Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attends launching ceremony of School Family Day for 2003-2004 — MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of sympathy to His Excellency Mr Seyed Mohammad Khatami, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, for the heavy loss of life and property caused by the devastating earthquake which hit the Islamic Republic of Iran on 26 December 2003. — MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye sends message of sympathy to First Vice-President of Iran

YANGON, 27 Dec— Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of sympathy to His Excellency Mr Mohammad Reza Aref, First Vice-President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, for the heavy loss of life and property caused by the devastating earthquake which hit the Islamic Republic of Iran on 26 December 2003. — MNA

Senior General Than Shwe sends message of sympathy to President of Iran

YANGON, 27 Dec— Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of sympathy to His Excellency Mr Seyed Mohammad Khatami, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, for the heavy loss of life and property caused by the devastating earthquake which hit the Islamic Republic of Iran on 26 December 2003. — MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attends launching ceremony of School Family Day for 2003-2004 academic year — MNA

YANGON, 27 Dec— Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee, attended the ceremony to open School Family Day for 2003-2004 academic year of the Ministry of Education at Diamond Jubilee Hall on Pyay Road, here, at 8 am today. Also present on the occasion were Vice-Chairmen of MEC, Secretaries-1 of the State Peace and Development Council, Lt-Gen Soe Win and Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Myint Swe, members of MEC, ministers, the chairmen of Civil Service Selection and Training Board, the Yangon Mayor, deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads, diplomats of foreign missions, resident representatives of UN agencies, members of the Leading Committee and Work Committees for Organizing the School Family Day, directors-general and chairmen of departments and boards under the Ministry of Education, rectors and principals of universities and colleges, township education officers, school heads and teachers, members of School Board of Trustees, officials of NGOs, wellwishers, students who won prizes in the local and international competitions. At 7 am, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt arrived at Diamond Jubilee Hall where students welcomed the Prime Minister with singing the song entitled “Myanmar School”. Independence Day commemorative features on pages 6, 7 and 11.

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

Sunday, 28 December, 2003

**Safeguard the independence and sovereignty of the State**

The Union of Myanmar, under her own monarchs, has stood tall in international communities as a sovereign nation for years countable by the thousand. Myanmar people with great historical traditions and high cultural standard have a fine tradition of repelling the alien encroachment upon the nation with unyielding spirit.

Myanmar lost her independence after being staged three aggressive wars by the colonialists. Although the colonialists ruled Myanmar, the patriotic national people who did not want to live under subjugation, fought against the usurpers politically, economically and socially.

As all the national brethren launched anti-colonialist struggles and national liberation movements based on Union Spirit and patriotism, Myanmar regained her independence on 4 January 1948. The entire national people always remember the history of the independence struggles which were launched sacrificing many lives, sweat and blood. All the national people are to safeguard the sovereign and independent State.

The State has laid down four objectives for the coming 56th Anniversary Independence Day. They are:

— All the national people to collectively safeguard the national independence and ensure perpetuation of sovereignty.

— All the national people to be united to ensure non-disintegration of national solidarity.

— All the national people to strive in unity for the emergence of enduring State Constitution and for the building of a new, modern and developed nation.

— All the national people to participate with full sense of Union Spirit and patriotism in the successful implementation of the seven-point future policy programme.

The above-mentioned objectives are the national duties that have to be performed by all the national people.

Nowadays, the Government is trying its utmost for the nation to be on a par with nations of the world. Various infrastructures are being built throughout the country for ensuring equitable development of all the regions in the country and it can be seen that the nation-building tasks are gaining momentum. For further enhancing the economic development of the State, the short-term five-year plan from 2001-2002 to 2005-2006 is being implemented. During the period, targets are being set to realize the goal of development in agriculture, industrial, electric power and energy sectors and efforts are also being made for effecting development in other sectors.

At a time like this, all the citizens are urged to participate in nation-building tasks while unitedly safeguarding the independence and sovereignty of the State.

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**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.

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**Minister U Win Aung sends message of sympathy to Foreign Minister of Iran**

**YANGON, 27 Dec — U Win Aung, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of sympathy to His Excellency Dr Kamal Kharrazi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, for the heavy loss of life and property caused by the devastating earthquake which hit the Islamic Republic of Iran on 26 December 2003.** — MNA

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**Efficient use of electricity**

— Use daylight as the main source of light

— Use the least possible amount of electricity only if there is not enough natural light

— Use the least possible amount of electricity required in production and service enterprises

— Preventing waste of electricity benefits the user and others

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

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**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

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**Myakantha Myanmar cuisine and cafe opened**

**YANGON, 27 Dec — A ceremony to open Myakantha Myanmar cuisine and cafe was held at Sakhantha Hotel at Yangon Central Railway Station this morning. Sakhantha Hotel Manager U Thein Tan explained matters on service of the shop and gave replies to the queries raised by the mediamen. — MNA**

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**All this needs to be known**

— Do not be softened whenever flattered

— Do not be bolstered whenever intimidated

— Do not be softened whenever flattered

— Do not be bolstered whenever intimidated

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**School Family Day**

(27 December 2003 to 3 January 2004)
Baghdad, 27 Dec — 471 US soldiers have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq, according to the Department of Defense. Of those, 323 died as a result of hostile action and 148 died of non-hostile causes, the department said.

The British military has reported 52 deaths; Italy, 17; Spain, eight; Denmark, Ukraine and Poland have reported one each.

On or since 1 May, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 333 US soldiers have died 208 as a result of hostile action and 125 of non-hostile causes, according to the Defense Department’s figures.

Since the start of military operations, 2,332 US service members have been injured as a result of hostile action, according to the Defense Department’s figures. Non-hostile injured numbered 370.

The latest deaths reported by the US Central Command: Two Task Force Ironhorse soldiers were killed Friday by an explosive southwest of Duluiya, and the other while attempting to disarm a homemade explosive near Baqouba. Two Task Force Ironhorse soldiers were killed Thursday in a mortar attack near Baqouba. A 1st Armoured Division soldier was killed Wednesday by an explosive in Baqouba. A Task Force Ironhorse soldier died Wednesday after he was electrocuted while repairing a communi-
tion tower wire in Kirkuk. The latest identifications reported by the Department of Defense and family members:

Army Maj Christopher J Splinter, 43, Platteville, Wis.; killed Wednesday when his vehicle struck an explosive near Samara; assigned to the 5th Engineer Battalion, 1st Engineer Brigade, Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

Army Capt Christopher F Soeler, 26, South Dakota; killed Wednesday when his vehicle struck an explosive near Samara; assigned to the 5th Engineer Battalion, 1st Engineer Brigade, Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

Army Sgt Benjamin W Biskie, 27, Tucson, Ariz.; killed Wednesday when his vehicle struck an explosive near Samara; assigned to the 5th Engineer Battalion, 1st Engi-

One soldier was killed and one was wounded in a rocket-propelled grenade attack in Duluiya, 47 miles (76 kilometers) north of Baghdad, said Master Sgt Robert R Right of the 4th Infantry Division.

Another soldier was killed by an improvised explosive device near Ba’qubah, about 30 miles (48 kilometers) northeast of the capital. A second sol-
dier was killed Friday in Ba’qubah, but the circum-
stances of that death are un-
clear.

On Thursday night, the Ba’qubah region was the site of two more US military deaths, according to a 4th Infantry Division source.

Two soldiers were said to have been killed and four wounded in a mortar attack on their forward opera-
ting base in Ba’qubah, the spokesman said Fri-
day. The Sunni Triangle is the area north and west of Baghdad, a region in which opposition to the US-led coalition has been the greatest. Since the war in Iraq started in March, 474 US troops have died 326 under hostile circumstances.

Four other coalition sol-
diers were wounded in in-
cidents across Iraq, and troops pressed on with raids to root out the guer-
illa infrastructure, brac-
ing for an escalation of at-
tacks during the holidays.

Jordan

Jordan suspends beef imports from US

Amman, 27 Dec — Jordan has temporarily sus-
pended the imports of US beef and its byproducts after a suspected case of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) was found in the United States, the Jordan Times reported Thursday.

“It is a precautionary measure, which was taken after there was a suspected case of BSE,” Awini Taamah, secretary-general of the Jordanian Planning and Interna-
tional Cooperation Ministry, was quoted by the paper as saying.

The ministry said there was no risk to human health and Jordan’s beef was already subject to inspection at the time of entry.

China

China seals gas well after leak

London, 27 Dec — Engineers have plugged a burst gas well in China that had spewed toxic fumes killing at least 191 people, state media has reported.

“Sealing the gas well is a few hours until they can be sure there are no more leaks,” a BBC World Service correspondent said.

The correspondent said the well was near the south-western city of Chongqing, was sealed on Saturday morning, Xinhua news agency said.

But officials said it would be a few hours until they were sure the operation had worked. Nearly 10,000 people have been taken to hospitals suffering from poisoning and chemical burns after Tuesday’s blast.

It was China’s worst industrial accident described by Chinese media as a “zone of death.”

Engineers on Saturday pumped 480 cubic metres of concrete into the well to stop the sulphurous gas to dissipate.

US Army soldiers took over the remains of a car which exploded, killing two men when a roadside bomb exploded on a road near the Baghdad airport, on 26 Dec, 2003. — Internet

China's central govt to increase investment in water diversion project

Beijing, 27 Dec — China’s central government will increase its investment in the ambitious south-to-north water diversion project.

Zhang Jiyao, minister of the office of the project’s commission under the State Council, released this infor-
mation while addressing the sixth session of the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress (NPC) here Thursday.

Following the construc-
tion of the two eastern sec-
tions last year, China will kick off eight new subprojects in the first phase of the eastern and central sections by the end of this year — five in the eastern section and the others in the central section, Zhang said.

According to the origi-
nal general outline of the water diversion project, the total investment for the ma-

tank loans; and the other 43.4 billion yuan will be raised through other financing channels. “Considering the project’s heavy burden of repayment of loans and pay-
ment of interests to banks, the State Council has made a decision to increase the in-
vestment in the ambitious water diversion project, while reducing the amount of bank loans and diversify-
ing financing channels,” Zhang said. — MNA/Xinhua

But officials said it would be a few hours until they were sure the operation had worked. Nearly 10,000 people have been taken to hospitals suffering from poisoning and chemical burns after Tuesday’s blast.

It was China’s worst industrial accident. The region’s cultural officials stressed that the region’s safety of their beef supply to consumers abroad.

Internet

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tional Cooperation Ministry, was quoted by the paper as saying.

The ministry said there was no risk to human health and Jordan’s beef was already subject to inspection at the time of entry.
Iraqi tribal chief gunned down in northern city

MOSSUL (Iraqi), 27 Dec— Gunmen shot and killed a tribal chief and member of the US appointed local council in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul on Friday, Iraqi police said.

Sheikh Talal al-Khalidi’s son was also killed in the incident, which follows a spate of attacks in Mosul on Iraqiis working under the US-led administration ruling the country.

A grenade was thrown at Iraqi policemen when they arrived to investigate the slaying, police said. One policeman was wounded.

Judges, oil company executives and policemen have been among Iraqis targeted in attacks the US occupation authority blames on supporters of Saddam Hussein, the toppled Iraqi leader who was captured by American forces two weeks ago. MNA/Reuters

Two Polish soldiers wounded in Iraqi mine attack

WARSAW, 27 Dec—Two Polish soldiers serving in Iraq’s south-central zone were seriously wounded on Friday by a remote-controlled mine, a Polish military spokesman said.

The remote-controlled explosive went off when a 20-man, four-vehicle patrol was returning to its base, a local PAP news agency quoted Colonel Lesz Zajda as saying. “Immediately after the explosion, someone opened fire on the convoy from some roadside bushes, but the attackers managed to escape,” he added.

The attack occurred about four miles from Camp Babylon, the headquarters of a 2,500-strong Polish force leading a multinational division in one of Iraq’s four stabilization zones.

Two Polish soldiers were injured in a similar road explosion earlier this month. In November, Poland suffered its first combat fatality, and over Christmas a Polish soldier died in a gun-cleaning accident. MNA/Reuters

Casualties in Iraq hit Fort Wood in the heart

FORT LEONARD WOOD, 27 Dec— Members of a battalion stationed at this central Missouri Army post were hit hard by the news that three of their own perished in Iraq on Christmas Eve, a colonel said Friday.

The combat engineers— Maj Christopher Splinter, 43, of Platteville, Wis.; Capt. Chris Soelzer, 26, of South Dakota; and Sgt Benjamin Biskie, 27, of Tucson, Ariz. — died in a roadside bombing near Samarra, said Col Paul Kelly, commander of the 1st Engineer Brigade.

The three were members of the 5th Engineer Battalion, which is part of the 1st Brigade. The battalion has about 500 soldiers organized in four companies that are scattered north of Baghdad. They were traveling along Highway One — a north-south route linking Baghdad to Tikrit — when an explosion struck their vehicle. Kelly wasn’t sure whether the men were traveling in a Humvee. Internet

Two Polish soldiers were killed in a rebel ambush and two others were killed in bomb explosions on Friday, one of the bloodiest days for the US military since the 13 Dec capture of Saddam Hussein.

Two of the deaths occurred in Baqubah, a center of guerrilla activity northeast of Baghdad in a Sunni Muslim area that served as a power base for Saddam, the former Iraqi dictator. US forces, who have a base in the town, often conduct raids and arrest suspected guerrillas.

One of the US soldiers killed Friday was in a US convoy that came under attack, said Capt Jefferson Wolfe of the Army’s 4th Infantry Division. Another soldier was injured, but troops fired back, killing two attackers, he said. In a separate incident in the same area, a soldier tried to defuse a homemade bomb, but it blew up and killed him, Wolfe said. Such bombs are a favored weapon of rebels, who leave them on roadsides and detonate them as military convoys pass. The guerrillas used that tactic Friday in Balad, north of Baghdad, setting off a bomb that killed one soldier, the US military said.

In the capital, a car exploded on the road to the airport, killing its two occupants. US soldiers at the scene said they suspected the two men were bombers whose bomb exploded prematurely. Further north, three soldiers from the US Army’s 101st Airborne Division were wounded in an ambush in Mosul when their convoy came under small arms fire, said Maj. Trey Cate, the division spokesman.

The soldiers, who were searching the city’s streets for bombs, returned fire but did not catch their attackers. Cate said. Witnesses claimed a taxi driver was killed in the firefight, but the spokesman could not confirm the report. On Thursday, Iraqi insurgents planted an American base in Baqubah, 30 miles northeast of Baghdad, killing two US soldiers, the military said.

Four other soldiers were wounded in the attack, Maj. Josslyn Aherele of the 4th Infantry Division said. A total of 11 US soldiers have died from hostile action since Monday. The latest military deaths bring the toll to 323 US troops killed in hostile action since the invasion in March. Internet

The country suffers frequent earthquakes, and little from the United States. — AFP

Iranian earthquake kills 20,000

TEHRAN, 27 Dec— At least 20,000 people have died in the huge earthquake which struck south-eastern Iran, according to officials.

Rescuers are working through the night to hunt for survivors from the quake, which struck before dawn on Friday.

The ancient city of Bam has been devastated — most of its buildings have been flattened including two hospitals and a 16th Century Citadel.

A big relief operation is under way, with many foreign countries sending supplies and rescue workers to Iran.

President Mohammad Khatami described the quake as a “national tragedy” and said it was too huge for Iran to cope with alone.

The United States offered humanitarian assistance, and President George W Bush said he was “ready to help” Iran.

Aid agencies are making urgent appeals for supplies such as tents, blankets and field hospitals.

But there are immediate fears for the safety of survivors — temperatures at night in the desert city drop to well below freezing, and food and water are in short supply.

The country suffers frequent earthquakes, with small tremors happening almost daily.

In one earthquake in 1990, 35,000 people died.

Iranian earthquake
killed 20,000

The New Light of Myanmar Sunday, 28 December, 2003

Vietnam suspends US beef imports

HANOI, 27 Dec— Vietnam has suspended the importation of US beef since Thursday after the United States reported its first suspected case of mad cow disease.

The suspension will be maintained until the United States verifies that the case has not affected the quality of beef and other beef-related products, local newspaper quoted sources from Vietnam’s Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development on Friday.

Vietnam imports beef mainly from Australia and New Zealand, and little from the United States. — MNA/Xinhua

East China standardizes Internet cafe administration

NANJING, 27 Dec— East China’s Jiangsu Province has established a specialized web site in the provincial capital, Nanjing, to standardize the management of Internet cafes.

Officially opened Wednesday, the www.njwx.cn was established by the Nanjing Internet Service Association, founded in December 2002.

An official with the association said the web site would provide a platform of information technology services to Internet users not only in Jiangsu, but also in the nearby provinces of Anhui, Zhejiang, Jiangxi, Shandong, Hunan and Hubei.

The web site offers information concerning Internet cafe management, and related laws and regulations, said the official.

He said cafe owners could exchange experiences and hire Internet technicians through the web site, while Internet users could have an overall view of cafe information, including addresses, charges and scales.

MNA/Xinhua

Two US soldiers were killed by bombs in two separate incidents in Iraq on 26 Dec, 2003. — Internet

Two Polish soldiers were killed in a rebel ambush and two others were killed in bomb explosions on Friday, one of the bloodiest days for the US military since the 13 Dec capture of Saddam Hussein.
CONTINUING RESISTANCE AGAINST US TROOPS

An Iraqi policeman attends the scene of a failed suicide car bomb attack on an American convoy, in Baghdad, on 26 December, 2003. — INTERNET

Iraqis stand on top of a house destroyed by the US forces Friday on 26 Dec, 2003 in Khalidiya, some 100 kilometres (some 60 miles) west of Baghdad. — INTERNET

A general view shows a protective wall (R) at the entrance to the Sheraton hotel, where the main international media are based in Baghdad, which was attacked by a missile early 25 December 2003. — INTERNET

US Army troops secure the scene of a failed suicide car bomb attack on an American convoy, in Baghdad, on 26 December, 2003. — INTERNET

A US Army soldier stands next to a destroyed car on a highway to the Baghdad’s International airport, on 26 Dec, 2003. — INTERNET

US troops block the road after an explosive went off under an underpass in Mosul, some 400 kilometres (249 miles) north of Baghdad on 26 Dec, 2003. — INTERNET

A general view shows a protective wall (R) at the entrance to the Sheraton hotel, where the main international media are based in Baghdad, which was attacked by a missile early 25 December 2003. — INTERNET
Hailing the 56th Anniversary Independence Day:

Towards a new nation of new era

The 12 political, economic and social objectives of the State are guidelines in marching towards a new peaceful, modern and developed nation. The four political objectives serve as prime guidelines of the drive to create the country as a peaceful, modern and developed one. During 40 years after regaining independence, 35% of cultivable land fell vacant due to internal strife. In consequence of it, nearly 3 million people were left homeless and 22,000 civilians and 5,700 military personnel perished.

The economic and social spheres in the country were on the decline to the degree that it was not possible to catch up with the international community in terms of development. After assumption of the State’s duties on 18 September 1988, the Tatmadaw Government made peace with armed groups so as to secure stability and peace in the country.

As the political weather became calm, there prevailed across the country peace and stability along with the rule of law to the extent that the national people could travel freely and peace-fully to earn their living. The need has arisen to write a firm Constitution that would protect the national people, decide their future and make their life safe. The realization of such task is based on the unity of the entire national people.

As long as an enduring Constitution exists, sovereignty of a nation will never be lost. The same thing can be said of the national solidarity, with which a modern and developed nation will be able to stand firm as long as the world exists.

Stability and tranquility and the rule of law in the country are essential elements in the four political objectives of the State and the symbol of national security. The emergence of a firm Constitution depends on the national solidarity. Therefore, it is the national concern of all entire national people to establish a modern and developed nation in consonant with the new Constitution.

In shaping a modern and developed nation, measures are being taken to implement the four economic objectives in harmony with the four political objectives.

In fact, the economy of Myanmar rests on agriculture, which mainly provides food for the people. In addition, agriculture also fulfills the requirements of other economic sectors.

With the aim of developing the agro-based economic life, the Tatmadaw Government gives encouragement to industries that are based on agriculture. Construction of roads, bridges and irrigation facilities, all of which are vital for agro-based economic life, are well underway. Moreover, vacant and virgin lands are also reclaimed for agricultural purpose. Thanks to these measures, the yield of crops including paddy are on the decline to the yield of crops including paddy are on the decline to the gradual rise. As a result, the surplus can be exported. Moreover, success has also been achieved in cultivation of crops from single to double or triple cropping. With the increased income of rural people, the living standard of farmers is not much different from that of urban people. These are the tangible results of the economic objectives. The Tatmadaw Government has introduced the market economic system. It invited the participation in terms of technical know-how and private investments from the outside the country and abroad, the Union of Myanmar as well as the entrepreneurs who invested in the country can enjoy the economic profits. The government has made arrangements for creating opportunities for the foreign firms that invest in Myanmar to enjoy mutual benefits. In this regard, the Government of the Union of Myanmar enacted the Myanmar Foreign Investment Law, and laws, bylaws and rules and regulations concerning the right to carry out economic enterprises by Myanmar citizens. It has also taken necessary including reforms for the benefit of investors.

No 2 and No 3 molars of an Amphipithicus found by Myanmar-French team at Paukkhaung Kyitthaungs in November, 2003.

To enhance the morale and security of the State or economic life of the nation, there will be further improvement of national interest resulting in the economic superstructure.

Four economic objectives of the State, depending on each other, will develop the infrastructure of the State or economic life (material life) and enable the nation to build a modern and developed socio-economic life in the future.

Four social objectives have been laid down with regulations.

The second social objective of the State — Uplift of national prestige and integrity and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character — has been laid down with the noble aim of preserving and promoting culture, customs and traditions of Myanmar national races.

Discoveries of anthropoid primates in Pondaung and Ponnya have served as an evidence that human species existed in the Union of Myanmar about 40 million years ago. Geologists have concluded that human species originated in Myanmar. The State Peace and Development Council formed the Committee for Preservation of National Cultural Heritages dated 10 September 1998 with a view to effectively preserving and safeguarding the cultural heritage.

Simultaneously, it adopted a policy on prevention against the danger of narcotic drugs attended with decadent culture that has endangered the lives of Myanmar citizens. It vividly indicates that the government has been taking effective measures to safeguard the youths against the danger of narcotic drugs.

Then, the Tatmadaw launched operations to destroy poppy plantations and to expose opium refineries sacrificing thousands of lives of Myanmar citizens. It vividly indicates that the government has been taking effective measures to safeguard the youths against the penetration of alien culture that can degrade and harm the prestige and integrity of the entire people and to fight against the danger of narcotic drugs that can endanger the future of the new generation youths and their lives.

(See page 7)
Hailing the 56th Anniversary Independence Day:

Endeavours for development of national brethren

The Tatmadaw Government has introduced the market economic system. It invited the participation in term of technical know-how and private investments from the sources inside the country and abroad, after abolishing the laws concerning the socialist economic system and enacting laws and rules and regulations favouring the market economic system.

The market economic system is the one which can bring about economic progress within the period set by the State. Practical requirement for the economic progress of the State is to bring about economic development by inviting the participation in terms of technical know-how and investments from sources inside the country and abroad.

By inviting the participation in terms of technical know-how and investments from sources inside the country and abroad, the Union of Myanmar as well as the entrepreneurs who invested in the country can enjoy the economic profits.

As drug elimination tasks are being carried out as a national duty, Tatmadawmen, hand in hand with local people, taking part in destruction of poppy fields in Pylaung Township, Shan State.

Sports festivals are held to uplift the health and fitness of the entire people. People are actively taking part in the sports festivals.

Human resource development plays a vital role in building the nation to be modern and developed one.

(from page 6)

The third of the four social objectives laid down by the State — uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit — means that patriotism is the nobel spirit that one never accepts any invasion of foreign countries and with unyielding spirit, one is always ready to repulse the intruders.

In actual fact, Myanmar national races have been equipped with the nationalist spirit as the heritage of their ancestors that one is ready to fight back whenever one’s nation and people are insulted by others. Panglong Conference which emerged together with anti-colonialist struggles, resistance against the fascists and independence struggles revealed the might of the complete unity of the entire people. And it is the symbol of flourishing of patriotism and nationalistic spirit. Throughout the period from the time when Myanmar fell under the servitude of the colonialists after the three aggressive wars until the time when Myanmar regained her independence, Myanmar nationals bravely fought against the colonialists with patriotism.

The forth of the four social objectives, “Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire people”, also plays a vital role in building up a new nation.

The tasks for uplift of health and fitness as well as education standards are to be implemented at the same time. Promotion of the education standards means polishing and elevating the role of human resources. With highly-qualified human resources, success will be achieved before long in carrying out such nation-building tasks as political, economic and cultural sectors for emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation.

Therefore it can be said that measures for raising health, fitness and education standards of the entire people is a fundamental role in modernization and development of the nation.

And, the twelve political, economic and social objectives are the policy measures adopted by the State for the emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation in future. In other words, it is the strategy to realize the goal. With the combined endeavours of the entire people with full sense of patriotism and Union Spirit for successful accomplishment of the twelve objectives, there will definitely emerge a peaceful, modern and developed nation.

Translation: 
KTY+MWT+MS
Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attends …

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects finishing works of Tampalawha bronze Buddha image near Yangon-Mandalay Highway in Oktha Myothit, Bago Township — MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attends …

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt enshrines religious objects into the reliquary of Myathalyaung Reclining Buddha Image in Bago — MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attends …

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attends …

Next, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and guests viewed computer technological skills under the motto of Har- sessing ICT Through Edu- cation performed by the stu- dents at e-Education in Myanmar 2004 Booth displayed on the third floor. At the booth, Deputy Minister for Education U Myo Nyunt briefed on the motto of Myanmar Education, tasks on education with ap- plying ICT technology and Internet in the education sector, giving of education lec- tures to States and Divisions and party proceeded to the work of Tampalawha bronze Buddha image and viewed preparations for carrying out finishing works of the image. Afterwards, the General and party arrived back here in the evening. — MNA

From 9 am to 12 noon today, 82 students participat- ed in the Tokiwa Colour Pencil Painting Contest. Ba- sic Education Departments, universities, Yangon Uni- versity of Foreign Lan- guages, Central Universi- ties’ Library, Myanmar Edu- cation Research Bureau and basic education schools will open their booths at the Dia- mond Jubilee Hall from 8 am to 5 pm daily up to 31 January 2004. To mark the School Fam- ily Day, arts and science, eco- nomic and social paper-read- ing sessions will be held at the hall of Convocation Council, the halls of Physics and Chemistry Departments of YU from 30 December to 1 January; the band contest at the People’s Square on 28 December; the education concert at the National Thea- tre on 29 to 31 December; the rowing contest of educa- tion family at Inya Lake and the Myanmar and Interna- tional Social Relations Con- test at the hall of MIERB from 31 December to 1 January; Paththana Recitation Cer- emony at Universities’ Dhmanyo on 31 Decem- ber and prize presentation ceremony on 3 January 2004.

MES holds annual conference

YANGON, 27 Dec — Annual Conference of Myanmar Engineering Society (2003) was held at the MICT Park in Hlle Township this afternoon. Present on the occasion were Patrons of MES Minis- ter for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, Deputy Minister for Mines U Myint Thein, Deputy Minister for Energy and guests. Patron Deputy Minister U Myint Thein chaired the conference and made an opening speech. Next, the chairman of MES spoke on the occasion. General Secre- tary U Than Myint and Treas-urer Dr Daw Khin Aye Win read out the annual report and financial statement. The conference approved the re- port and the financial state- ment. An amendment of con- stitution of the society was submitted to the conference and, it approved the amend- ment. Afterwards, Dr Sein Myint presented ASEAN engineer certificates to 12 members of MES. Deputy Minister U Myint Thein made concluding re- marks. — MNA

Minister visits school family day exhibition

YANGON, 27 Dec — Chair- man of the Leading Committee for Holding the School Family Day for 2003- 2004 Academic Year Minis- ter for Education U Than Aung, accompanied by Chairman of the Work Com- mittee (2) Deputy Minister U Myo Nyunt and members of the leading committee, visited the booth of the New Century Biotechnology De- velopment Centre on Inya Road this morning. Professors of the Zoolo- gical Department of Yangon University Daw Tin Tin Aye and Dr Daw Tin Nwe and Head of Botany Department of Yangon University Dr Daw Aye Kyi conducted the minister and party round the booths. Afterwards, the minis- ter viewed the Tokiwa col- our pencil drawing contest held in Diamond Jubilee Hall on Prya Road. Next, the minis- ter and party visited the handicraft booth of basic education schools there. At 11 am, the minister attended a ceremony to hon- or the wellwishers who con- tributed cash towards the funds of Education Promo- tion Programme for 2003- 2004 and accepted cash do- nations of the wellwishers.

ACWF delegation leaves

YANGON, 27 Dec — Del- egation led by Vice Presi- dent Mme Chen Xiurong of All-China Women’s Federa- tion (ACWF) left here by air this evening. The delegation was seen off at Yangon International Airport by Vice President of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation Prof Dr Daw May May Yl, General Secretary Prof Dr Daw Khin Aye Win, Ambassador of the People’s Republic of China to Myanmar Mr Li Jinjun and officials.
Bago BEHS No 6 gets multimedia teaching centre

YANGON, 27 Dec — A multimedia teaching centre of No 6 Basic Education High School was opened at the school in Bago this afternoon, attended by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, Chairman of Bago Division Peace and Development Council Brig-Gen Ko Ko, the ministers, Chief of Staff (Navy), the deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of departments, members of Division, District and Township Peace and Development Councils, departmental personnel, social organizations, wellwishers, the director-general of No 1 Basic Education Department, members of school board of trustees, headmistress, teachers and students.

A ceremony to unveil the inscription “Our Vision” and signboard “Education Goal” was held at the No 6 BEHS.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and audience saluted the State Flag. The students then sang the national anthem.

Next, Outstanding students formally unveiled the inscription “Our Vision” and signboard “Education Goal”.

The students then sang the song “Myanmar School”.

Headmistress Daw Khin Sein and Chairman of school board of trustees U Ngwe Shein formally opened the multimedia teaching centre.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt presented souvenirs to the guests.

Afterwards, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt formally unveiled the signboard in commemoration of the opening of multimedia teaching centre.

The Prime Minister and party inspected domestic science room, art studio, printed media (reading corner), computer aided instruction, computer application, e-mail, electronic media (language lab) and electronic media (video system).

The Prime Minister and party watched performances of the students at the art studio.

Headmistress Daw Khin Sein reported on purposes of the opening of the multimedia teaching centre and teaching with the use of modern teaching aids.

Chairman of school board of trustees U Ngwe Shein reported on efforts for opening of the multimedia teaching centre.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt presented two computers and teaching aids video cassettes to Headmistress Daw Khin Sein.

On behalf of the wellwishers Commander in Chief of Defence Services Gen Thein Sein, Vice-Prime Minister Col Aung San Suu Kyi and a computer by Bago Division Peace and Development Council to Deputy Minister for Education Col Aung Myo Min.

The deputy minister then spoke words of thanks.

After the ceremony, the prime minister, members of school board of trustees, teachers and students posed for souvenir photos.

Secretary-1, Secretary-2 watch Mister Myanmar and Miss Myanmar contests

YANGON, 27 Dec — Secretary-1 of the Myanmar People’s Association, received Ms Chen Xiurong, Vice-President of All China Women’s Federation of the People’s Republic of China, and party at the meeting hall of MWEA on Shwedagon Pagoda Road in Dagon Township here this morning.

Also present at the call were Vice-President of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation Prof Dr May May Yi, General Secretary Prof Dr Daw Khin Aye Win and MNA Myanmar and Miss Myanmar contests officials, Prof Daw Yi Yi Myint, founder and adviser of MWEA, Adviser Daw Sein Sein, MWEA Vice-President Daw Nu Nu Yi, Secretary Daw Hla Wady, Joint-Secretary Daw Khin Lay, Treasurer Daw Tin Shwe, Joint Treasurer Daw Myint Myint, member of the international relations committee Daw Myint Thanda and officials.

First, Myanmar President Daw Khin Myint Myint extended greetings and introduced the guests to the officials of the association.

Afterwards, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt formally unveiled souvenirs to from-first-to-sixth prize winners of Mister Myanmar (Senior) contest, nine in Mister Myanmar (Senior) and seven in Miss Myanmar (Open).

At the prize-presentation ceremony, Secretary-1 Li-Gen Soe Win presented awards to from-first-to-sixth prize winners of Mister Myanmar (Senior) contest and Secretary-2 Li-Gen Thein Sein presented awards to from-first-to-sixth prize winners of Mister Myanmar (Junior) contest.

Daw San Yon and Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min presented awards to from-first-to-sixth prize winners of Miss Myanmar (Open) contest.

At the end of the ceremony, MNA Myanmar and Miss Myanmar contests Secretary-1 Li-Gen Soe Win presented first prize to Aung Khaung Win in Mr Myanmar (Senior) Contest.
**Gold plates donated to Shwedagon Pagoda**

**Yangon, 27 Dec** — The Sedana Thabarya Wut association in Kyimyinda Township donated gold plates to the Shwedagon Pagoda for 53rd time this morning, attended by Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe.

State Ovadacarinya Siri Pavara Dhammacariya Aungmlongalar Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Cariya and members graced the ceremony by their attendance. Also present were Division Secretary Lt-Col Kyaw Tint, local authorities, officials of Myanmar Live-stock Breeding Federation and family, U Hla Khin-Myawmya District Peace and Development Affairs Committee Chairman Lt-Col Htay and MCWA Daw Khin San Win and family.

Chairman Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Maj-Gen Myint Swe.

The Sayadaw invested the congregation with the Five Precepts. Members of the Sangha recited Metta parittas.

The commander and officials presented offerings to members of the Sangha.

People presented nine and a half ticals of gold for offering gold plates to the pagoda; Ko Kyaw Hlay, Ma Hla Shwe and Ma Ti Tin Yee, U Aung Zaw Mo (English Department, Tonang University), U Min Thein-Daw Moe Moe and family, U Hla Khin-Daw Thin Thintaing and family, U Hla Aung, Daw Khan, U Aung Kyaw Myint, U Myo Myint Aung, U Toe-Daw Si Te and family, threeicas of gold each; Ko Aung Aung Ma Nwe Ni Hlaying and family, and one and a half ticals of gold, U Myint Swe-Daw Khin San Win and family, one tical of gold; and U San Hla-Daw Su Yin and family, one set of Three Patikas through the commander, who then presented certificates of honour to them.

The Sayadaw delivered a sermon, followed by sharing of merits gained.

**Sanitation tasks carried out in Yangon municipal area**

**Yangon, 27 Dec** — As a gesture hailing the 56th Independence Day, Kontha-Myaseinyaung City of the People’s Republic of China at the UMFCCI office formally inaugurated the sanitation works for beautifying and cleanliness of Yangon City. Similar tasks were also carried out in Tamway, South Okkalapa, Dagon Myothit (South), Dagon Myothit (North) and Botataung townships in the morning.

**UMFCCI Vice-President meets Chinese delegation**

**Yangon, 27 Dec** — Vice-President of Union of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Aung Lwin, General Secretary U Sein Min Thein-Daw Moe Moe and officials of Myanmar Live-stock Breeding Federation met with a 29-member delegation led by Deputy Director-General Mr Song Xiao Guo of International Economic and Trade Department of Chong Qing Department of China at the UMFCCI Office this morning.

They discussed investment opportunities in agriculture and livestock breeding, participation of Myanmar businessmen in the trade fair to be held in Chong Qing City and import of machines and technology to be used in live-stock breeding farms.

**Rural roads opened**

**Yangon, 27 Dec** — As a gesture hailing the 56th Independence Day, Kontha-Myaseinyaung rural gravel road and Pyinwya Village rural gravel road constructed by Myaungmya Township Development Affairs Committee were opened on 23 December.

**Heroin seized in Muse**

**Yangon, 27 Dec** — On 17 December, a combined team comprising members of the local intelligence unit and Special Anti-Drug Squad, acting on information, tried to arrest a suspect near Kaungya Village in Muse Township, who later managed to escape, leaving behind him a total of 198 soap boxes of heroin weighing 2.895 kilos.

Action is being taken against the fugitive according to Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law by the police station concerned.

**Heroin seized in Muse**

**MNA**
The Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs has constructed post offices, telegraph offices and telephone exchange stations with the aim of providing convenient communication services required for economic, social and management affairs of the people.

Moreover, the ministry is also implementing projects to upgrade the communication facilities with the use of modern communication technologies.

Developments in the communication sector from 1988 to 2003

**Post and Telegraph**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>1988</th>
<th>2003</th>
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<td>1.</td>
<td>Post office</td>
<td>1115</td>
<td>1307</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.</td>
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<td>310</td>
<td>460</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
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**Telephone**

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<td>127</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Manual phone exchange</td>
<td>212</td>
<td>599</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>Phone line</td>
<td>67016</td>
<td>342317</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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**Mobile phone**

<table>
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<th>Subject</th>
<th>Opening date</th>
<th>Quantity (2003)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Cellular phone system</td>
<td>8-12-1993</td>
<td>8500</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Digital European Cordless Telecommunication system</td>
<td>30-1-1997</td>
<td>2700</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>CDMA system</td>
<td>17-10-1997</td>
<td>Fixed-18250</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Mobile-11800</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>GSM Mobile system</td>
<td>12-3-2002</td>
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**Oversea communication**

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<td>1.</td>
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<td>930</td>
<td>1994</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Underwater cable system</td>
<td>834</td>
<td>1999</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>Internet</td>
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Chinese lawmakers advocate special steps to curb export disorder

BEIJING, 27 Dec—Since more entities, including individuals, will get the right to undertake foreign trade, special provisions should be formulated to avoid or reduce the existing galloping competition in exporting during amendments to the Foreign Trade Law, Chinese lawmakers agreed during a group discussion here on Thursday.

Chinese individuals and all legal units, as opposed to special authorized companies in the past, are to be allowed to undertake foreign trade, under a draft amendment to the law, which was submitted for examination to the sixth session of the Standing Committee of the 10th National People’s Congress (NPC), which runs December 22 to 27.

Many lawmakers expressed their worry about the possibility of more disorder in exporting, characterized by galloping competition if more export-trade operators were invited.

Gu Xinlian, vice-chairwoman of the Standing Committee of the NPC, said that how to regulate the performance of foreign trade operators while protecting their interests should be an important starting point for amending the foreign trade law in order to bring about galloping competition in the prices of export commodities, which will seriously damage the interests of both China and other countries, said Wang Yingfum, a member of the standing committee.

Wang, also a former ambassador to the United Nations, warned that the loosening of foreign trade qualifications will worsen the existing disorder in exports to some developing countries, which has already damaged the image of Chinese commodities.

La Mingyu, a member of the committee, called for a more active functioning of industrial associations, which play an important role in regulating exporting order in other market-oriented countries.

Liu Guishan, a former official with China’s Commerce Ministry, proposed a national registration system to record the business performance of entities undertaking foreign trade.

According to the draft, China will enact measures to avoid disorder in foreign trade, including an early-warning system, a national registration system, a service system, a statistics mechanism, and publicity about illegal operations.

Compared with the only punishment in the current law — withdrawal of operation credit — the draft strengthens sanctions against illegal operations through adopting more severe punishments — criminal penalties — to administrative penalties and abolition of operators’ qualifications.

According to the schedule, the draft is expected to be passed next year, after several rounds of examination.

—— MNA/Xinhua

Medical insurance covers most cities in China

BEIJING, 27 Dec—By November 2003, medical insurance had been extended to most cities on the Chinese mainland, covering over 100 million people, an official with the Ministry of Labour and Social Security (MLSS) said here Thursday.

Deputy Minister Wang Dongjin said 73 per cent of the policy holders are active workers, while 27 per cent are retired.

About 49 per cent of the workers in state-owned enterprises and government. In 1998, China started a nationwide reform of the medical care system, in an attempt to lessen the government’s burden and establish a medical insurance system.

Wang said the medical insurance system currently being promoted still needs to be improved, for it only covers a limited number of people, mainly those working in state-owned enterprises or government institutions.

“China will speed up medical insurance reform, and extend the scope of the system to include those working in the non-state-owned economy and the mixed-ownership economy within three to five years,”

He added that the system will provide health insurance for migrant workers.

—— MNA/Xinhua

Vietnamese Government instructs SARS prevention

HANOI, 27 Dec—The Vietnamese Government has just directed ministries and localities nationwide to coordinate with the Ministry of Health in taking preventive measures against severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) and other infectious diseases.

Vietnamese Deputy Prime Minister Pham Gia Khiem stressed that facilities and medical equipment must be made available for quarantine services at major airports and border gates.

—— MNA/Xinhua

ADVETISMENTS

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S NEW DELHI-MUMBAI

Dated: 28 December, 2003

Vietnam to lure $2.6b in 2004

HANOI, 27 Dec—Vietnam plans to attract some 2.6 billion US dollars in foreign direct investment (FDI) next year, according to the Ministry of Planning and Investment on Thursday.

To fulfill the target, the country will issue more favourable policies to lure more FDI in the industries of infrastructure, telecommunications, hi-tech, steel and cement.

Vietnam is estimated to lure at least 2.5 billion dollars of FDI this year, 200 million dollars more than that of last year.

—— MNA/Xinhua

S Korean fishing boat missing, 10 feared dead

SEOUL, 27 Dec—Ten South Korean fishermen were feared dead after their fishing boat went missing in stormy weather off the southeastern coast of the Korean Peninsula.

Search and rescue operations were started after a South Korean fishing boat carrying 10 people went missing in the East Sea Wednesday, an official with the Ministry of Labour and Social Security (MLSS) said here Thursday.

The missing boat is a three-ton craft with two 22-horsepower outboard motors, a life-raft, a radio set, a lifejacket and a fishing net.

Four fishermen, said Kim Jong-hak, head of the boat’s management board.

—— MNA/Reuters
US troops detain five suspects for shelling coalition HQ in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 27 Dec — Five men suspected of firing rockets at the headquarters of the US-led coalition in Baghdad on Christmas night was detained, the US military said on Friday.

After a rocket attack on the fortified compound, an aircraft observed the launch point and reported the location, where soldiers on the ground then captured the five suspects, the military said in a statement. Two rockets hit a parking lot near the headquarters on west bank of the Tigris River at 11:15 pm (2015 GMT) Thursday without causing casualties, said the military. Sirens wailed after several huge explosions were heard near the coalition compound, dubbed as the Green Zone, on Thursday night.

The attack appeared to be part of a planned resistance offensive coinciding with the first Christmas Day after the coalition forces ousted Saddam Hussein from power and occupied the country in April. Guerrillas fired mortars, rockets and rocket-propelled grenades throughout Thursday, targeting a luxurious hotel housing Westerners, at least one foreign

China takes better care of collected SARS specimens

BEIJING, 27 Dec — Most SARS specimens and viral strains collected during the SARS outbreak in China have been safely transferred to designated laboratories, the Ministry of Health said here Friday.

The ministry said it has asked local health administrations to report on the storage of severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) virus specimens in their jurisdiction and transfer them to the designated institutes. “Most of SARS virus specimens kept in local institutes have been transferred safely to the designated places,” said a spokesman of the Health Ministry. The appointed places include the Chinese Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Institute of Military Medical Sciences, the National Institute for the Control of Pharmaceutical and Biological Products, Beijing CDC and Guangdong CDC.

Malaysia records steady recovery of tourist arrivals

KUALA LUMPUR, 27 Dec — Malaysia recorded a steady recovery of tourist arrivals despite setbacks earlier in the year, a report released here Friday said.

Tourism Malaysia said on Friday, that industry players managed to chalk up an upward swing beginning in the third quarter of 2003. “If not for the war in Iraq and the outbreak of the severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) during the first half of 2003, Malaysia would have registered a much higher figure,” it said. The highest number of arrivals was recorded in January with 1.07 million arrivals while the lowest was in April with 459,374. It began to pick up in May with 541,267 arrivals and by October the number was 959,658.

UN, Russia, Germany offer aid to Iran quake victims

GENEVA, 27 Dec — The United Nations and several countries including Russia and Germany offered help on Friday to victims of a devastating earthquake in southeastern Iran that has killed more than 5,000 people.

UN officials said they were releasing an immediate emergency relief fund of 150,000 US dollars to help Iran in handling the aftermath of the quake and had sent a team of experts to help assess the damage.

The world body’s Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said the team, due to arrive at the ancient Silk Road city of Bam later in the day, would also work to mobilize and oversee international assistance. The immediate need was for medicines, tents, mobile hospitals, electricity generators, water purification equipment and blankets, OCHA’s Madeleine Moulin-Azévedo said.

The UN children’s fund UNICEF said it was sending first aid kits and essential medical supplies. It called for 350,000 US dollars in donations.

Russia’s Emergency Ministry, highly skilled in reacting to frequent natural and man-made disasters, has offered rapid-response units of doctors, paramedics and sniffer dog-handlers to help find people buried under rubble.

Iraq issue impacts relations between big powers

WASHINGTON, 27 Dec — The US-led war in Iraq and post-war rebuilding, rolling on a path characterized by both conflicts and compromises, widened the rifts between the world’s big powers, reinforcing the globe’s tendency of moving toward multipolarization.

Early in the year, sabre-rattling United States and Britain deployed large numbers of troops in neighboring regions of Iraq, which was accused of having weapons of mass destruction.

Within the United Nations, the two countries nevertheless vigorously sought a Security Council resolution authorizing the use of force to rid Iraq of its alleged banned weapons.

However, France, Germany, Russia, China and most of other Security Council members stood against such a resolution before any progress was achieved on UN weapons inspections in Iraq.

Amid warming and opposition, the United States and Britain launched war on Iraq on 20 March, a unilateral move that pushed the United States and Europe wider apart within NATO.

US attempting to build a unilateral world

Analysts say the conflict among big powers over Iraq is a showcase of the unilateralism vs. multilateralism struggle.

With the end of the Cold War, the common threat to both sides of the Atlantic Ocean disappeared, but differences on building a new world order have widened largely due to US attempts to build unilaterally by relying on its economic and military advantages. The United States sees multipolarization as a threat, its official trigger being confrontation among big powers and an obstacle for it to carry on with its so-called “Peace Mission.”

Bush’s national security adviser Condoleezza Rice said in June that polarization is a kind of theory to intensify the confrontation of big powers and therefore must be discarded.

Europe, led by France, Germany, Russia and a few other countries, advocates establishing a polarized world and opposes the use of force in handling relations with other countries.

While striving to play a big part in a multi-polar world, Europe urged to seek security through multilateral cooperation and solve disputes through political and diplomatic means.
Soccer star Maradona Subject of new musical El Diez aiming for London and New York

New York, 27 Dec — Argentinian soccer legend Diego Maradona will be the subject of a new musical which will premiere in Buenos Aires in January before aiming for London and Broadway. El Diez, Entre el Cielo y el Infierno (Number 10, Between Heaven and Hell) will debut at the Metropolitan Theatre in Argentina’s capital, 3 Jan, 2004.

The title refers to the soccer player’s jersey number as well as his tumultuous life story. The musical tells the story of his rise to fame from a boy in a small town to a champion in the World Cup. A few years after his international success, he was at the center of a drug scandal and was banned from soccer. He returned to the game a few years later before retiring at 37 in 1997.

Maradona will play by three actors in the musical—one adolescent, one adult (during his soccer prime) and one as a (fictionally projected) elderly man of 80. The cast of the stage show totals at 45 — a number that closely resembles that of another musical about a famous Argentinian, Evita.

Chelsea crash, but United, Arsenal march on

London, 17 Dec — Chelsea suffered a Christmas hangover on Friday as they suffered a 4-2 battering at London rivals Charlton Athletic.

The defeat was especially costly for Claudio Ranieri’s expensively assembled team as title rivals Manchester United and Arsenal both won at home.

Manchester United rested Paul Scholes, Ryan Giggs and leading scorer Ruud van Nistelrooy but still beat Everton 3-2 and Arsenal won 3-0 against bottom club Wolves.

Big guns start the psychological warfare

London, 27 Dec — Christmas is supposed to be the season of goodwill to all men — it is just that nobody bothered to inform Premier League managers Sir Alex Ferguson and Arsene Wenger.

The managers of Manchester United and Arsenal normally manage to hold off until around mid-March before firing their first shots in the psychological warfare that has become such a traditional part of an English Premiership title run-in.

This year however, the mind games have kicked off with less than half the season gone, both Ferguson and Wenger seeking to extract maximum benefit from the mid-season clutter that has cast doubt on Chelsea’s ability to to push their more experienced rivals all the way to the wire.

The decisive period is in March or April and we have experience of the pressure of that time,” Wenger remarked after the Boxing Day visit of Wolves to Highbury.

“United as well, but Chelsea, they don’t. They have that experience as a group of players but not as a team,” Ferguson, who will also enjoy home advantage for the visit of Everton, meanwhile, has been busy ramming home the importance of his side sitting at the top of the table at Christmas given its past record of changing gears in the closing stages of the season.

“Historically we have always shown great determination in the second half of the season,” Ferguson said. “I hope we can keep that up.”

The underlying message was not lost on Wenger, who believes his side’s unbeaten start to the season has been tarnished by the losses pain-fully absorbed last year when the Gunners effectively blew the title by allowing United to overcome a nine-point deficit.

“Alex Ferguson says his team get stronger in the second half of the season but you could say the same of Arsenal,” was Wenger’s response to Ferguson’s jibe.

“In 1998 we were 11 points behind United in January and we went on to win the double.”

Spartak’s Mitrevski set to join Portsmouth

Moscow, 27 Dec — Spartak Moscow’s Macedonian defender Igor Mitrevski has said that he hopes to sign a contract with Portsmouth next week.

“We’ve already agreed the details and I just need to sign a contract which I’m fully satisfied with,” Mitrevski was quoted as saying by Russian daily Sovetsky Sport.

“I’m spending Christmas and New Year at home in Macedonia, so I think I will sign the deal on January 2.

The 24-year-old would join the English Premier League side on a free transfer after spending the last three seasons with the Moscow club.

Portsmouth are 15th in the 20-strong league after beating Tottenham 2-0 on Friday.

Arsenal’s French forward Thierry Henry (L) puts the ball beyond Wolverhampton Wanderers keeper Michael Oakes (R) to score the first of his two goals during a premier league match at Highbury on 26 Dec, 2003. Arsenal won 3-0. — Internet

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS
1 London rail-terminus
4 Not at all
8 Pursue
9 Hair, shaggy
10 Clothing
11 Metallic element
12 Largest deer
13 Intended
14 Place of refuge
16 Risked
17 Tree
18 Of the stars
20 Of the stars
22 Sprain
23 Put into words
25 House on wheels
28 Motor-car fuel

DOWN
1 Armed guard
2 Standing-place
3 Pancake made of eggs
4 Informer (sl.)
5 Alluring woman
6 Sport
7 Colourless
8 Song
9 Free from pain
18 Tree
21 Coarse
22 Put into words
23 Of the stars
24 Aiming
26 Later
27 Village leader
28 Motor-car fuel

MNA/Reuters

Arsenal’s French forward Thierry Henry (L) puts the ball beyond Wolverhampton Wanderers keeper Michael Oakes (R) to score the first of his two goals during a premier league match at Highbury on 26 Dec, 2003. Arsenal won 3-0. — Internet

Chelsea bounced back from two successive defeats with its win over Fulham at the weekend.

But the three points came at the price of losing Ireland winger Damien Duff for up to six weeks with a dislo-cated shoulder and the Blues face another exacting exami-nation of their title creden-tials when they make the short trip to Charlton.

Arsenal in contrast should be able to run off any Christ-mas Day excesses with ease when it entertains bottom side Wolves at Highbury while Manchester United rarely gives anything away against Everton.

Internet
Myanmar Engineering Society holds annual conference

Yangon, Dec 27 — The Myanmar Engineering Society held the annual conference for 2003 at the Myanmar Information and Communication Technology (MICT) Park in Hlinye Township here this afternoon. Present on the occasion were Patrons of MES Minister for Energy Brig.-Gen. Lin Thu, Deputy Minister for Mines U Myint Thein, Deputy Minister for Energy Air Vice-Marshal Than Htay, Rector of Defence Services Technological Academy Brig.-Gen. Win Myint and members, AASEN, Engineering Societies Federation President MES Chairman Dr. Sein Myint and Central Executive Committee members and others.

The meeting was presided over by Deputy Minister U Myint Thein. After the speech of the meeting chairman, MES Chairman Dr. Sein Myint made an address. The CEC report was submitted by General Secretary U Than Myint and financial statement by Dr. Daw Khin Aye Win. The report and the financial statement were then approved. Next, MES Chairman Dr. Sein Myint presented AASEN engineering certificates to 12 MES members. So far, 65 engineers of MES have obtained the AASEN engineering certificates. — MNA

WEATHER

Saturday, December 27, 2003

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been fair in the whole country. Night temperatures were (3°C) above normal in Shan State, (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Chin State, Mandalay and Bago Divisions (3°C) to (5°C) below normal in Rakhine State. Ayeyawady and lower Sagaing Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperature was (1°C) in Hkha. Maximum temperature on 26-12-2003 was 34°C (93°F) in Rangon. Minimum temperature on 27-12-2003 was 17°C (63°F). Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 27-12-2003 was 83%. Total sunshine hours on 26-12-2003 was (8.5) hours approx. Rainfall on 27-12-2003 was nil at Rangoon Airport, Kabay-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2003 was 2211 mm (87.05 inches) at Yangon Airport, 2315 mm (91.14 inches) at Kabay-Aye and 2394 mm (94.25 inches) at central Yangon.

Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kabay-Aye) was 7 mph from Northeast at (14:50) hours MST on 27-12-2003.

Bay influence: Weather is partly cloudy in the south Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 28-12-2003: Weather will be partly cloudy in Kashin State, Yangon and Tanintharyi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas.

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Fair weather in the whole country.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 28-12-2003: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 28-12-2003: Fair weather.

56th Anniversary Independence Day Exhibition

Date — 3rd to 11th January 2004

Time — 9 am to 5 pm

Place — Tantamadaw Hall on U Wissa Rd, Ygn
Prime Minister receives Pa-O National Organization (PNO) Chairman and party

YANGON, 27 Dec—Chairman of Work Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt received Chairman of Pa-O National Organization (PNO) U Aung Hkam Hti, Vice-Chairman U Khin Kyaw Nyo and party of Shan State (South) Special Region-6 at Zeyathiri Beikman on Kommyintatha at 5 pm today.

Also present at the call were Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt, Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and departmental heads.

As at the call, the national race leaders reported to the Prime Minister that they supported the seven-point future programme of the State declared by the Prime Minister and they promised that they will attend the National Convention without fail.

Next, the national race leaders reported on education, health, roads/bridges and economic tasks for regional development.---MNA

Prime Minister attends enshrinement ceremony of Naungdawgyi Myathalyaung Reclining Buddha Image in Bago

The Prime Minister and his entourage arrived at the work site for renovation of Naungdawgyi Myathalyaung Reclining Buddha Image on Teiktha Street in Mazin Ward, Bago.

The enthroning of religious objects into the reliquary of the image began at 11 am at the pandal near the image, attended by the Prime Minister, the ministers, the Chief of Staff (Navy), the deputy ministers, officials, departmental heads and officials, left-nated by wellwishers including K 10 million by Agga Maha Thiri Thudhamma Theinjpi Dow Kyin Kyi and family; K 5 million each by U Thein Win-Daw Ni of Shwe Thandwun family; U Khin Shwe, Chairman of National Development Companies Group Ltd; and U Tint Hla Kyi Huy Myint (ACE Co); K 3.1 million by Teingyar family; K 2.7 million by Daw Aye Mya Nwe (Bagan Hotel); K 1 million by U Win Thin (Yangon); K 537,400 by U Zeya Thura Mon-Daw Khaing Khaing Myint; K 500,000 each by Adviser U Aung-Maung-Daw Tin Tin Wai; U Sein Hla Win (Sein & San Co); U Tin Daw San San Win (AN Co); U Kyin Wam (Gyothein); U Myint Sein-Daw Hla Kyi (Myingyar Cheroot); and U Kyaw Min and family (Sangyoung).

Chairman of Bago Division Sangha Nayaka Committee Oktha Thiri Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Vimala (Gyothein); U Myint Sein-Daw Hla Kyi (Myingyar Cheroot); and U Kyaw Min and family (Sangyoung).

The Prime Minister received paritta flowers, thread and sand to the Sayadaws. Members of the Sangharcirecipientpatan. Next, the laity scattered the paritta sand and tied the paritta flowers in the precinct of the image.

The General presented religious objects to be enthroned and offerings to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Visudhita Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, the commander and the ministers also presented offerings to members of the Sangha.

Led by the Sasana flag carrying team and the regal procession troupe, the General and party and wellwishers conveyed relics to the reliquary. The General enthroned, golden Bodhi tree, Budhha images, relics, palm-leaf inscriptions on Tri-pitakas and jewellery into the reliquary of the Buddha image. The General closed the reliquary and sprinkled scented water on it.

After the ceremony, the Prime Minister performed rituals of golden and silver showers to mark successful completion of the ceremony.

Next, the cash donation ceremony for Naungdawgyi Myathalyaung reclining Buddha image was held. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, Commander Brig-Gen Ko Ko and Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung accepted K 39,077,400 donated by wellwishers including K 10 million by Agga Maha Thiri Thudhamma Theinjpi Dow Kyin Kyi and family; K 5 million each by U Thein Win-Daw Ni of Shwe Thandwun family; U Khin Shwe, Chairman of National Development Companies Group Ltd; and U Tint Hla Kyi Huy Myint (ACE Co); K 3.1 million by Teingyar family; K 2.7 million by Daw Aye Mya Nwe (Bagan Hotel); K 1 million by U Win Thin (Yangon); K 537,400 by U Zeya Thura Mon-Daw Khaing Khaing Myint; K 500,000 each by Adviser U Aung-Maung-Daw Tin Tin Wai; U Sein Hla Win (Sein & San Co); U Tin Daw San San Win (AN Co); U Kyin Wam (Gyothein); U Myint Sein-Daw Hla Kyi (Myingyar Cheroot); and U Kyaw Min and family (Sangyoung).

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In the afternoon, the Prime Minister and party went to Dhammalankara Buddha Rekkhita Monastery (See page 8)