Might of intellectuals and intelligentsia plays major role in enabling the nation to keep abreast with international community
Prime Minister attends ceremony to honour those holding doctorate degree

YANGON, 15 Dec — A ceremony to honour those holding doctorate degree at the universities under the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Science and Technology was held at the Diamond Jubilee Hall on Pyay Road here at 11 am today with an address by Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt.

Also present on the occasion were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, ministers, the Chief Justice, the Attorney-General, the Chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board, the Yangon Mayor, deputy ministers, members of Myanmar Education Committee, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Chairman’s Office, heads of department, rectors, professors, faculty members, graduates holding doctorate degree, guests and others.

Speaking on the occasion, Chairman of MEC Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt said that the government is making efforts for enabling the nation to keep abreast with international community. In the process, the might of intellectuals and intelligentsia in the nation plays a major role. With this concept, systematic steps are being taken for producing intellectuals and intelligentsia who are outstanding and highly qualified.

At such a time, constant production of those holding doctorate degree by the respective universities amounts to an increase of the national forces capable of developing the nation. Therefore, it is an honour for the State.

At a time when relentless efforts are being made for the national development based on own national forces, the combination of natural resources and highly qualified human resources is of paramount importance. Especially, at a time when development of science and technology is overwhelming other sectors of the world, it is incumbent upon the national people to safeguard Myanmar which is a developing one from falling under the influence of others. At such a time, absolutely imperative is to firmly build the national immunity.

Therefore, the government is making strenuous efforts to possess strong national wealth, strong science and technology might and for development of the national forces, human resources of high nationalism.

In the education sector, the national education promotion programmes at different levels have been laid down and are being implemented for harmonious development of education goals—development of education network programmes at different levels have been laid down and are being implemented for harmonious development education goals—development of education networks cover the whole nation.

In accord with the future education goal—emergence of the constant learning, Myanmar society—teaching and learning aids are being facilitated at the universities and colleges. At the same time, the learning centres, the resource centres and computer networks have been installed at the universities and colleges to create equal opportunities of teaching and learning across the nation. In addition, the Information and Communication Technology Park-ICT Park, the prerequisite for teaching and learning of higher education were set up in Yangon and Mandalay, helping the information and communication network cover the whole nation.

Thanks to the unity and farsightedness of our forefathers, our country has existed as a united and consolidated Union and not as separate small nations for thousands of years. We have to accept this historical heritage and further consolidate national solidarity and safeguard the Union for its perpetuity.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt delivers an address at the ceremony to honour those holding doctorate degree.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt sends message of condolences to the Philippines

YANGON, 15 Dec — General Khin Nyunt, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of condolences to Her Excellency Mrs Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, President of the Republic of the Philippines on the demise of Mr Blas F Ople, Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Philippines. — MNA

Safeguard the Union for its perpetuity

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
PERSPECTIVES
Tuesday, 16 December, 2003

Let’s strive for national development and perpetual existence of the Union

The Union of Myanmar is a nation with a long history and a high cultural standard. As peace and stability is now prevailing all over the Union, national development tasks are being implemented with increased momentum. Therefore, it is necessary for the entire national people to maintain peace and stability and keep up their efforts for national economic development.

The perpetual existence of the Union is necessary for the bright future of the State and the national people. Therefore, it is the duty of the Union-born nationals to unitedly safeguard their homeland.

The future of a nation is based on its past history and a nation will be able to exist perpetually only if it is built on its national values. Myanmar nationals have a tradition of unitedly fighting against the invaders of their motherland and safeguarding their national independence and sovereignty, sacrificing their life, blood and sweat. Therefore, the government, taking lessons from history, has given top priority to consolidating national unity and putting national development tasks on the fast track so that the future of the State will be brighter.

Now is the time when we are building our own nation through national unity and relying on ourselves. All the necessary measures are being taken on all fronts for parallel development of all the regions across the Union. Roads and bridges, irrigation and communication facilities are being constructed in the interests of the entire national people. The government has to overcome all the limitations in capital, equipment and time through various ways and means.

At such a time like this, our nation should be built with our own national strength so that it will emerge in accordance with our national objectives. Moreover, it is also necessary to hone the skills and qualifications of human resources that play a pivotal role in building the nation.

The government is constantly striving for peace and development of the Union, the entire national people, on their part, should also put their energies into their respective regional development tasks. And we would like to urge them to try their hardest to safeguard the Union so that it will last for ever.

Gardening Course ends

YANGON, 15 Dec — Gardening Course No 2/2003 conducted by the Development Affairs Department of the Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs concluded on 12 December at the training hall in Shwe Dagon Township (North). The 10-week course was attended by 27 trainees under the ministry. Director General of the DADCoM Myo Myint made an concluding speech. — MNA

YANGON Command reaches final

YANGON, 15 Dec — The semi-final match of the 42nd Defence Services Command in Chief’s Trophy Tarmawdaw (Army, Navy and Air) soccer tournament took place this afternoon at the sports grounds of the Thawunna Youth Training centre.

Malaysian Armed Forces delegation visits Yangon

YANGON, 15 Dec — Visiting delegation of Malaysian Armed Forces led by Under-Secretary Dr Hj Ismail bin Hj Ahmad of Policy Division headed to Naval Training Command Headquarter in Thaylinhesive morning, and they were welcomed by Commander of Naval Training Command Headquarter Commodore Maw Thein, Captain Naval Staff (Navy) Nyan Tun and officials.

First, at the reception hall, Captain Naval Staff (Navy) Nyan Tun explained about the history of Naval Training Command Headquarter with audio visual aids. Next, Commodore Maw Thein and delegation of Malaysian Armed Forces exchanged souvenirs and Under-Secretary Dr Hj Ismail bin Ahmad of Policy Division signed in the visitors’ book and posed for a documentary photo.

After the delegation of Malaysian Armed Forces had viewed lectures in training halls, they proceeded to Defence Services Museum on Shwe Dagon Pagoda Road where they were conducted round by Major Kyaw Kyaw Myint of the DSM.

Afterwards, they proceeded to National Museum on Paya Road where they were explained about the salient points of booths displayed by the museum by officials and leader of the delegation signed in the visitors’ book.

After that, they visited Shwe Dagon Pagoda where they were briefed on the history of the pagoda by officials of pagoda board of trustees. — MNA

YANGON, 15 Dec — Cycling coaching course level-1, jointly conducted by the International Olympic Committee and the MOG, at the National Football Training Camp (Thawunna) this morning. After the minister had spoken on the occasion, Mr Moen Wilson, course instructor of the International Cycling Federation, extended greetings. A total of 28 trainees from ministries in states and divisions are attending the course, which continues till 19 December. — MNA

Korean ambassador Mr Lee Kyung Woo makes an address at the Myanmar-Korean businessmen meeting. — MNA

Myanmar, Korean businessmen meet

YANGON, 15 Dec — Under the supervision of the Commercial Division of the Embassy of the Republic of Korea and the Korea Int’l Trade Association (KITA), Myanmar and Korean businessmen met today at the Traders Hotel here.

At the meeting, the two sides cordially discussed matters on trading of leather, vehicles, batteries, petrol and chemicals, health aids, construction materials and domestic products. Vice Chairman of KITA Mr Suk Young Lee extended greetings at the meeting. Next, President of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Win Myint and Korean Ambassador Mr Lee Kyung Woo addressed the meeting. — MNA

Mines Minister receives
Chinese guests

YANGON, 15 Dec — Mr Chen Jian, Assistant Minister of Commerce of the People’s Republic of China, and party called on Brig-Gen Onn Myint, Minister for Mines, at his office at 3.30 pm today.

Also present at the call were officials of the Ministry of Mines. — MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt views the dissertations submitted by doctorate students and cordially greets them at Diamond Jubilee Hall. — MNA

Under Secretary Dr Hj Ismail Bin Hj Ahmad of Policy Division of Malaysian army and party visit Defence Services Museum. — MNA

Cycling coaching course opened

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Saddam tells interrogators “no WMD”

WASHINGTON, 15 Dec — Saddam Hussein denied during the initial interrogation after his capture that Iraq possessed weapons of mass destruction, Time magazine reported on Sunday.

But a US intelligence official in Iraq, the report said, confirmed that when asked if his government had such weapons, Saddam replied: “No. of course not. The US dreamed them up itself to have a reason to go to war with us.”

The news magazine reported that the official, who read a transcript of the interrogation of the former Iraqi president, said the interrogator asked: “If you had no weapons of mass destruction, then why not let the UN inspectors into your facilities?”

Saddam’s reply: “We didn’t want them to go into the presidential areas and intrude on our privacy.”

The US intelligence official, who was not identified, told the magazine that Saddam had not been very cooperative and did not answer any of the initial questions directly.

US general sees more attacks despite Saddam capture

BAGHDAD, 15 Dec — The capture of former president Saddam Hussein will not end attacks against US-led forces in Iraq, the top US general in Iraq said on Sunday.

“We do not expect at this point in time that we will have a complete elimination of those attacks,” Lieutenant-General Ricardo Sanchez told a news conference in Baghdad.

Asked if he expected attacks to avenge Saddam’s arrest, Sanchez said: “Do I expect an increase in retaliation? I don’t know, but we’re prepared.”

US officials blame Saddam supporters and Muslim militants for guerilla attacks that have killed 197 American soldiers since President George W Bush declared an end to major combat in Iraq on May 1. — MNA/Reuters

An Iraqi man shouts anti-American slogans while two US soldiers push him back after a car bomb ripped through a police station in Khaldiyah, 60 km (35 miles) west of Baghdad on 14 December, 2003. At least 17 people died in the latest attack on the force central to Washington’s plans to hand over power in Iraqs. — Internet

Car bomb kills 17, wounds 33 in western Iraq

RAMADI, 15 Dec — An explosion at a police station in western Iraq killed 15 policemen and two civilians, including a seven-year-old girl, and wounded 33 more people, a police lieutenant said.

Witnesses said the explosion was caused by a car bomb, but there was no immediate official confirmation.

Fifteen policemen and a civilian died along with the girl, the lieutenant at the hospital in this western city where the casualties were taken told AFP. The officer refused to be named. Hospital director Qusay Abdullah said the hospital had so far received 16 bodies including that of a seven-year-old girl. Among 33 wounded, five were in a serious condition.

The casualties were rushed from Khaldiyah police station to the nearby Ramadi general hospital, 100 kilometres (60 miles) from Baghdad.

Vietnam strives to boost export

HANOI, 15 Dec — Vietnam has worked out concrete measures, focusing on market forecast, promotion of trade and trademark, to boost its export in 2004.

Specifically, it will put into operation three showroomsin Russia, Dubai of the United Arab Emirates and the United States, and build three new centres for exhibition and fair in capital city Hanoi, central city of Da Nang and southern Dong Nai Province next year.

The Trade Ministry will also intensify trade promotion activities in Vietnam’s major export markets such as the United States, Japan, the European Union, China, and Association of the South-East Asian Nations. Notably 32 million US dollars will be spent on assisting local exporters to expand outlets and build their trademarks under a national key programme on trade promotion. — MNA/Xinhua

S Korea testing for suspected cases of bird flu

SEOUL, 15 Dec — South Korean veterinary experts are carrying out tests on chickens at a farm near the capital Seoul for suspected cases of a highly contagious type of bird flu, which can in the case of certain strains be deadly to humans.

The results of final tests would be released next week and, if confirmed, it would be the first cases of highly pathogenic avian influenza in South Korea, the Agriculture Ministry said in a statement on Friday.

“The National Veterinary Research & Quarantine Service test showed suspected cases of avian influenza in chickens,” the statement said.

“According to the quarantine experts, it is highly possible for this case to be highly pathogenic influenza,” it added.

As a precautionary measure, Korean authorities had destroyed all the remaining 5,000 chickens at the affected farm, which is about 50 miles southeast of Seoul, the statement said. Between December 5 and 11 some 19,000 chickens had died out of a total of 24,000, it added.

In rare instances, strains of highly pathogenic avian influenza can be lethal to humans. Bird flu killed six people in Hong Kong in 1997, and another man this year.

“It is too early to say it is H5N1 avian influenza but, if it is, it would be Korea’s first case,” an official at the ministry told Reuters by telephone.

South Korea’s poultry industry has 100 million chickens mainly for local consumption with little in the way of exports, official data showed.

Since 1996, South Korea has only recorded cases of low pathogenic avian influenza. The ministry said it would monitor neighbouring farms within a six-mile zone around the affected farm.

Earlier this year, the Netherlands, the world’s fourth-largest poultry exporter, slaughtered around 26 million birds at some 250 farms to contain an outbreak of avian influenza that was first discovered in February. — MNA/Reuters

Turkey catches Istanbul bombmaker

ISTANBUL, 15 Dec — Turkish police have arrested a man they believe built the four car bombs that killed dozens in Istanbul last month.

The mass-circulation Hurriyat newspaper said the man had been arrested while trying to cross from Turkey into Iran using a false passport.

US troops injured in Kuwait attack

BAGHDAD, 15 Dec — Four US soldiers have received “minor injuries from broken glass” in two attacks with small arms fire against US convoys in Kuwait.

The soldiers “suffered slight injuries in a terrorist attack against two military convoys,” the official KUNA news agency said earlier on Sunday, quoting Kuwait Television.

Kuwait served as a launchpad for last March’s US-led invasion of Iraq which led to the ouster of Iraqi president Saddam Hussein, whose capture after eight months on the run was announced by US forces earlier Sunday. — Internet

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US expects Iraq resistance to continue

Baghdad, 15 Dec — The commander of US forces in Iraq said on Sunday he believed the resistance against the American occupation would continue despite the capture of former leader Saddam Hussein.

US officials have said they believed Saddam’s capture would be crucial to pacifying the country, which has been in a state of guerilla war in the eight months since President Bush declared major combat over on 1 May.

But Lt Gen Ricardo Sanchez, the commander of US forces in Iraq, cautioned against expecting the resistance — which many said found its direction and inspiration in Saddam’s continued freedom — would end quickly.

“We do not expect at this point in time that we will have a complete elimination of those attacks,” Sanchez said at a Baghdad news conference where Saddam’s capture was announced by L Paul Bremer, the top US civilian leader in Iraq. — Internet
4,000 Iraqi refugees leave Saudi Arabia for home

Riyadh, 15 Dec — Some 4,000 Iraqi refugees in 12 convoys have left the Saudi refugee camp of Rafha for home, an official of the UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) said.

The repatriation took place under coordination between the UNHCR and Saudi and Kuwaiti authorities, said Ambassador Mostafa Omar, the UNHCR regional representative to the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries.

Omar pointed out that Saudi Arabia had fully cooperated with the UNHCR in carrying out the programme after hosting the refugees for 12 years.

The UNHCR is coordinating with the civil administration in Iraq to return another group of refugees to the Arab country. Some 1,200 Iraqi refugees are still in the Rafha refugee camp. According to the repatriation programme, they would be returned to Iraq in batches up to the end of January next year. — MNA/Alquds

Bomb kills US soldier in Iraq

Baghdad, 15 Dec — A US soldier was killed on Sunday when an explosive device he was trying to disarm blew up, the US military said in a statement.

"The soldier, a trained explosive ordnance disposal specialist, approached the improvised explosive device to disarm it when the device exploded," the statement said.

US-led occupation forces, facing almost daily attacks, scored a major coup Saturday with the capture of ousted Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein. — Internet

Row over Iraqi contracts clouds EU summit

Brussels, 15 Dec — A row over a US decision to bar Iraq war opponents from reconstruction contracts spilled over into a European summit on Friday as officials questioned the wisdom of Washington’s move before key debt talks.

Countries that will lose out because of Washington’s decision strongly criticized the move in the corridors of a European Union summit and officials said the controversy would probably be discussed later by the leaders.

At the same time, the leaders approved a statement voicing support for Iraqi reconstruction and stressing the importance of good transatlantic relations, which have been shaken by a rift over the Iraq war and trade disputes.

"I don’t think the US position (on contracts) is sustainable. It goes against international rules," Swedish Prime Minister Goran Persson told reporters.

Swedish Foreign Minister Laila Freivalds added: "It is completely unacceptable that the United States limits this to certain countries and completely shuts out others from the possibility of competing in a normal way for the contracts."

She said the issue had not been discussed yet at the summit but said it was certain to come up.

However, Prime Minister Tony Blair of Britain, a staunch US ally which stands to benefit from Iraqi contracts, defended President George W Bush’s decision.

"It’s for the Americans to decide how they spend their money. This is American money," Blair told reporters.

Other officials said the decision was unwise when several of the leading war critics, including France, Germany and Russia, were among big creditors of Iraq whose help Washington needs in its drive to reduce Iraq’s debt.

The German Government said on Friday it was optimistic the row could be resolved.

"No decisions have been made yet and we should wait to see what the results are of the meetings with James Baker," said government spokesman Thomas Stieg, referring to the former US Secretary of State who will visit Europe next week. — MNA/Reuters

Fear rides the highway in Ohio shootings

Columbus (Ohio), 15 Dec — Interstate 270 circling Ohio’s capital city is a routine strand of highway; but driving one stretch of it has become for some a trip through a shooting gallery.

"It’s terrible. (She) wasn’t doing nothing, but driving down the road." — Gail Kaisley, the only known fatality in the shooting spree concentrated on or near an eight-mile stretch of the road. Police are investigating 15 shootings mostly targeting vehicles, the earliest last May but most of them in the past two months.

Investigators say they believe the 15 are somehow linked, though the only hard evidence they have is that six of the bullets came from the same gun. Those six included the fatality, a shot taken at a car in a dealer’s lot, one shot at a school, one at a house and two at vehicles. — MNA/Reuters

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman on Iraq reconstruction

Beijing, 15 Dec — Relevant countries’ legal rights in the reconstruction of Iraq should be respected and all countries should equally and jointly participate in Iraq’s reconstruction, said Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao here.

Liu made the remarks when asked to comment on the fact that several anti-Iraq war countries including China were excluded by the United States from tendon for the Iraq reconstruction contracts of 18.6 billion US dollars.

Liu said the Chinese side is concerned about the US action, which is unhelpful to mobilizing the international community to join in the Iraq reconstruction.

China and the international community have made great efforts on the Iraq issue and have provided humanitarian assistance to Iraq, he added. — MNA/Xinhua

Row over Iraqi contracts clouds EU summit
IRAQ UNDER US OCCUPATION

US soldiers pass a vehicle that was destroyed in a car bomb blast outside a police station in village of Khalidiyah, some 35 miles west of Baghdad, on 14 December, 2003. A car bomb ripped through a police station in western Iraq on Sunday, killing at least 10 people and wounding dozens, witnesses and hospital sources said.—INTERNET

Troops of the US Army’s 4th Infantry Division prepare to enter a house during a raid in the town of Baquba in central Iraq, on 14 December, 2003.—INTERNET

An Iraqi man laughs while an Iraqi soldier performs a security check in Baghdad, on 14 December, 2003.—INTERNET

US soldiers redirect traffic after a suspected roadside bomb was found beside a road in Baghdad on 14 December, 2003. The device was dismantled by a US Army bomb squad.—INTERNET

US Lt Col Steven Russell, commander of the 1st Battalion, 22nd Regiment of the 4th Infantry Division sprays over anti-American graffiti which reads ‘We will kill every American soldier’, while on patrol in Tikrit, Iraq, late Sunday night, on 14 December, 2003.—INTERNET

Picture shows the antenna of a suspected roadside bomb sitting beside a road in Baghdad on 14 December, 2003.—INTERNET

US soldiers redirect traffic after a vehicle that was destroyed in a car bomb blast outside a police station in village of Khalidiyah, some 35 miles west of Baghdad, on 14 December, 2003. A car bomb ripped through a police station in western Iraq on Sunday, killing at least 10 people and wounding dozens, witnesses and hospital sources said.—INTERNET

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Iraqi man laughs while an Iraqi soldier performs a security check in Baghdad, on 14 December, 2003.—INTERNET
Hailing the 56th Anniversary Independence Day:

The unyielding spirit of national people of Myanmar

Myanmar is a sovereignty nation and has its own history. According to the evidence of Pondaungia fossils geologists found in Pondaung region in central Myanmar, it can be assumed that Myanmar is the origin of human being. Man has lived in Myanmar since over 40 million years ago. Myanmars have been living under the umbrella of their own kings from King Abharaaja of Tagaung Dynasty to King Shihaw of Konbaung Dynasty. Tagaung, Sri Khittara, Bagan, Pinya, Sagaing, Iawa, Toungoo and Nyangyan proved the grandeur of ancient Myanmar cities.

The first Myanmar Empire was established with its capital in Bagan under the reign of King Anawrahta who ascended the throne in AD 1044. The Second Myanmar Empire came into existence in AD 1551 when King Bayinnaung was on the throne, with Toungoo and Hanthawady as its capital cities. In AD 1752, the Third Myanmar Empire was founded by King Alaung Phaya U Aung Zeya, who made Shwebo its capital.

Taking advantage of industrial advancement in the Europe in the 19th century, the British came to wage wars to own colonies. They later launched attacks on Myanmar without apparent reason.

As Raja of Manipur Majit Singh, who was made king by Myanmar, rose in revolt against Myanmar, the King of Sagaing had to quell them in 1819. Majit Singh fled to Cachar and then to British soil, and asked for assistance from the raja of Cachar. Myanmar armies engaged with British armies at a battle in Cachar. In the fight, British armies suffered many losses. In the photo, General Maha Bandoola was seen inspecting colonialist prisoners caught in the fight.

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February 1826 that the Yadano Treaty was signed and K 2.5 million was paid as war repARATION. The British Military Officer pays courtesy call on Aungaminthaya.

Myanmars also conquered their next dependencies and Manipur; to recognize Yoma Phokhaung range as British-Myanma border; and to pay K 10 million as war reparation to cover the military expenditure. Agga Maha General Maha Bandoola was the one who fought bravely in Panwa battle, the most significant battle in Konbaung era and the battle in which the British suffered heavy losses. And the name of Maha Bandoola deserved to be documented.

Wettigan battle also stood as a proof that all the national races residing in the Union of Myanmar would launch counterattacks whenever the sovereignty of the nation was threatened.

Wettigan battle was a historic battle in which Myanmars fought the colonialists on the basis of Union Spirit sprouting from the national solidarity. The first Anglo-Myanmar war lasted nearly two years. Bamars, Kachans, Chins, Mons, Rakhines and Shans took part hand in hand in the battlegrounds of Assam, Manipur and Chittagon. Moreover, Shan women along with Shan men also fought the colonialists in the first Anglo-Myanmar War.

Under the Yadano Treaty, Myanmar had to give up Assam, Manipur, Rakhine and Taninthayi regions to the British. However, Kayins, Bamar, Mons and Rakhinnes, after mobilizing men and weapons, waged wars against the colonialists. National patriots led by Bo Lan and Man Kya Giy in Danubyu region, Mayors U Shwe Loak and U Myat Lay in Myeik region, U Aung Kyaw Shl, U Aung Kyaw San, Bo Shwe Pan, and Bo Tha Kho in Rakhine showed their bravery in the first Anglo-Myanmar War, in which they all fought the colonialists in the spirit of not wanting to be enslaved.

(Translation: KTY)
Hailing the 56th Anniversary Independence Day:
Leaders of anti-colonialist struggle

The anti-colonialist struggles and the national independence struggles the people had daringly launched in unity at the risk of their lives and with courage and firm Union Spirit and patriotism have always been prominent.

Bo Min Yaung of Myolulin: There occurred a series of anti-colonialist struggles throughout Myanmar for a decade from 1886 to 1895. The photo shows Bo Min Yaung, who fought against the colonialists in Myolulin as of 1886.

Bo Cho of Bagan region: Anti-colonialist struggles took place all over Myanmar for a decade from 1886 to 1895. Bo Cho, heroic patriot from Bagan, the cradle of Myanmar History, fought against the colonialists bravely.

Bo Ya Nyunt of Welaung: The photo shows Bo Ya Nyunt, Governor of Myingaung, who received Nay Myo Min Hla Kyaw Khaung Title and fought against the colonialists in Welaung township beginning 1886.

At dawn on 1 April 1825, Commander Maha Bandoola, despite his tiredness owing to lack of sleep, managed to take charge of his armies on the battle ground with the undaunted intrepidity. In the photo, he was seen inspecting a check-point built on a tree in a battle ground and giving orders to his subordinates. Great General Thadoe Thudhamma Maha Bandooola, Myanmar hero, died in action in that battle.

The colonists invaded Lower Myanmar in 1627 on the pretext of trade. Myanmar indefatigable patriots managed to capture the Thanlyn fortress of Nga Zin Ka, quisling who helped the colonialists assault the sovereignty of Myanmar.
Might of intellectuals and intelligentsia plays…

(from page 1)

At a time when teaching and learning aids are on the go for higher education, it is encouraging to witness the extended conducting of courses on post-graduate diploma, Master degree, M Research degree and PhD degree at universities to produce highly qualified human resources all the more.

Likewise, departments for human resource development have been opened at universities, and over 150 courses on post-graduate diploma, Master degree and others are being conducted to create the opportunity of constant learning, he stressed.

He said over 2,600 students are taking 31 doctorate courses at Yangon University, Mandalay University, Yangon Institute of Economics and Yangon Institute of Education under the Ministry of Education. Similarly, nearly 180 trainees are doing 36 Ph.D and Dr. Med.Sc courses under the Ministry of Health.

Some 470 trainees are attending doctorate courses on engineering science, engineering and architects and information and communication conducted at Yangon Technology University, Mandalay Technology and Yangon University of Computer Studies, he said.

Universities and institutes under the Ministry of Education produced 119 Ph.D graduates; institutes of medicines, 71; and universities under the Ministry of Science and Technology, 173; totalling 363 Ph.D graduates.

He said continuous development of highly-qualified human resources are better foundations for uplift of national education and for the State to keep abreast of communities of the world, and they can preserve and promote the dignity of the nation and the people.

In an effort to promote better foundations for development of science and technology, prospects for high national education standard and educational development, capabilities of intellectuals and intelligentsia such as Ph.D graduates who are well-versed in science and technology of international standard are very important, he said.

He said the Ph.D graduates are to serve the interest of the nation making the most of educational opportunities and better foundations created by the government, knowledge learned, perseverance, diligence, determination and lofty education goals.

After being honoured by the government deserving, the Ph.D graduates are to participate in efforts for emergence of a modern developed nation by applying advanced education, valuable experiences and research findings for national interest, he said.

He urged them to take part in the government’s efforts by playing their respective roles for continuous development of highly-qualified human resources, propagation of science and technology in the country and development of research up to international level and to make endeavours to become knowledge-based Myanmar society.

He called for their cooperation in successful implementation of the seven-point future programme of the State to shape a peaceful, modern development nation.

In conclusion, he urged them to make efforts for development of the nation with added momentum with the application of their knowledge and to serve the interest of the nation.

Next, the Prime Minister presented awards and certificates of honour to Ph.D graduates of various universities and institutes.

On behalf of the Ph.D graduates, Associate Professor of Yangon Institute of Medicine-2 Dr. Nay Win spoke words of thanks.

The Prime Minister and party posed for documentary photo. The Prime Minister observed theses submitted by the PhD graduates.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt presents a prize to a Ph.D degree holder from a university under the Ministry of Education. — MNA

Military and marching song competition to commemorate 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day to be held

YANGON, 15 Dec— As a gesture of hailing the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day, which falls on 27 March 2004, the subcommittee for holding the military marching song competition of the work committee for the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day to international level and to make endeavours to become knowledge-based Myanmar society, he said.

He called for their cooperation in successful implementation of the seven-point future programme of the State to shape a peaceful, modern development nation.

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Cash donated to disabled athletes

YANGON, 15 Dec— A cash donation ceremony for the disabled athletes who will participate in the 2nd ASEAN games for the disabled to be held in Hanoi, Vietnam, on 18-28 December, took place this afternoon at National Sports Stadium-1 here.

Minister for Sports Brig. Gen Thura Aye Myint also made an address at the ceremony and accepted the donations.

At the ceremony, Brig. Gen Thura Aye Myint also presented US $10,000 donated by the Ministry of Sports through Resettlements of the Ministry of Defence Maj-Gen Aung Thein. Afterwards, Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, Maj-Gen Aung Thein and officials accepted the donations made by the ministries, Yangon City Development Committee, companies and wellwishers and presented certificates of honour.

Chinese Assistant Minister of Commerce calls on F & R Minister

YANGON, 15 Dec— Chinese Assistant Minister of Commerce calls on F & R Deputy Minister Col Hla Hein Sae and officials.

Chinese Assistant Minister of Commerce calls on F & R Deputy Minister Col Hla Hein Sae and officials. — MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt presents a prize to a Ph.D degree holder from a university under the Ministry of Education. — MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and Ph.D degree holders pose for a documentary photo in honour of the Ph.D degree holders from the universities under the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Science and Technology. — MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt presents a prize to a Ph.D degree holder from a university under the Ministry of Education. — MNA

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Minister Col Thein Nyunt and leaders of delegation from ASEAN nations pose for a documentary photo at the opening of the Fourth ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication — MNA

Fourth Senior Officials Meeting...
(from page 16)

The development measures have been implemented in coordination with various ministries and relevant de- partments, starting from all the basic needs. Development measures had started since 1989 and the Master Plan for the Development of Border Areas and National Races was implemented starting from 1993-1994 fiscal year up to 2005-2006. The plan consists of short-term and medium-term plans including regional integrated development measures. Development endeavours that have been given priority include building of roads and bridges, schools, hospitals and dispensaries which are important infra- structure and development. In the past, there were only earthen roads in the border areas. At present there are asphalt roads and gravel roads, steel bridges and suspension bridges.

To provide basic education and primary health services in the border areas primary schools and dispensaries and station hospitals have been established. To date, a total of over 5,000 miles of roads have been constructed along with 890 bridges, 750 schools, where 100,000 students are being enrolled. Altogether 52 hos- pitals and 110 dispensaries have been opened for the provision of primary health care services. A total of K 49,065 million have been spent for the development of border areas and national races during the period from 1989 to date.

To have equitable develop- ment all over the country, the State has established 24 Special Development Zones and has been implementing education, health and socio-economic development de- favours. For the human re- sources development, the State has been establishing universities, technological universities, computer col- leges, high schools, middle schools and 200 bedded hos- pitals for health services. Today there are 154 univer- sities and colleges and 140 200-bed hospitals have been established throughout the country.

At the same time while implementing border areas development tasks, the Head of State instructed the im- plementation of rural devel- opment measures. Accord- ingly, the Ministry for PBANDRA has been imple- menting the construction of rural feeder roads and the provision of safe drinking water schemes. There are about 23,000 villages where safe drinking water is scarce in the central dry zone of Mandalay, Magwe and Sagaing divi- sions in Myanmar. The 10 year Master Plan for provid- ing safe drinking water for 8,000 villages in the above mentioned Divisions have been formulated and imple- mented. Two years after the initiation of the project, over 4,000 villages are now enjoying safe drink- ing water. This project has been imple- mented with the funds provided by the government and donations from the people, embassies, int- ernational agencies, NGOs and wellwishers who have donated generously for the development of rural popula- tion. Sixty percent of the rural populace are farmers and are engaged in agriculture. Myanmar is also an agricul- ture country and in order to enhance the production, the State has been reclaiming wet lands and virgin lands to ex- pand the land use for cultiva- tion. The State encouraged and facilitated the farmers not only for monsoon rice but also for summer rice cultivation.

A total of 1,000 million baskets of paddy have been produced annually since 2000-2001 fiscal year and that has increased the income of the farmers and uplifted the standard of living of the people.

In conclusion, he wished all the distinguished dele- gates who have attended this Fourth ASEANCOMROPE to express their joy and pleasant stay in Yangon, and for the successful deliberations in order to enhance the production, the State government has been reaping wet lands and virgin lands to ex- pend the land use for cultiva- tion. The State encouraged and facilitated the farmers not only for monsoon rice but also for summer rice cultivation.

YANGON, 15 Dec — The 7th annual general meeting of Myanmar Custom Clearing Representatives Association was held at Layapayin Plaza on Anapaya Pagoda Road in Dagon Township here yester- day morning. It was attended by Cus- toms Department Director General Col Khin Maung Lin, Deputy Director-General Thida Thu Tha Win Tin Young, Union Minister of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry President U Win Myint, Vice-President U Zaw Min Win, General Secretary U Sein Win Hlaing and executive members of Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs Association President Daw Khin Myint Myint, Secretary Daw Hla Wady, members of MCCRA and guests.

First, MCCRA President U Myo Than, Col Khin Maung Lin and U Win Myint made speeches. Next, the annual report and final statement of the executive committee of the MCCRA were read out and approved.

Later, the new 15-member executive committee including Chairman U Myo Than and Secretary U Hla Hsuang were elected.

MCCRA holds Annual General Meeting

YANGON, 15 Dec — Authorities searched suspects Hla Shwe, Zaw Min Tun, Soe Win Htui and Kyaw Thein at Nanpalyai check- point, Selu Region, Shan State East on 16 October and seized them with 11 kilogrammes of heroin and 1.178 kilos concealed in condones. They were handed over to Kengtung District Police Force on 10 October. In connection with the case, action is being taken against the above four cul- prits—Hla Shwe, son of U Ramal of Poutkaw, Insein Township, Zaw Min Tun, son of U Maung Nay of the same township, Soe Win Htui (a) Saw Win Htui at No 7 Ward, Thanlyin Township, Kyaw Thein, son of U Ht Kyat at No 156th Street, Tamway Town- ship under Section 15(3)(a) 21 of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law by Kengtung Police Sta- tion.

Similarly, a combined team comprising members of Local Intelligence Unit under Special Anti- Drug Squad, action on infor- mation, searched the house of Tom Konechi at No 1306, 5th Floor, 21 of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law by Kengtung Police Sta- tion.

In connection with the case, action is being taken against Tom Konechi who was arrested at No 1306, 5 Ward, Laishio under Section of 15(19)(a) of Nar- cotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law by No 1 Police Station of Laishio.

Leaders and Goals of the Past Year

Chairman U Myo Than addresses the annual general meeting of Myanmar Customs Clearing Representatives Association — MNA

Premier league soccer continues

YANGON, 15 Dec — The matches of the premier league soccer tournament, organized by the Myanmar Football Federation, are now underway.

In today’s match, the transport-A team played a goalless draw to the forestry team. The man of the match award went to Mya Min Oo of the transport-A team.

1st Korean Trade Fair-2003 to be held

YANGON, 15 Dec — Jointly organized by Korean Embassy to Myanmar and Trade Investment Promotion Agency of the Republic of Korea, the 1st Korean Trade Fair-2003 has been arranged to be held at Yangon Trade Centre from 18 to 20 Decem- ber, at the fair, altogether 45 Korean companies will exhibit electronic gadgets, elec- trical goods, telephone and telegraph items, machine tools, medical and chemicals, construction ma- terials, fashion items and dif- fered kinds of household goods. It will also include entertainment and lucky draw programmes. — MNA

Heroin and Stimulant Tablets Seized

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MNA

Tom Konechi seen with seized drugs. — MNA

Training course on disease diagnosis in village chicken concludes

U Maung Maung Nyunt gave a course concluding speech. Expert Dr Ian W Wilkie and Professor Allan Prest of Queensland Uni- versity of Australia and Director Dr Than Hla ex- plained facts about the course. Eleven veterinarian trainees were presented conclusion certificates. — MNA

Chairman U Myo Thant addresses the annual general meeting of Myanmar Customs Clearing Representatives Association. — MNA

Minister Col Thein Nyunt and leaders of delegation from ASEAN nations pose for a documentary photo at the opening of the Fourth ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication — MNA

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Regional development measures inspected in Thandwe District

YANGON, 15 Dec — Maj-Gen Maung Oo, Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council and Commander of Western Command, accompanied by departmental officials, inspected roads and bridges along An-Ma-i motor road on 12 December and gave instructions to officials. First, the commander arrived at Talataung camp at the mile post No 314 on An-Padekaw-Ma-i motor road, where he heard reports on progress in construction of roads and bridges and gave instructions.

Next, the commander went to Ma-i village and at the briefing hall of the village, officials reported on construction of the Lontawpaik bridge and the Pinkyaung creek bridge. After hearing the reports, the commander gave instructions and attended to the requirements.

The commander also inspected other bridge construction projects and the tasks for reclamation of farmland and gave instructions. In the evening, the commander arrived at the briefing hall in Ma-i and met with local authorities and township-level departmental officials and gave instructions on agriculture and livestock breeding work. He also heard reports presented by officials and fulfilled the requirements.

At the guest house in Taungkyo on 13 December morning, the commander met with townstewards, departmental officials, and members of social organizations and gave instructions on implementation of the five rural development tasks. He also attended to the requirements.

After inspecting roads and bridges along Taungkyo-Thandwe motor road, the commander attended a ceremony to dedicate cash to the construction of school buildings at the basic education primary school in Phayamaw village, Thandwe township. On the occasion, the commander handed over K 1.25 million donated by the Yamonna Fisheries Enterprise, K 300,000. The donations were received by an official of the village.

Next, the commander gave instructions on implementation of the five rural development tasks. He also heard reports and attended to the requirements.

In the afternoon, the commander went to the office of Thandwe District Peace and Development Council. At the meeting hall, he met with local authorities and departmental officials and gave instructions on agriculture and livestock breeding work. After hearing reports presented by officials, the commander fulfilled the requirements.

Prime Minister general Kyi Nyunt presents gifts to a doctorate degree holder at the ceremony to honour those who received doctorate degrees. (News on page 1) — MNA

The 57th Anniversary Union Day objectives

— for all national races to safeguard the national policy— non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty
— to keep the Union spirit ever alive and dynamic among the national people
— for all national people to defend and safeguard the Union for its perpetual existence
— to prevent, through national solidarity, the danger of internal and external destructive elements undermining peace and stability of the State and national development, and
— for all national races to make concerted efforts for successful implementation of the seven-point future policy programme.

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

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

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

Domestic Science Training Schools open in different states and divisions

YANGON, 15 Dec — The Education and Training Department of the Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs opened Basic Domestic Science Training Course No (35/2003) and Advanced Tailoring Course No (7/2003) in Lashio this morning, attended by Chairman of Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council North-East Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing and wife, chairmen of district and township PDC and members, members of women’s affairs and maternal and child welfare association.

Altogether 48 trainees are attending the above courses.

Similar opening ceremonies of Basic Domestic Science Training Course No (35/2003) and Advanced Tailoring Course No (7/2003) were held in Pha-an this morning, attended by Chairman of Tanintharyi Division Peace and Development Council Coastal Region Command Commander Brig-Gen Ohn Myint and wife, chairmen of district and township PDC and members, members of women’s affairs and maternal and child welfare association.

Altogether 40 trainees are attending the courses.

Altogether 17 trainees are attending the courses. Likewise, opening ceremonies of Basic Domestic Science Training Course No (4/2003) and Advanced Tailoring Course No (1/2003) were held in Pha-an this morning, attended by Chairman of Kayin State Peace and Development Council Col Khin Kyu Kyaw and wife, Brig-Gen Nywe Thim of Pha-an Station, chairmen of district and township PDC and members, members of women’s affairs and maternal and child welfare association.

Altogether 30 trainees are attending the courses.

Domestic Science Training Schools open in different states and divisions

MNA

The Fourth ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication in progress. (News on page 16) — MNA
Hailing the 56th Anniversary Independence Day:

Images of electric power projects

Emergence of electric power station projects in the time of State Peace and Development Council

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>1988</th>
<th>2003</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Units consumed (in million)</td>
<td>Over 2,000</td>
<td>Over 5,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maximum capacity (Megawatt)</td>
<td>Over 300</td>
<td>Over 800</td>
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<tr>
<td>Installed capacity (Megawatt)</td>
<td>Over 700</td>
<td>Over 1,200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Length of 230 KV Line (mile)</td>
<td>Over 600</td>
<td>Over 850</td>
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<tr>
<td>Length of 132 KV Line (mile)</td>
<td>790</td>
<td>Over 1,165</td>
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<td>Hydel power station project</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gas-fired power station project</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Power projects under implementation</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Units consumed (in million)            | Over 2,000 |
| Maximum capacity (Megawatt)            | Over 300   |
| Installed capacity (Megawatt)          | Over 700   |
| Length of 230 KV Line (mile)           | Over 600   |
| Length of 132 KV Line (mile)           | 790        |
| Hydel power station project            | —          |
| Gas-fired power station project        | —          |
| Power projects under implementation    | —          |

Mass-producing electricity in Myanmar

The photo shows Maipan Hydel Power Station constructed on the east of Monghsat Township in Shan State (East).

The Thaphanhseik Hydel Power Station, which was opened on 18 June 2002, is located near Thaphanhseik Village, Kyunhla Township, Shwebo District, Sagaing Division.

Mone Creek Hydel Power Station, which will generate 75 megawatts of electricity, is being constructed with modern equipment at the multipurpose project of the Mone Creek Dam to fulfil the needed electricity in Magway Division.

Measures are being taken systematically in order to meet the rising demand of electricity as the consumption of electricity is on the increase along with the higher living standard of the people at a time when the nation is undergoing development.

Under construction are 11 hydel power station projects including the Paunglaung Hydel Power Station Project that can generate 280 megawatts of electricity and the Yeywa Hydel Power Station Project that can generate 780 megawatts of electricity. On completion of the projects, more than 1,960 megawatts of electricity will be generated.
CLAMPS DAY NOTICE
MV JATI WANGI PB-400 VOY NO (373)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV JATI WANGI PB-400 Voy No (373) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16-12-03 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will be at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11.20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMAR PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR MS ADVANCE CONTAINER LINE Phone: 2569/03/783165767677

Shenyang-Bangkok charter flights start

SHENYANG, 15 Dec — The northern branch of China Southern Airlines (CSA) is offering a regular charter flight service from this capital of northeast China’s Liaoning Province, to Bangkok, capital of Thailand.

Cui Yu, flight control manager of the CSA’s northern branch, told reporters that previously there were only irregular charter flights between the two cities, but the growing number of tourists from Shenyang wishing to fly to Bangkok in the past few months has made regular charter flights a necessity.

The regular charter flight service, using Airbus-300, which debuted December 5, is available at Shenyang every Friday evening this month until late March next year.

MNA/Xinhua
Internet summit makes call to “wire up” the world

GENEVA, 15 Dec — More than 170 countries approved on Friday an ambitious call to extend the Internet and the benefits of information technology to the poorest corners of the world, but dodged some of the difficulties of doing so.

In particular, they put off a decision on whether to set up a special fund to finance the necessary infrastructure, for which African countries had called hard.

The first World Summit on the Information Society wound up three days of lofty speech-making by endorsing a declaration of principles and a 29-point action plan, completed after hard bargaining just hours before the gathering got under way.

The declaration committed them to using telecommunications technologies, such as the Worldwide Web and mobile phones, to boost economic growth and meet United Nations development targets for eradicating extreme hunger and poverty by 2015.

“The declaration represents a sort of Constitution for the Information Society which must contain a social dimension and foster development,” said Swiss President Pascal Couchepin, whose country hosted the UN-sponsored gathering.

Around 90 per cent of the world population is not connected to the Internet, depriving them of a 21st Century resource and digging a “digital divide” between rich and poor. But richer states, notably Japan and the European Union, which generally did not send government officials to Geneva, resisted calls for a “Solidarity Fund” to close the gap. As a compromise, states agreed to study the issue further and report back before the follow-up summit in Tunis in 2005.

But it was not just the wealthy states that opposed rushing into new financing. Senior UN officials agreed it was better first to explore improved use of existing resources from the World Bank and other sources.

“It must take its place in line along with health and education. It has to be linked to investment in these areas otherwise it would be just a waste of public money,” said Mark Mallock Brown, head of the UN Development Programme (UNDP).

Also postponed was a showdown over Internet management, with developing countries such as Brazil pressing for a greater role for the United Nations or intergovernmental agencies in a business currently left to the private sector in rich states. — MNA/Reuters

US public health system not prepared to handle pandemic

LOS ANGELES, 15 Dec — Despite a two-billion-dollar federal investment, the US public health system is only marginally better prepared today to handle a bioterrorism attack or other health emergency than it was in 2001, the USA Today quoted a report as saying Friday.

The study by the non-profit organization, Trust for America’s Health, found that efforts to prepare for health emergencies have been hampered by state budget deficits, a shortage of medical workers, red tape and disagreement between state and local officials over who should get the money.

The report shows that only two states, Florida and Illinois, have shown that they could receive and distribute shipments from a national stockpile of vaccines, antidotes and other medical supplies that can be sent within 12 hours of an attack or outbreak.

Break. Whether it is terrorists or a virulent strain of flu that causes a health emergency, “we are not ready”, said Shelley Hearne, director of the Trust for America’s Health.

The report said progress has been made to upgrade state laboratory technologies, develop bioterrorism plans and increase communication between state and local health officials. But Hearne said that even a massive influx of federal money cannot make up for what she called “two decades of underinvestment” in public health. — MNA/USA Today

Pakistan to remove mistrust, suspicion with India

ISLAMABAD, 15 Dec — Pakistani Foreign Minister Khurshid Kasuri has said that his country’s foreign policy has always been to remove all mistrust and unwarranted suspicions between India and Pakistan, English newspaper The News reported Saturday.

At a two-day conference on “Peace Dividend — Progress for India and South Asia” Friday in New Delhi, Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee called for mutual security cooperation, open borders and even a single currency in the long run in South Asia.

Responding to these remarks, Kasuri told the newspaper that the real issue is to remove mistrust and suspicions from the Pakistani-Indo relations and this can only be possible if there is a dialogue.

“There is no intervention in the world which can solve issues without dialogue. The first step will be the meetings at the 12th summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC),” said Kasuri. The SAARC summit is to be held in Islamabad on January 2004.

While recalling the last few months when there was no forward movement between the two nuclear rivals, Kasuri noted that India and Pakistan are “like two countries which have both as a home-grown plan toward peace and they should move quickly to remove all the mistrust and unwarranted suspicions.

Kasuri, however, said he was not ready to comment specially on Vajpayee’s remarks on open borders and a single currency for not having read the speech. — MNA/Xinhua

Africa appeals for help to tackle water crisis

AKROS ASIA, 15 Dec — African ministers appealed on Friday for help to avert water shortages threatening to fuel a cycle of poverty, hunger and conflict on the world’s poorest continent.

Experts fear demand for water from Africa’s rapidly growing population will outstrip supply in years to come, hitting farmers’ yields and making the continent increasingly dependent on food aid.

“Water crisis in Africa is a threat to economic development, poverty reduction and the environment and hence for peace,” said a statement issued Thursday by the 11 African nations which signed the agreement to form the African Ministers Committee on Water.

The conference appealed for funds to halve the number of people without access to clean water and sanitation by 2015 in Africa, where millions survive on water drawn from rivers or live in slums with open sewers. — MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam signs contracts to export 700,000 tons of rice next year

HANOI, 15 Dec — Vietnam has signed contracts to export 700,000 tons of rice, including 150,000 tons to Brazil in 2004, according to the Trade Ministry on Saturday.

The ministry estimated that the country would export at least 3.8 million tons next year, of which 46 per cent are to go to the Asia-Pacific Region, mainly to Indonesia and the Philippines, and 22 per cent to Europe. It also warned that shipments to the Philippines would be more difficult because the government-to-government rice contracts between the two countries will be removed, and the foreign country will import much less rice in 2004. — MNA/Xinhua

Thai Air Force Chief receives military award in Singapore

SINGAPORE, 15 Dec — Thailand’s Air Chief Marshal Kongsak Vantana was presented Singapore’s military award, the Meritorious Service Medal, by Singapore’s Defence Minister Teo Chee Hean here on Saturday.

Singapore’s Ministry of Defence said that the award was conferred in recognition of the significant role the Thai Air Force chief has played in fostering close ties between the Royal Thai Air Force and the Republic of the Singapore Air Force. — MNA/Xinhua

Briton dies after wandering in Australian desert

SYDNEY, 15 Dec — A British tourist died after wandering through the searing heat of Australia’s Great Sandy Desert, because he abandoned his buggered-down campervan to seek help, police said over the weekend.

Thomas Henry Sykes, from London, was found alive but severely dehydrated on Friday, having walked more than 30 miles from where he abandoned the four-wheel drive Toyota campervan, near the remote Punmu Aboriginal community in Western Australia.

The 35-year-old, who was travelling with his partner, left the vehicle at 6am on Wednesday night. But an sandstorm forced rescuers to call off the search, and the disoriented tourist was only found early on Friday.

“If he’d stayed with the vehicle he would have been safe,” said Sergeant David Hornsby told Reuters by phone from Marble Bar in the 103,000-square-mile desert.

Local workers found the abandoned vehicle on Thursday near Lake Disappointment, roughly 750 miles northeast of Perth. Temperatures hovered around 42 degrees Celsius (108 degrees Fahrenheit), and Aboriginal trackers were called in to follow Sykes’ footprints across the ochre desert.

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Late own goal gives Bolton shock win at Chelsea

LONDON, 15 Dec— High-flying Chelsea were brought crashing to earth by Bolton Wanderers on Saturday as the Premier League’s big spenders surrendered top spot after a shock 2-1 defeat at Stamford Bridge.

The Londoners, who topped their Champions League group in midweek with a comfortable win against Besiktas, were over-taken by Manchester United who beat fierce rivals Manchester City 3-1 at Old Trafford.

Chelsea slipped to their first home league defeat of the season when John Terry deflected substitute Henrik Pedersen’s last-minute cross past goalkeeper Carlo Cudicini.

Bolton’s winner came off John Kennedy’s first goal for the club after 87 minutes turned the game.

A last-minute mistake by Scotland goalkeeper Rob Douglas, who replaced Magnus Hedman after the Swede’s indifferent display in League One, allowed Lee O’Neill to net a consolation goal for Liverpool but it came too late to deny Chelsea victory. Bolton move to 45 points, eight ahead of champions Rangers, who visit Dunfermline on Sunday. —MNA/Reuters

Balde regains rehabiliation with goal in Celtic win

GLASGOW, 15 Dec— Guinean defender Bobo Balde took his first, faltering steps towards rehabilitating himself with Celtic’s fans as he got on the scoresheet in his side’s 3-2 Scottish Premier League victory over Dundee on Saturday.

Three days after his rush of blood literally handed Olympique Lyonnais a late penalty to knock Celtic out of the Champions League, Balde scored in the 59th minute to put them 2-1 ahead in a tricky encounter.

Former midfield star Mark Fotheringham had earlier cancelled out Henrik Larsson’s 15th minute header with a superb long-range strike after 20 minutes as Dundee battled valiantly at a sodden Celtic Park.

But Balde’s header and substitute John Kennedy’s first goal for the club after 87 minutes turned the game.

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Barcelona’s Philippe Coccia (L) and Brazilian Ronaldinho (R) embrace their Dutch teammate Patrick Kluitert after he scored against RCD Espanyol during their Spanish first division soccer match at the Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona, Spain, on 1 Dec, 2003. —INTERNET

Makaay ends Stuttgart’s unbeaten run

BERLIN, 15 Dec— Champions Bayern Munich handed VfB Stuttgart their first Bundesliga defeat of the season on Saturday, beating them 1-0 courtesy of Dutch striker Roy Makaay.

Bayern rarely threatened at the Olympic Stadium until Makaay exploited a blunder by the Stuttgart defence to hit the winner with an angled effort from just inside the box on 75 minutes. Werder Bremen moved back into the top two with a 3-1 win at Bayer Leverkusen in a tense clash in which each team had a player sent off.

Stuttgart, who had gone 15 matches without defeat, dropped to second place a point behind. Bayern remained in fourth but moved level on points with third-placed Bayer Leverkusen and closed the gap on the top two points.

“We had to win and we did,” said Bayern coach Ottmar Hitzfeld, whose team have failed to shine so far this season and face a daunting task against Real Madrid in the first knockout stage of the Champions League.

“We had a few problems,” he added. “Our defence was tight but we showed too little initiative up front.

“In the end Makaay won it for us. He never loses nerve and he only needs one chance to score.”

Stuttgart coach Felix Magath, whose team will face Chelsea in the Champions League, did not look for excuses.

“We started well but we wasted our chances and then there was that stupid mistake that led to Makaay’s goal,” he said. —MNA/Reuters

Lyon draw allows PSG to pull level in second

PARIS, 15 Dec— Second-placed Olympique Lyon suffered a hangover from their midweek Champions League heroics when they were held 0-0 at Bastia on Saturday, allowing Paris St. Germain to draw level on points in Ligue 1.

PSG’s Pedro Pauleta, a Girondins Bordeaux player for seven years, scored the winner in a 1-1 victory against his old club.

The Portugal striker pointed to slide home a cross-shot by Brazilian midfielder Reinaldo two minutes after halftime at the Parc des Princes. Bordeaux’s Jean-Claude Darcheville fired over the bar in injury time.

Champions Lyon and PSG, who have played one extra match, have 34 points

Paula, who joined PSG in the close season after 85 goals in 98 matches for Bordeaux, should have scored in the 17th minute against his former club but his penalty was superbly saved by Ulrich Rame.

Both goalkeepers, Bastia’s Nicolas Penet etau and France’s number two Gregory Coupet, pulled off fine saves but Lyon will feel the result means two wasted points.

Champions Lyon and PSG, who have played one extra match, have 34 points

Paula, who joined PSG in the close season after 85 goals in 98 matches for Bordeaux, should have scored in the 17th minute against his former club but his penalty was superbly saved by Ulrich Rame.

While there was little action in Munich, there was plenty in Leverkusen, where Werder took control with goals in quick succession from prolific Brazilian striker Ailton and defender Mladen Krstajic shortly before the break.

Werder had French playmaker Johan Micoud sent off for a dangerous tackle in the 67th minute and defender Jens Nowotny then restored hope for the home side, scoring on 72 minutes.

Nowotny was sent off in added time for bringing down Greek striker Angelos Hadzis and Hungarian midfielder Krisztian Lisetesz converted the resulting penalty to seal Werder’s win.

“We made the most of our chances,” said Werder coach Thomas Schaaf. “Leading at halftime was a big help. It became difficult for us after Micoud was sent off but we managed to hold on.”

Leverkusen coach Klaus Augenthaler, whose team have recovered from a disastrous run last season, paid tribute to Werder: “They moved again today that they are a top team,” he said. —MNA/Reuters

The home side pulled level through Reinaldo, although whether the Brazilian’s 35th minute effort was a cross or a shot was open to question. Whatever his intention, the ball sailed over Rame’s head into the net. —MNA/Reuters

Cory Spinks holds his championship belts after defeating WBA welterweight Super Champion-WBC Super Champion Ricardo Mayorga from Managua, Nicaragua (L) in Atlantic City, on 13 Dec, 2003. Spinks is the son of former heavyweight champion Leon Spinks. —INTERNET

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16-12-2003 (Tuesday) (Programme Schedule) Morning Transmission 07:00 - 10:00
9:00 Signature Tune Greetings
9:02 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights “Mingalabar”
9:15 National News
9:20 Thu Wunna Tha Ma Jataka Scene (6)
9:40 Song “We’ll be waiting for you”
9:35 Thu Wunna Tha Ma Jataka Scene (6)
9:30 National News
9:15 National News
9:10 Headline News
9:06 University of Culture (Yangon) (Graduation Ceremony) (Part-I)
9:15 National News
9:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights “Come and See Myanmar”
9:30 National News
9:45 National News
9:40 Signature Tune Dishes “Cfathi Curry”
9:35 Thu Wunna Tha Ma Jataka Scene (6)
9:30 National News
9:15 National News
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9:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights “Come and See Myanmar”
16:12-2003 (Tuesday) Regular Programmes for Viewers from Abroad Evening Transmission (15:30 - 17:30)
15:30 Signature Tune Greetings
15:32 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights “Mingalabar”
15:36 Khan chin-hand-woven material
15:40 Headline News
15:42 Easily Cooked Tasty Dishes (Fried Prawn with Cynus Plant)
15:45 National News
15:50 100 Shuttle Traditional Weaving Industry
15:55 Sandalwood
15:58 Tour In Myanmar “Maung K. Ngalipi”
20:00 National News
20:05 Myanma Ordonation Novitiation & Ear-bor- ing Auspicious Ceremony
20:10 Rice Flowering “Like a Canal”
20:15 National News
20:20 Rahul State Cultural Museum
20:25 Myanmar Modern Song “Speaking to you from our eyes”
20:30 National News
20:35 The Source of the River Ayeyawady
20:40 Easily Cooked Tasty Dishes “Ridged gourd and bean curd Curry”
20:45 National News
20:50 Myanmar Traditional Flower Arrangements (Decoration with Lacquer material)
20:55 A Lonesome Song
20:57 Golden Jubilee of Myanma Motion Pic. Beauty & Scenic Sights “Mingalabar”
21:00 National News
21:04 Easy Cooked Tasty Dishes
21:10 National News
21:15 National News
21:20 Equal wishes that come from the heart
21:25 Myanma Modern Song “Ma Ma Mo”
21:30 National News
21:35 Reclamation & Cultivation in the Uplands
21:40 Easily Cooked Tasty Dishes “Hot and Sour Fresh-water Prawn Soup”
21:45 National News
21:50 The Beauty of the 1st Defile of the River Ayeyawady
21:55 Lon Yu Festival Dance
22:00 National News
22:05 Colourful Garden City of Yangon
22:10 Colourful Garden City of Yangon
22:15 Song “Sagasa Flowers – Yangon Land”
22:20 National News
22:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights “Come and See Myanmar”
23:00 National News
23:05 University of Culture (Yangon) (Graduation Ceremony) (Part-I)
23:15 National News
23:20 Ship Building of Myanmar
23:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights “Mingalabar”
23:30 National News
23:35 University of Culture (Yangon) (Graduation Ceremony) (Part-II)
23:40 National News
23:45 Rice Flowering “Like a Canal”
23:50 National News
23:55 00 Shuttle Traditional Weaving Industry
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23:58 Tour in Myanmar “Maung K. Ngalipi”
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02:03 Tour in Myanmar “Maung K. Ngalipi”
02:08 National News
02:13 Rice Flowering “Like a Canal”
02:18 National News
02:23 Rahul Ordonation Novitiation & Ear-bor- ing Auspicious Ceremony
02:28 Rice Flowering “Like a Canal”
02:33 National News
02:38 Rahul State Cultural Museum
02:43 Myanmar Modern Song “Speaking to you from our eyes”
02:48 National News
02:53 University of Culture (Yangon) (Graduation Ceremony) (Part-II)
03:00 National News
03:05 University of Culture (Yangon) (Graduation Ceremony) (Part-2)
03:10 National News
03:15 University of Culture (Yangon) (Graduation Ceremony) (Part-3)
03:20 National News
03:25 University of Culture (Yangon) (Graduation Ceremony) (Part-4)
03:30 National News
03:35 University of Culture (Yangon) (Graduation Ceremony) (Part-5)
03:40 National News
03:45 Rice Flowering “Like a Canal”
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04:35 The Source of the River Ayeyawady

WEATHER

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in the whole country. Night temperatures were (3°C) above normal in Eastern Shan State, (-3°C) to (-5°C) below normal in Kachin, Kayin, Chin States and Tanintharyi Division. (5°C) to (6°C) below normal in Northern Shan State. Ayeyawady and upper Sagaing Divisions, (-7°C) below normal in Rakhine State, and (-8°C) to (-10°C) below normal in the remaining areas. Significant night temperature was (-15°C) in Hakha.

Maximum temperature on 14-12-2003 was 33.5°C (92°F). Minimum temperature on 15-12-2003 was 15.6°C (60°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 15-12-2003 was 65%. Total sunshine hours on 14-12-2003 was (8.6) hours approx. Rainfall during the past 24 hours was nil at Yangon Airport, Cabu-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2003 was 2211 mm (87.05 inches) at Yangon Airport, 2313 mm (91.14 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 2394 mm (94.25 inches) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 11 mph from East at (02) hours LST on 14-12-2003.

Bay influence: According to the observations at 09:30 hrs MST today, yesterday’s depression over Southwest Bay and adjoining West Coast Bay has centred at about 1400 km South-East of CHENNIA (India). It is forecast to move North-Westwards and Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 16-12-2003: Likelihood of isolated rain in Kachin, Rakhine State, and the Tanintharyi Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Discharge of certainty is (60%) State of the sea. Temporary strong easterly wind with (35 mph) and moderate to rough seas are likely off and along Myanmar Coast.

### Four political objectives
- Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order
- National reconciliation
- 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
- Preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national characters
- Uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit
- Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation

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**Meeting on organizing 56th Anniversary Independence Day Flag-hoisting and State Flag Saluting ceremony held**

**YANGON, 15 Dec — The Second coordination meeting of the subcommittee for organizing the 56th Anniversary Independence Day Flag-hoisting and State Flag Saluting ceremony was held at Pyithu Hluttaw building on Pyay Road here this afternoon.**

Subcommittee Chairman Yango Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Myint Maung explained the authority and others.

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**MWVO opens advanced organizational courses**

**YANGON, 15 Dec — The Myanmar War Veterans Organization opened its Advanced Organizational Course No 3/2003 at the training school of the MWVO in Hmawby Township here this morning.**

Secretary of the Central Organizing Committee for the MWVO Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung attended the ceremony and spoke on the occasion.

Present on the occasion were members of the Central Committee, senior military officers, departmental heads, officials, local authorities and others.

Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung explained the purpose of establishing the MWVO, its five tasks, its seven future tasks, and its agriculture, livestock breeding, education, economy and social welfare tasks.

Next, he cordially greeted the trainees and inspected their hostels and dining hall.

Likewise, similar courses were also opened at the respective training schools of the MWVO in Mandalay and Magway Divisions.

The opening ceremony of the course in Mandalay was attended by Mandalay Mayor Brig-Gen Yan Thein and the other one in Magway was attended by Secretary of Magway Division Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Myo Aung. The courses were attended 50 trainees each.

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**Fourth Senior Officials Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication opens**

**YANGON, 15 Dec — The opening of the Fourth Senior Officials Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication, hosted by Myanmar, was held at Sedona Hotel on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road, here, this morning, with an opening address by Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt.**

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Ministers Brig-Gen Than Tun and Col Tin Ngs, the ambassadors of ASEAN member nations to Myanmar, officials from the ASEAN Secretariat, senior officials and members of ASEAN member nations, observers, invited guests, officials of the ministry and departmental officials.

On the occasion, Minister Col Thein Nyunt made an opening speech. He said under the auspices of the ASEAN, the First ASEAN Ministers Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication was held at Subang, Malaysia, in 1997 and decided that AMROPE meetings be held every two years and SOMROPE meetings be held annually on a rotation basis in ASEAN member countries. It was also agreed upon that SOMROPE be held before the AMROPE.

ASEAN member countries are committed to rural development and poverty eradication and they realize the need to respond effectively to the opportunities and challenges of globalization and closer economic integration. To further implement ASEAN’s priorities for development of rural areas and eradication of poverty, the senior officials will share their experiences on strategies pursued at all levels of government to address poverty and status of project implementation.

Rural areas in Myanmar are situated in different geographical conditions. The national races have been residing in the mountainous areas, dry zones and coastal areas and are lagging far behind in socio-economic development. There were difficulties in transport and communication between the regions and also due to insecurity caused by the armed groups that came into being after the independence of the nation in 1948, and the development was not fostered. The armed insurrections (See page 9)

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**Minister Col Thein Nyunt addresses the opening of the Fourth ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication.**

**MWVCOC Secretary Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung addresses the opening of Advanced Organization Course 3/2003 of MWVO.**