their health was not as good as those who did not go. There is a health effect of serving in the Gulf War, Marshew Hotopf of Guy’s, King’s, and St Thomas’ School of Medicine in London, said in an interview.

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Earlier this year, British veterans won a landmark legal battle when High Court judges backed a war pensions tribunal ruling which had for the first time given official recognition of the syndrome.

The second study, published in the British Medical Journal by scientists from the University of Manchester in England, showed that cases and deaths from cancers among Gulf War veterans were no higher than in other military personnel.

A Californian sea lion named ‘Darwin’ swims at Skopje City zoo on 11 Dec, 2003. The Macedonian capital zoo lacked any kind of a sea lion for 15 years, before receiving the Californian sea lion as a gift from their colleagues from the Zagreb Zoo on 11 Dec, 2003. — Internet

Internet

Politicians in the wake of the hosting of the 2008 Olympic Games will offer Beijing an opportunity for development, and Beijing hopes to cooperate with Manila in the fields of economy, trade, culture and tourism.

Atienza said Manila is facing similar problems to those of Beijing, and this also reflects the economic development of the two cities.

Manila takes Beijing as an important partner, and is keen to build a closer relation- ship with it in the political, economic and other fields, he added.
EU attacks America’s decision on Iraq reconstruction contracts

LONDON, 13 Dec — Tony Blair’s hopes of ending Europe’s divisions over Iraq suffered a setback on Friday when the EU attacked America’s decision to ban countries which opposed the war from winning reconstruction contracts in the country.

The European Commission announced that it would investigate whether the United States’ actions over the $18.6 billion of construction work breached the rules of the World Trade Organisation. But Mr Blair defended the Bush administration’s decision, saying: “It is important to emphasise this is American money. It is for the Americans to decide how they spend their own money.” The Prime Minister claimed that EU members who opposed the war, including France and Germany, were now rallying behind the efforts to rebuild Iraq.

He pointed to a “positive” declaration by the 15 European leaders yesterday backing US plans to speed up the transfer of power to the Iraqi people and pledging the EU’s support for “the political as well as the economic reconstruction of the country.”

Mr Blair said: “Whatever people’s views about the war, most people understand Iraq is a far better place without Saddam and that it is now necessary to try and develop Iraq as a prosperous and democratic country, and if we do that, that is a huge bonus for the whole of the western world.”

But the summit’s declaration was overshadowed by the row over the contracts ban. Chris Patten, the EU’s External Relations Commissioner, said acridly: “It is another triumph for Pentagon diplomacy.” He said America’s efforts to persuade the rest of the world to join the rebuilding effort in Iraq would not be helped by the decision, which would also make it harder for him to win EU funds for Iraq. Romano Prodi, the European Commission president, said the dispute “doesn’t help harmonise our relations”, adding some of the countries excluded from bidding on contracts were major EU creditors.

Javier Solana, the EU’s foreign affairs representative, Javier Solana criticised Washington’s decision as fundamentally unfair. “You are saying that countries cannot participate on tenders and at the same time you are asking those same countries to cooperate, to give money, to fight off the debt,” he said.

Jacques Chirac, the French President, and Gerhard Schroeder, the German Chancellor, expressed concern at their countries’ exclusion.

Mr Schroeder said rebuilding Iraq was a global task and “it makes little sense to discuss who can take part in the economic rebuilding and who can’t.” He added: “International law has to be applied and restrictions are not helpful on the issue.”

President George Bush retorted sharply: “International law? I better trust my lawyer.” The Commission said in a statement: “We will examine the 26 contracts at stake to determine whether procurement restrictions are in line with the commitments undertaken by the United States in the World Trade Organisation. We do not need another WTO dispute at this time.”

Intra-regional and inter-regional tourism

CHENNAI, 13 Dec — Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) on Wednesday called for concerted efforts by countries in ASEAN region to promote intra-regional and inter-regional tourism in a big way.

“Since no tourism destination can be a stand-alone destination, there is a need to synergise the competencies of tourism destinations both intra-regionally and inter-regionally,” A C Muthiah, president of FICCI, said in his address at the conference on “South India-A Global Region,” A C Muthiah, organised by the Federation.

He said after Turkey, India was expected to achieve the fastest rate of growth of the total amount of economic activity likely to be generated by travel and tourism, at 7.6 per cent in the next 10 years, and the largest employment creation after China.

“The growth in spending by international tourists is likely to be the fastest in India at 14.3 per cent per annum over the next decade,” he said.

Pointing out that Intra-ASEAN tourist traffic crossed 18 million mark in 2001 itself, Muthiah said that to offer comprehensive value addition to the tourists, the importance of inter-regional marketing could not be under-played.

Muthiah said that India’s in-bound tourist traffic had been around 2.5 million during the last decade adding that the out-bound traffic had however increased and was expected to be around five million in the year 2003.

India’s efforts in education lauded

NEW DELHI, 13 Dec — United Nations lauded Dia’s in-bound tourist traffic being help “truly” free of cost and providing “quality education” to all.

“Educating girls is the best investment India can make for securing a safe future. India has the capacity and the resources to ensure that every child goes to school and receives quality education,” UNICEF representative here Maria Calvis said while releasing ‘The state of the World’s Children 2004’ report.

The country has the “Varsha Shiksha Abhiyan” (Education for All Project) that provides the policy framework and has many programmes and schemes to promote education, leading to a rise in attendance rates even among girls in primary schools, Calvis said.

However, there are many areas where much more intensive efforts are needed, she added saying “First in the true spirit of the Constitution of India, schooling must be made truly free of cost for all children.”

China to tackle rural eye disease problem

BEIJING, 13 Dec — China is to set up a system covering all villages to help rural people suffering from serious eye diseases, said Han Jianmin, director of the National Blindness Control Group.

Eye protection will be an important part of health care work, especially in making rural areas, Han told a national conference on blindness control. China has over five million blind people, approximately 18 per cent of the world’s total. Each year, 450,000 more Chinese people suffer from eye diseases, including 400,000 suffering from cataracts.

The number of eye disease patients will be three times the figure for 2020 unless effective measures are applied by the health authorities, said Han.

The focus of blindness control is on the villages, especially those located in the western and central parts of China, said Xu Liang, director of the Beijing Institute of Ophthalmology, noting that eye diseases such as cataracts and trachoma are still threats to old people in the countryside.

Animal diseases hit eastern Ugandan district

KAMPALA, 13 Dec — An outbreak of animal diseases, threatening an epidemic proportion, has struck two parishes in Soroti District, eastern Uganda leading to the death of animals, reported Radio Uganda on Wednesday.

Soroti District veterinary officer Dr Eyasu Patrick was quoted as saying that Kagwara parish in Kadungulu sub-county is battling with an outbreak of African swine fever that has within the last two weeks killed 22 pigs and left scores ill.

Dr Eyusu said that the viral infection, highly contagious to pigs only, is proving a looming threat since it can be transmitted through contact with the carcasses and the sick ones, and yet has no known cure.

He said the key signs exhibited by the infected pigs include loss of appetite, reddening of the skin and dormancy.

In a related development, Aukot parish in Gweri sub-county is equally experiencing an animal health problem with the outbreak of the highly contagious air-borne contagious bovine pleura pneumonia, Dr Eyusu said.

India, Korea “breaking new ground” in eco-pol relations

NEW DELHI, 13 Dec — Observing that India’s engagement with South Korea was growing steadily, External Affairs Minister Yashwant Sinha Wednesday said the two sides were “breaking new ground” in both economic and political relations.

He said India sought a long-term and comprehensive relationship of friendship, cooperation and partnership with Korea.

The two countries are planning high-level changes and a host of events to mark 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

He said India was looking forward to the visit of President Roh Moo-hyun by the end of this year.

Observing that India and Korea were bound by civilizational and historical links, he said the past three decades of their diplomatic relations have witnessed a consolidation of traditional friendly ties.

In recent years, this friendship has developed, based on the secure foundations of common values of democracy and open society and a shared desire to diversify bilateral exchanges, taking advantage of economic complementarities and political convergence.

An Iraqi woman holds identification cards belonging to her three sons as she says they are being held by US forces in Baghdad, Iraq, on Dec 12, 2003.
Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt arrives in Tokyo to attend ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit

YANGON, 13 Dec—Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt and party left here by special aircraft of Myanmar Airways International on 10 December morning to attend the ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit to be held in Tokyo, Japan, on 11 December at the invitation of His Excellency Mr Junichiro Koizumi, Prime Minister of Japan. On their way to Japan, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party stopped over at Chak Lap Kok International Airport in Hong Kong at 11.45 am local time. They were welcomed there by Senior Officer Ms Josephine Young and staff of the Protocol Department of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, Consul General U Myo Chit and service personnel. Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party stopped over at the special lounge of the airport.

Next, the Prime Minister and party proceeded to Tokyo, Japan, by special aircraft and arrived in Haneda Airport of Tokyo, Japan, at 6.45 pm local time. Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party were welcomed there by Japanese Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Isao Masumiya, Ambassador of Japan to Myanmar Mr Yuji Miyamoto and members of welcoming party. Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu, who arrived earlier in Japan to attend the ASEAN-Japan Economic Forum which was held prior to the Summit, Myanmar Ambassador to Japan U Saw Hla Min, Military Attaché Col Hla Myint, staff and families of the Myanmar Embassy and the office of Military Attaché. Later, the Prime Minister and party arrived at Imperial Hotel in Tokyo.—MNA

Prime Minister ...

(from page 16) and communication technology and human resource development of Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam by Japan will contribute much to the whole ASEAN region, he stressed.

The ASEAN and Japan were actively cooperating in dealing with the problems of violence, narcotic drugs trafficking, disarmament and transborder crimes, he said and hoped they will further strengthen their cooperation owing to latest international developments and changes.

The secondary’s session of the summit continued at the same venue on 12 December morning, attended by Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt.

Prime Minister of Japan His Excellency Mr Junichiro Koizumi presided over the second day’s session. Next, heads of ASEAN nations and governments and the Japanese Prime Minister expressed their opinions of the prospects for ASEAN-Japan relations.

The summit ended in the afternoon with the concluding remarks by Prime Minister of Japan His Excellency Mr Junichiro Koizumi. Holding discussions at the summit, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt said that there were many sectors of possible cooperation between ASEAN and Japan, adding that the living standard of the people will be able to improve through enhancing cooperation in economic development. He hoped Japan will offer more scholarships as human resource development is of paramount importance for ASEAN nations. Myanmar had made resolutions to eliminate narcotic drugs in the country. In the process, it has been cooperating with regional and international communities. Myanmar is giving a top priority to cultivation of poppy substitute crops as it is assumed as an important step. Japan could make constructive activities by opening of market for poppy substitute crops. In the past, heads of ASEAN nations and governments met in Bagam and laid down the strategy for cooperation. He hoped that other ASEAN nations and Japan will provide assistance to the project.

In response to Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, the Japanese Prime Minister said that the discussion had been constructive. He added that Japan accepted poppy substitute undertakings as most important ones and will cooperate in the tasks.

The summit was attended by His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah of Brunei Darussalam, Prime Minister of Cambodia Mr Sandech Hun Sen, President of Indonesia Madame Megawati Soekarnoputri, Prime Minister of Laos Mr Buongnan Vorachith, Prime Minister of Malaysia Dato Sri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt, President of the Philippines Madame Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, Prime Minister of Singapore Mr Goh Chok Tong, Prime Minister of Thailand Dr Thaksin Shinawatra, Prime Minister of Vietnam Mr Phan Van Khai, Prime Minister of Japan Mr Junichiro Koizumi and the ASEAN Secretary-General.

Next, the ceremony to sign the Tokyo Declaration of heads of State/Government of ASEAN nations and Japan was held at the Asahi Hall of Geihinkan State Guest House. Prime Minister for the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt, heads of ASEAN nations and governments and the Japanese Prime Minister signed the declaration.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan signed the Declaration on Accession to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia by Japan while the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia signed the ASEAN Declaration of Consent to the Government of Japan to accede to the TAC in South-East Asia in the presence of heads of State/Government of ASEAN nations and the Japanese Prime Minister, and the ceremony came to an end.

Commander, Mayor inspect sanitation tasks, dredging of drains

YANGON, 13 Dec—Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin inspected carry out of sanitation tasks and dredging of drains in Tamway, Thingangyun, South Okkalapa, Mayangon, Dagon Myothit (East), Dagon Myothit (South) and Yankin townships today. Service personnel, members of social organizations and local people participated in carrying out sanitation tasks and dredging of drains.—MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attending ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit together with heads of State/Government of ASEAN nations.—MNA

Aung Thein Lin inspected sanitation tasks, dredging of drains.

Aung Thein Lin inspected sanitation tasks, dredging of drains.

Aung Thein Lin inspected sanitation tasks, dredging of drains.
Myanmar Oil Dealers’ Association meets

YANGON, 13 Dec — The 11th annual preliminary meeting of Myanmar Oil Dealers’ Association was held at Golden Dragon Hall of Lion City Restaurant on Bayintnaung Road here this morning.

It was attended by Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung, Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Deputy Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Aung Tun, departmental heads, the president of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and CEC members, members of panel of patrons of MODA, CEC members and officials.

MODA Chairman U Thein Han made an opening speech. Minister U Aung Thaung and Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Tun made speeches. Next, the annual report (2002) and financial statement of the CEC were read out and approved, and UMFCCI General Secretary U Sein Win Hlaing announced the new members of the CEC.

Sixth Meeting of ASEAN-BAC opens

YANGON, 13 Dec — The opening ceremony of the Sixth Meeting of the ASEAN Business Advisory Council—ASEAN BAC was held at the Sedona Hotel here this morning.

It was attended by Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, Deputy Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Aung Tun, departmental heads of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism and the Ministry of Commerce, Ambassadors and officials of the Embassies of the ASEAN member countries in Yangon, President of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Win Myint and executives, President of the UMFCCI U Myo Nyunt of the ASEAN CCI, members of the ASEAN BAC and officials of the ASEAN Secretariat.

First, President U Win Myint of the UMFCCI made a welcoming speech. Next, Director-General U Nyunt Aye of Directorate of Trade explained the salient points of the meeting.

The first day session of the meeting commenced at 9.45 am. Chairman of the ASEAN BAC Mr Rudy J Pesik of Indonesia chaired the meeting. Those present discussed matters related to implementation of the results of the meeting between the leaders of the ASEAN countries held in Bali on 7 November 2003 and members of the ASEAN BAC and tasks to be undertaken in 2004.

Next, Director-General U Khin Maung Latt of Directorate of Hotels and Tourism explained matters related to the tourism industry in Myanmar.

Aftewards, those present engaged in detailed discussions over ASEAN Pioneer Scheme. Members of the ASEAN BAC and President of the ASEAN CCI U Pyone Maung Maung discussed matters related to implementation of major economic cooperation tasks in the ASEAN region. The meeting was adjourned in the evening.

The second day session of the meeting will continue at the same venue tomorrow.

President of UMFCCI U Win Myint hosted a dinner in honour of the members of the ASEAN BAC and officials of the ASEAN Secretariat at the Dusit Inya Lake Hotel in the evening.
Implementation of four-country tourism cooperation coordinated

YANGON, 13 Dec — The work coordination meeting on implementation of tourism cooperation among Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand was held at the Karaweik Palace here this morning. Chairman of the Work Committee for Tourism Cooperation Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Thein Zaw spoke on the occasion.

Also present were Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing, Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe, Vice-chief of Military Intelligence Maj-Gen Kyaw Win, Deputy Minister for Immigration and Population U Maung Aung, chairmen and members of Myanmar Hoteliers Association and Myanmar Travel Association and member of the work committee.

Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw said ministries related to tourism industry are undertaking the tasks for the rapid economic growth of the country and showing peace and stability of the country through tourism.

In conclusion, he urged the hoteliers and tour operators to make arrangements for attracting tourists as many as possible in conformity with the utmost efforts of the ministries concerned.

Next, Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe explained the arrangements for smooth transport services to tour destinations and extension of airlines and airports. He advised the tour operators to attract more tourists in cooperating with foreign tour agencies.

Afterwards, Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing explained matters related to formation of safety units for foreign tourists. Vice-chief of Military Intelligence Maj-Gen Kyaw Win assistance rendered for tourists who entered through borders and Deputy Minister U Maung Aung arrangements for easy visa access.

Later, the chairmen of the two associations reported on arrangements for tourism promotion.

Ministries concerned are making their utmost efforts for the development of the industry in Myanmar by making arrangements for easy visa access and new tour destinations and taking security measures for foreign tourists. Moreover, arrangements are under way to issue e-Visas, he added.

Myanmar team takes away three more gold, six silver, six bronze

YANGON, 13 Dec — Three gold, six silver and six bronze went to Myanmar sports contingent today.

Three gold medalists were:

- Ha Hone in the men’s 56-kilo sanshou event of wushu contest
- Khine Khine Maw in the women’s taijiquan event
- Swe Swe Thant in the women’s taoklu event

Six silver medalists were:

- Thinza Soe in the women’s 48-kilo sanshou event of wushu contest
- Yan Win Kyi in the men’s 52-kilo sanshou event
- Aung Khang Min in the men’s 70-75 kilo pencak silat event
- Zaw Zaw Moe in the men’s tauklu-nangun event of wushu contest
- Thein Htin in the women’s 55-60 kilo pencak silat event
- Thet Min Tun in the men’s 80-86 kilo pencak silat event
- Nwe Ni Zaw Win in the women’s 55-60 pencak silat event
- Chaw Su Khin in the women’s 70-75 kilo pencak silat event
- Saw Khine in the men’s 65-kilo sanshou event
- Thaung Khin in the men’s 48-kilo sanshou event

Six bronze medalists were:

- Zaw Zaw Moe in the men’s tauklu-nanquan event
- Thein Htin in the men’s 80-86 kilo pencak silat event
- Chaw Su Khin in the women’s 70-75 kilo pencak silat event
- Saw Khine in the men’s 65-kilo sanshou event and Thein Htaik Oo in the men’s 48-kilo sanshou event.
Motor Transport and Workshop Department of YCDC

With the aim of promoting the economy of the nation, the State Peace and Development Council is implementing the four economic objectives.

Myanmar Auto Exhibition-2003 was held from 15 to 19 May 2003 in Kyaukkaesan Grounds in Yangon with the following objectives:
- The development of the industrial sector to become the driving force of the four economic objectives of the State.
- To promote the development of Myanmar industry in all aspects based on market-oriented economic system;
- To promote export and produce import-substitute items;
- To develop technologies in manufacturing auto-mobile;
- To manufacture multi-purpose automobiles with high quality; and
- To contribute towards the industrial development of Myanmar by acquiring knowledge and technical know-how from inside the country and abroad.

On one occasion, the Head of State has given guidance that only when there is industrial development will there be progress in the industrial sector of the State.

Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, on 14 and 15 November this year, inspected import-substitute items innovated by factories under the Ministry of Industry-2 in Padang Township of Bago Division and Minhla Township of Magway Division.

With the encourage-ment of the State, automobiles are assembled in the 18 industrial zones using mainly the spare parts made at home except the frame which is imported.

A. The frame of a car must be flexible and not to be stiff. Only when there is a flexible frame will the car be able to move freely. If a frame of a car is so stiff and not able to move flexibly, it can easily be broken down when the car is overweight. We have to make designs for the frame of a car to be flexible. The iron to be used for making the frames must be moulded without using heat.

A. Garbage trucks and trucks for carrying stones made in foreign countries are worth about K 50 million each and the maximum cost for changing TE-21 into garbage trucks is only 16 or 17 million per car. Please tell me about the process in assembling a car using hydraulic system?

A. First, we have to make a design that keeps the balance of the car and choose the best way.

Q: There are two cylinders in a car that is being built. What is the difference between using one big cylinder and two small cylinders?

A: The big cylinder is very expensive but effect on the car is not very different. Using two small cylinders can balance the load and keep the car more stable. Moreover, it is cheaper than the big one. In building the hydraulic system, we have to calculate the length of the cylinders. Based on the result, we have to decide the length of the body. Injection pump and governor are to be changed in the engine that is used together with the hydraulic system.

Q: It can be seen that the frame of the car is attached to the frame of the hydraulic cylinder. Can the two parts be separated?

A: Generally, the body of TE-21 has to be removed from the car. Then, a frame that will be attached to the hydraulic system must be installed on the original car. After installing the frame, the hydraulic system is to be installed.

The power for hydraulic system is supplied by the engine. Then the pump for hydraulic system has to be installed. These are the finishing touches in assembling the car.

Q: Are there enough machines and tools at the department to assemble the cars?

A: Yes, there are. Lathes, machines for moulding crankshaft, nozzle adjusting machine, machines for cutting iron rod are the modern ones. In addition, other machines that can precisely handle the number up to one by thousand inch.

And there are also technicians and skilled mechanics.

In conclusion, the officials explained that they are carrying out engineering works thoroughly with skilled labours.

(Translation: BG)
Transport and communication infrastructure is of great importance for modernization of a nation

Easy and smooth transportation leads to increased contacts among the national people. Systematic measures are being taken to improve the transport sector among regions all over the country. The photo shows the Ayeyawady Bridge (Magway) linking areas in eastern and western banks of the Ayeyawady River. — PHOTO: MNA

The development of economic, social, education and health sectors of a region depends on how easy it is to reach. With this end in view, the Government gives priority to construction of new railroads and motor roads are built all over the country. The photo shows progress of the approach railroad to Ponnya Hill Mountain seen at Phyetmyaung Valley. — PHOTO: MNA

Communication is as important as transportation for national development. The photo shows the posh office of the Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs, and the Hanthawady Exchange compound in Sangyoung Township, Yangon Division. — PHOTO: MNA

Homalin airport was opened on 3 August 2003 in Homalin, Khamti District, Sagaing Division. The photo shows the runway of Homalin Airport. PHOTO: MNA
Hong Kong Business Awards announced

HONG KONG, 13 Dec — Winners of Hong Kong Business Awards 2003, co-organized by DHL International (Hong Kong) Limited and South China Morning Post, were announced Thursday.

Four individual winners of the Business Awards include: David Eldon, chairman of the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited, the Business Person of the Year 2003 award; David Turnbull, chief executive of Cathay Pacific Airways Limited, was named as the winner of the Executive Award; Raymond Tan, executive vice-president of Luen Thai International Group Limited, won the Owner-Operator Award; and Richard Tsang, managing director of the Strategic Financial Relations Limited, won the Young Entrepreneur Award.

The new arrangement increases current civilan air traffic between Turkey and Greece at least 10 times and is important regarding security and order of flights,” the spokesman said. — MNA/Xinhua

Turkey welcomes agreement with Greece over air corridor

ANKARA, 13 Dec — Turkey on Thursday welcomed agreements signed with its rival neighbour Greece over air corridor in the Aegean. Turkish Foreign Ministry spokesman Huseyin Diltsor Thursday said the agreements, signed by Turkish and Greek officials on Wednesday in Paris, will help solve some long-standing air corridor problems between the two countries.

As a result, 13 new international air corridors would be put into the service of the region and the world aviation starting on 25 December, he said, adding that six of those corridors were directly linked with Turkey.

“...the user’s facial image and their fingerprints. A prototype of the document was presented at the Rome’s international airport Fiumicino Thursday by former Undersecretary Mario Baccini, Justice Undersecretary Giuseppe Valentino and the director of airport Fiumicino, Carlo Luzzatti. — MNA/Xinhua

Italy makes world’s first electronic passport

ROME, 13 Dec — The Italian Government has launched world’s first electronic passport, the local media reported Thursday.

The government said the new passport would revolutionize the relationship between citizens and authorities, make life easier for millions of people, and help in the war on terror and fight against illegal immigration. According to the report, the passport consists of little more than a micro-chip inserted into a normal passport, containing what are called two "biometric" data: the user’s facial image and their fingerprints.

Don’t smoke
Kasaynov positive on Kyoto protocol

TOKYO, 13 Dec— Russia, whose support is vital for the future of the Kyoto protocol on global warming, is preparing “special action plan” to ratify the pact, Prime Minister Mikhail Kasaynov told Japanese media in an interview published on Friday.

Kasaynov, adding to a string of seemingly contradictory signals from Moscow on the issue, gave no deadline for signing the treaty, saying only “it will take longer than expected.”

“The Russian Government has a special action plan aiming at preparatory steps for the ratification and we’re about to realize that plan,” the English-language Daily Toryu quoted him as saying in Moscow ahead of a trip to Japan next week.

Kyoto cannot enter into force without backing by nations accounting for 55 per cent of emissions by developed nations. So far, it has reached 44 per cent and hinges on Russia’s 17 per cent in the absence of a US stance of 36 per cent.

In September, Russian President Vladimir Putin retreated from his promises to ratify the protocol soon and Moscow, which accepted it over the treaty after Washington pulled out in 2001, has since given contradictory signals about what it plans to do.

A Japanese official said earlier that Tokyo still hoped Russia would ratify the treaty, which was agreed in the Japanese city of Kyoto in 1997 and aims to cut rich nations’ emissions of carbon dioxide by 5.2 per cent below 1990 levels by 2008-12.

Kasaynov also said Russia would ask Japan to take part in an exploration survey to help Moscow decide on rival Japanese and Chinese plans for a pipeline from East Siberia.

“We need to conduct a thorough geological survey but the Russian Government can’t afford it,” he was quoted as saying. Moscow has been keeping China and Japan guessing about the destination of the pipeline.

Both Japan and China, the world’s second- and third-biggest oil consumers, want to secure supplies as early as possible.

China to get more involved in UN peacekeeping operations

BEIJING, 13 Dec— China is ready to get more involved in the peacekeeping operations of the United Nations to make its efforts to safeguard the peace and stability of the region and world, said Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao.

Liu told a regular Press conference that China in April this year dispatched a force to the Democratic Republic of Congo to participate in the peacekeeping operations of the United Nations. The force includes a 175-person sapper company and a 43-person medical team, he added.

Liu noted that the Chinese force faced different difficulties and completed its tasks over the past months, and has been highly praised by all sides.

According to the UN regulations and the needs of the reality, Liu said, the Chinese peacekeeping force will complete its first split and come back to Beijing on December 15, and the substitute force will take their position on December 13. Liu said that as a permanent member of the UN Security Council, China has always supported the UN’s peacekeeping operation and its mission is to help settle the conflict in Africa, and has actively participated in the peacekeeping operations in the region.

Half of China’s oil consumption will depend on imports

Beijing, 13 Dec— China will see an increasing dependency on crude oil imports, with the amount of crude oil imported rising from 31 per cent in 2002 to 50 per cent four years later in 2007, according to official research released here recently.

Research by China’s Ministry of Communications on marine oil transportation predicted that the country would import 100 million tons of crude oil in 2005, 150 million tons in 2010 and in 2020 the number would soar to 250 to 300 million.

China would become the world’s second-biggest oil importer following the United States and third oil importer after the United States and Japan, said the research report.

The more than 6 per cent annual growth of China’s national economy and the rapid expansion of the economic structure are behind the country’s higher demand for crude oil, but the oil production failed to keep pace with the economic growth and only registered 1.7 per cent growth annually, the research report pointed out.

The shortage of oil supply forced China to become a net oil importer since 1993. Official statistics showed that the volume of imported oil has increased from over 20 million tons to 70 million tons from 1996 to 2002.

China imported approximately 1.4 million barrels of crude oil per day in the international market during the recent years.

China’s average annual consumption of crude oil would be about 2.5 billion tons in the coming five to ten years.

WTO Chief urges more flexibility in negotiations

BRASILIA, 13 Dec— WTO Director-General Supachai Panitchpakdi urged flexibility Thursday in trade negotiations to prevent the intransigence that thwarted the Cancun meeting in Mexico.

Supachai asked the countries of the Group of 20 (G-20) to adopt more flexible positions on agricultural issues to prevent an impasse in the World Trade Organization (WTO) trade negotiations to be held next month under the WTO Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.

“We all need signs of flexibility, otherwise, there will be no advances in Geneva,” Supachai told reporters after a meeting here.

The WTO chief arrived here to participate in the G-20 ministerial meeting on Thursday. He was urging for new approaches to the problems left unresolved at the fifth WTO ministerial conference in Cancun in September, mainly concerning agriculture, before the December meeting.

He said the Cancun meeting failed because of the stubbornness of “each bloc” in the negotiations.

The Cancun meeting was marked by friction between the WTO’s industrialized nations and the G-20 countries led by Brazil.

China men ski past a snow making machine after the opening ceremony of a ski resort at Huairou, northeast of Beijing, on 12 Dec, 2003. A number of ski fields have opened this winter.

WTO's higher demand for crude oil would cause a vital shortage of oil in the coming five to ten years.

China’s rice stock would drop 43 per cent to 83 million tons by July 2004 from the 145.5 million tons seen in the 2001 harvest, he said.

US mortgage giant to pay $125m in fine over accounting

WASHINGTON, 13 Dec— Freddie Mac, the second-largest US mortgage giant, is paying a civil fine of 125 million US dollars for the company’s understatement of earnings over recent years.

In a statement released on Wednesday, the company said it had agreed to resolve matters with the Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight relating to its restatement of prior financial results.

Freddie Mac will also undertake remedial actions to change its governance, corporate culture, internal controls, accounting practices, disclosure and oversight.

This settlement and the resulting reforms represent an important step toward the goal of restoring the full confidence of our investors and the public,” said Shaun F O’Malley, chairman and chief executive officer.

“The reforms to be implemented as part of today’s settlement will build upon and enhance the company’s ongoing remediation programme to address accounting and disclosure weaknesses,” he added.

Freddie Mac, a government-sponsored, publicly traded company with a revenue of 40 billion dollars a year, has been criticized for using structured financial transactions in some cases to smooth out volatility in profits.

Snow calls meeting with Chinese delegation “very productive”

WASHINGTON, 13 Dec— US Treasury Secretary John Snow on Wednesday hailed the meeting with the Chinese delegation headed by Premier Wen Jiabao.

In an interview with the CNBC TV channel on Wednesday, Snow said US officials had “very productive” meetings in the last couple of days with Premier Wen and his tourism team, adding that the discussions were “excellent”.

He said US officials had laid out their views on a variety of issues during the meetings, adding that Chinese officials had reaffirmed their commitment to living up to the obligations of the World Trade Organisation.

Snow said the two sides also talked about the US trade deficit issue.

“It was very much encouraged by those conversations,” he said.

Uruguayan magazine forecasts worldwide rice shortage

MONTevideo, 13 Dec— The world will experience a rice shortage of 21.68 million tons in the coming harvest season, reported the Uruguayan magazine Arroz published this Thursday.

The rice shortage over the last three years totals 63.87 million tons, according to the December issue of the magazine, published by the Asociación de Rice Growers of Uruguay.

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“It was very much encouraged by those conversations,” he said.

Snow called the meeting with Chinese delegation “very productive”.
Real only credible candidates in Spanish quartet

MADRID, 13 Dec—Spain will have four teams in the second round of the Champions League but only Real Madrid will inspire any fear from potential rivals in Friday’s draw after ramshackle campaigns from the other three.

The Spaniards were far from convincing but they managed to snatch a 2-1 win that, combined with defeat for Ajax Amsterdam, proved enough to take them through in second place behind the Italians in Group H.

The two teams managed to qualify in a round of the UEFA Cup on Thursday by becoming the first Chinese to drive a Formula One car when the 21-year-old tested with the Williams team in Spain.

That match was staged at the neutral Gelsenkirchen on UEFA’s orders following a spate of recent bombings in Turkey which left 61 people dead.

The second round of the Champions League will begin on 24 February. — Reuters

**SPORTS**

Valencia cruise past Maccabi in UEFA Cup

ROTTRECHT, 13 Dec—Valencia eased into the third round of the UEFA Cup on Thursday with a 4-0 thrashing of Israel’s Maccabi Haifa at a neutral venue in the Netherlands.

First half goals by David Albeda and Ruben Baraja and two in injury time by David Albeda and Miguel Amorl could not complete the 4-0 aggregate win following the surprise 0-0 first leg draw at the Mestalla Stadium last month. The second leg had originally been switched to Izmir, Turkey, because of the unstable security situation in Israel but the game was moved again, to the Sparta Stadium in Rotterdam, following the bomb attacks in Istanbul late last month.

Maccabi had performed well to hold the Spanish side in the first leg but fell behind after 11 minutes on Thursday when Pablo Aimar set up Mista and he gave goalkeeper Nir Davidovitch no chance. Thirteen minutes later Baraja doubled the Spaniard’s lead as he eased a Vicente cross in from close range.

Maccabi pressed in the second half but rarely threatened and were caught out at the end when Albeda and Angulbo doubled the margin.

**Việtnamese women retains SEA Games soccer title**

HÀI PHONG CITY (Vietnam), 13 Dec—Defending champions Vietnam beat Myanmar 2-1 to retain the women’s soccer title at the South-East Asian Games here on Thursday.

The home side created a lot of scoring opportunities in the first half but failed to materialize.

The Vietnamese broke the deadlock in the 57th minute when Van Thi Thanh fired a shot into the left upper corner of the goal after a slick team-work. Substitute My Nilar Htwe hit an equalizer for Myanmar in the 70th minute with a shot into the left upper hand of goal after a slick team-work.

Goalkeeper Nguyen Thi Phanlet scored four goals for her team in the victory only two minutes later when Nguyen Thi Minh Ngan shot from outside the box deflected off Myanmar defender San Thain before rolling over the line.

“It’s a wonderful match. My players made no mistakes,” said Vietnamese coach Mai Duc Chung.

Goalkeeper Nguyen Thi Kim Hong, who was moved up for the test at UEFA’s decision to paper on to the pitch in provision of meeting Real Madrid, said midfielder Oscar Minambres.

**Champions League final staying in Gelsenkirchen**

NVOS (Switzerland), 13 Dec—This season’s Champions League final will be played in Gelsenkirchen. Germany even if one or two English teams contest the match in an area with a high Turkish population.

European soccer’s governing body UEFA confirmed on Thursday that it was not seeking to change the venue for the match on May 26.

What it will do is review arrangements for the final in the wake of trouble at the Champions League Group G game between Besiktas and Chelsea played there on Tuesday.

**.points**

1.5 million Turkish people are justifiable favourites for the competition by winning this season’s Formula BMW Asia series, drove 42 laps of the 4.428 kilometres Jerez de la Frontera circuit, posting a fastest lap of one minute, 22.982 seconds on lap 33.

Chinese Tung drives into history books in formula one

LONDON, 13 Dec—Ho-Pin Tung made history on Thursday by becoming the first Chinese to drive a Formula One car when the 21-year-old tested with the Williams team in Spain.

Tung, who earned the test-drive chance by winning this season’s Formula BMW Asia series, drove 42 laps of the 4.428 kilometres Jerez de la Frontera circuit, posting a fastest lap of one minute, 22.982 seconds on lap 33.

For both sides, reaching the last 16 in Europe will come as a lucrative bonus but they will soon have to concentrate on climbing away from the danger zone at home.

“Tung is a nice one and it gives prestige to the club but what worries me is the day to day situation in the league.”

As usual, Real Madrid will provide Spain’s best hope of a European title and, unlike the country’s other three representatives, they can look forward to a second-round tie against one of the group runners-up.

“All the teams in the draw will be scared of meeting Real Madrid,” said midfielder Oscar Minambres.

**CROSSWORD PUZZLE**

**ACROSS**

1. Thrift
2. Chinese sash
3. Greek epic
4. Cowardly
5. Vision
6. Innocent
7. Sweetened
8. Attemps
11. Asceticism
17. Before
19. Appears
21. Silly
22. Mimic

**DOWN**

1. Precise
2. Japanese sash
3. Cowardly
4. Vision
5. Innocent
6. Sweetened
11. Asceticism
13. Attempts
18. Plunder
19. Appears

MNA/Xinhua

**MNA/Reuters**
THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR   Sunday, 14 December, 2003

WEATHER

Saturday, 13 December, 2003
Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:

During the past 24 hours, rain or thunderstorms have been isolated light rain in Thanintharyi Division and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Night temperatures were 5°C above normal in Mon State and Tanintharyi Division, 3°C to 6°C below normal in Chin and Rakhine States, Mandalay and Yangon Divisions, 5°C to 6°C below normal in Shan State and Sagaing Division and normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperature was 2°C in Maha.

Maximum temperature on 12-12-2003 was 34.5°C (94°F). Minimum temperature on 11-12-2003 was 16.5°C (62°F). Relative humidity at 9.30 hrs MST on 13-12-2003 was 67%. Total sunshine hours on 12-12-2003 was 8.5 hours approx. Rainfall on 13-12-2003 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2003 was 2211.1 mm (87.05 inches) at Yangon Airport, 2115 mm (91.14 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 2394 mm (94.25 inches) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 10 mph from Northeast at 08:40 hours MST on 13-12-2003.

Rain forecast: According to the observations at 06:30hrs M.S.T today, a low pressure area has formed in Southwest Bay and adjoining with Westcentral Bay and weather is partly cloudy and cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid for the next 24 hours: Likelihood of isolated rainfall or thunderstorms in Rakhine and Chin States, Upper Sagraing and Tanintharyi Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is 80%.

State of the sea: Strong easterly wind with moderate to rough sea are likely at off and along Mon-Tanintharyi Division Coast. Surface wind speed in strong wind may reach 53n.m.p.h.Sav will be moderate in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of isolated rain in Southern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 14-12-2003: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 14-12-2003: Partly cloudy.

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MRTV-3

14-12-2003 (Sunday) (Programme Schedule)

Morning Transmission (9:00 - 10:00)

09:00 Signature Tune Greetings

09:02 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights “Myanmar Panorama & Myanmar Sentiment”

09:06 Towards Putang Thingyan Yaw Region (Part-I)

09:10 Headline News

09:12 Easily Cooked Tasty Dishes (Fish with Drumstick Sour Soup)

09:15 National News

09:20 National News

09:30 National News

09:35 Unique Biodiversity of Irrawaddy Lake

09:40 Song “Every Child Loves to Sing” (A Polio Free World)

09:45 National News

09:50 Song “Every Child Loves to Sing” (A Polio Free World)

09:55 National News

Programme Schedule

8:40 am 
1. Recitation of Paritas by Missionary Saysaw D' U Ottamathara

7:15 am
2. The next day's weather forecast

7:25 am
3. To be healthy exercise

7:30 am
4. Morning news

7:40 am
5. Nice and sweet song

8:05 am
6. Myanmar Handicrafts

8:15 am
7. Beauty & Scenic

8:30 am
8. National News

8:45 am
9. Say it in English

10:00 am
1. Martial Song

11:00 am
2. Musical programme

11:25 am
3. Round-up of the week’s International News

11:40 am
4. ကြည့်ရှုချက်များ (ကြည့်ရှုချက်များ"

July - 2013"

12:15 am
5. Milo success in Soccer

12:30 am
6. Partly cloudy.

2:40 am
7. Myanmar National News

2:45 am
8. International News

4:00 pm
1. Martial Song

4:15 pm
2. Songs to Uplift National Spirit

4:30 pm
3. English for Everyday Use

4:45 pm
4. Myanmar National News

5:00 pm
5. Song of National Races

5:15 pm
6. Industrial Achievement

5:25 pm
7. ကြည့်ရှုချက်များ (ကြည့်ရှုချက်များ"

July - 2013"

5:30 pm
8. Musical Programme

5:45 pm
9. Sing and Enjoy

6:30 pm
10. Evening news

7:00 pm
11. Weather report

7:05 pm
12. National News

7:15 pm
13. Myanmar National News

7:25 pm
14. Musical Programme

7:35 pm
15. Agricultural Country Source’s Development

7:45 pm
16. အနုသိုလ်မှုများ (အနုသိုလ်မှုများ"

August - 2013"

8:00 pm
17. News

8:10 pm
18. International News

8:20 pm
19. Weather report

20. Calico Series A

21. Next day’s programme

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Sunday, December 14

View today:

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8:00 pm
17. News

8:10 pm
18. International News

8:20 pm
19. Weather report

20. Calico Series A

21. Next day’s programme

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Sunday, December 14

Tune in today:

8:30 am
1. Brief news

8:35 am
2. Music

8:40 am
3. Perspectives

8:45 am
4. Music

8:55 am
5. National news/ Slogan

9:05 am
6. Music

9:10 am
7. National news/ Slogan

9:15 am
8. National news/ Slogan

9:25 am
9. “Mai Hwok & Big Tontoes”

10:00 am
10. Songs for children
Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, Heads of State/Government of ASEAN countries pay courtesy call on Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko of Japan

YANGON, 13 Dec — Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and Heads of State/Government of ASEAN countries paid a courtesy call on Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko of Japan at Rensui Hall of Imperial Palace in Tokyo at 4.30 pm on 11 December.

Also present on the occasion were the Crown Prince and Their Imperial Highnesses Prince and Princess Akishinomiya, distinguished guests including His Majesty Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah Muizzaddin Waddaulah, Prime Minister of Cambodia Mr Sandech Hun Sen, President of the Republic of Indonesia Madame Megawati Soekarnoputri, Prime Minister of Laos People’s Democratic Republic Mr Boungnang Vorachith, Prime Minister of Malaysia Dato Sri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt, President of the Republic of Philippines Madame Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, Prime Minister of Singapore Mr Goh Chok Tong, Prime Minister of Thailand Dr Thaksin Shinawatra and Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Mr Phan Van Khai. — MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attends ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit

YANGON, 13 Dec — The opening of ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit and the first session of the summit were held at the Geihinkan State Guest House in Tokyo on 11 December afternoon, attended by Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt.

First, on arrival at the Geihinkan State House where the summit is going to be held, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and Heads of ASEAN nations and governments were welcomed by Prime Minister of Japan His Excellency Mr Junichiro Koizumi.

Next, heads of ASEAN nations and governments had a documentary photo taken together with the Japanese Prime Minister. Afterwards, the first session of the summit was held at the Geihinkan State Guest House at 2 pm.

Prime Minister of Japan Mr Junichiro Koizumi made an opening speech. He said that the summit will have to be put on historic record as it was the first of its kind held outside the ASEAN region. He added that Japan welcomed the ASEAN leaders and had the wishes to further strengthen Japan-ASEAN relations.

Next, the Alternate Chairperson of ASEAN nations President of Indonesia Madame Megawati Soekarnoputri spoke. She said that the ASEAN-Japan relation strengthened during the past 30 years and the ASEAN was grateful to the Japanese government for its assistance to ensure development of ASEAN region. Next, leaders of ASEAN nations and governments expressed their opinions of ASEAN-Japan relations.

Dealing with the discussion, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt said that it was encouraging to witness the development of ASEAN-Japan relations during the past 30 years. Japan remained as a main trade partner of ASEAN and ASEAN was also a main trade partner of Japan, he noted. In addition, Japan was the biggest investor of the ASEAN region, he said and he hoped that Japan will further widen its cooperation in economic alliance and development with ASEAN in the years to come.

Japan has been giving aid in implementing Hanon Action Plan. The pledge to provide assistance for development of basic infrastructures and information (See page 7)

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attends ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit at Geihinkan State Guest House on 11-12-2003. — MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attends dinner hosted by Japanese PM

YANGON, 13 Dec — Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt attended a dinner hosted by Japanese Prime Minister His Excellency Junichiro Koizumi in honour of the heads of State/Government of ASEAN nations at the Imperial Hotel in Tokyo, Japan, on 11 December evening.

On arrival at the hotel, the heads of State/Government of ASEAN nations were welcomed by the Japanese Prime Minister.

Present at the dinner were Bruneian King His Majesty Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah Muizzaddin Waddaulah, Cambodian Prime Minister Mr Sandech Hun Sen, Indonesian President Madame Megawati Soekarnoputri, Laotian Prime Minister Mr Boungnang Vorachith, Malaysian Prime Minister Dato Sri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, Myanmar Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, Philippine President Madame Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, Singaporean Prime Minister Mr Goh Chok Tong, Thai Prime Minister Dr Thaksin Shinawatra, Vietnamese Prime Minister Mr Phan Van Khai, ministers, deputy ministers, ambassadors of ASEAN nations to Japan, the ASEAN Secretary-General and distinguished guests.