The 56th Anniversary Independence Day message of State Peace and Development Council Chairman Senior General Than Shwe

YANGON, 4 Jan — The following is a translation of the message sent by State Peace and Development Council Chairman Defence Services Commander-in-Chief Senior General Than Shwe on the occasion of the 56th Anniversary of the Independence Day.

On this auspicious occasion of the 56th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar, I would like to extend greetings to all the national people of the State, with amity and high regard.

It has now reached the 56th Anniversary of the Day on which the independence and sovereignty of the Union of Myanmar had been restored, after the entire national races had sacrificed much blood and sweat. Throughout the course of Myanmar history, the national brethren including Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Bamar, Mon, Rakhine and Shan have striven for perpetuation of the State and sovereignty at the risk of their lives, with strong faith in patriotism and Union Spirit.

In this regard, we will have to document with honour the victories achieved through the harmonious endeavours of the Taitmadaw members, who have restored and safeguarded the independence and who are the offspring of the national people, the State service personnel and the entire national races.

For years countable by the thousand, the Union of Myanmar stood as an independent and sovereign nation, with her own civilization. The national brethren have defended and safeguarded the State sovereignty with Union Spirit, while preserving and relaying their high standard of civilization and national pride and national character to the next generation.

Bonding themselves with their race and land with deep devotion, the Myanmar races have striven to equip themselves with strong Union Spirit, with patriotism and the love for the nation as the core factors. The history of the Union of Myanmar is the history of the national races. When there was national unity, the nation was strong, and it stood tall winning the respect of the neighbours. The founding of the consolidated states — the First Myanmar Empire during the Bagan era, the Second Myanmar Empire during the Toungoo era, and the Third Myanmar Empire during the Konboun era — was prominent in history.

Since time immemorial, Myanmar has been known to be fully equipped with patriotism — the spirit to love their own race, literature, traditions and culture and customs; the spirit of never tolerating any insult against the nation and the race; and the spirit to make selfless sacrifices for the national cause. They cherish the independence. And because of the patriotism, that is their innate nature, they were able to restore independence and sovereignty.

Because of the Government’s endeavours, relying on the national strength, and participated by the entire people, the motherland is now on the right track towards development.

Since assumption of the State duties, the Government has striven for national re-consolidation, regional peace and stability and the rule of law, as priority tasks. It has been laying down and implementing border areas and national races development projects, with greater momentum, to restore national unity. At the same time, 17 armed groups returned to the legal fold as the Government had initiated negotiations, based on mutual trust, with them to pave the way for their return to the fold. The national races leaders of the peace groups are now taking part together with the Government in building infrastructures for the development of their respective regions and the nation as well.

Myanmar has been continuously practising the independent and active foreign policy. It always concentrates on extension of the international relations, based on love and friendship, with all the countries around the world. It has given priority to extending cordial relations with her neighbours, based on good neighborliness, mutual respect and cooperation. It is also actively taking part in the activities of the UN and international bodies, and the regional organizations including the ASEAN, the BIMST-EC and Greater Mekong Subregion Development Programme for global peace, security and development. As a means to facilitate the ASEAN integration programme for new members, Myanmar successfully hosted the Summit Meeting on Economic Cooperation Strategy between the four countries — Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand — in Bagan in November 2003.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attends prize-presentation ceremony of School Family Day

YANGON, 3 Jan — The prize-presentation ceremony of the School Family Day for 2003-2004 academic year took place at the Diamond Jubilee Hall on Pyay Road this afternoon.

Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief Senior General Than Shwe was Vice-Chairman of the event. Peace and Development tee Secretary-1 of the State Myanmar Education Committee Prime Minister Khin Nyunt attended the event.

At the event, the Prime Minister distributed prizes to the winners of the School Family Day.

The Prime Minister also addressed the ceremony, presenting awards to the winners.

The Prime Minister congratulated the students for their achievements and encouraged them to continue their efforts.

Foreign Heads of State send felicitations to Senior General Than Shwe

YANGON, 4 Jan — The following are messages of felicitations from foreign Heads of State to Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council and Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, on the occasion of the 56th Anniversary Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar.

From Mr Hu Jintao, President of the People’s Republic of China:
On the occasion of the 56th anniversary day of the Union of Myanmar, I would like to extend, on behalf of the Chinese people and in my own name, to Your Excellency and through you to the people of Myanmar the warmest congratulations and best wishes.

In the past year, Myanmar has made successive new achievements in maintaining stability, development of the country, and through you to the people of our two countries. I firmly believe that with joint efforts of both sides, the traditional Sino-Myanmar friendly relations and cooperation based on the five principles of peaceful co-existence will make further achievements.

(See page 2)
The 56th Anniversary Independence Day...

The Government is able to develop the national economy in leaps and bounds. In doing so, it has laid down the national policy and the economic policy for development of agriculture as the base and development of the industrial and other economic sectors. It has given special priority to progress of multi-sectors. It is extending support actively for applying advanced technologies and quality standards and building irrigation facilities, with paddy as the base of agricultural business. It has established 18 industrial zones in states and divisions of the nation. An effective factor that is behind the emergence of good foundations of sound economic development is the progress and the increase in the number of the people of the country building roads and major bridges spanning rivers and large creeks built by the Government the length and breadth of the nation.

Similarly, Myanmar's efforts to safeguard the independence of the nation are worthy of the highest praise. It is necessary to document the nation-building endeavours of the entire national people including Tatmadawmen who are the off-spring of the people, and service personnel.

The independence struggles and victories of the national people have been documented not only in the history of Myanmar but also in the world history. Independence Day Exhibition is held yearly to value the independence and patriotism lived by all the citizens in building the nation.

People's Desire

- Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views and opposing the national development. The Government and people of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka: It gives me great pleasure in conveying to your Excellency our warmest felicitations on the auspicious occasion of the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar. It is my fervent conviction that the friendly and cordial relations existing between our two countries will be further strengthened in the years to come. Please accept, Excellency, my best wishes for your good health and happiness and for the continued progress and prosperity of the people of Myanmar. Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

From Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunge, President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka:

The Government and people of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka join me in extending our sincere greetings and warm good wishes to you and the people of the Union of Myanmar on this auspicious occasion of the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar. It is my fervent conviction that the friendly and cordial relations existing between our two countries will be further strengthened in the years to come. Please accept, Excellency, my best wishes for your good health and happiness and for the continued progress and prosperity of the people of Myanmar. Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

From MNA

Independence Day Exhibition
crowded with people

YANGON, 3 Jan — The 56th Anniversary Independence Day Exhibition is being held at Tatmadaw convention hall on U Wisara Road here.

Over 6,000 people visited the Exhibition on the opening day, today. — MNA
In the world, an international survey found as the New Year comes. Gallup International, underscores the public sentiment that Hong Kong's prospects for the first half of 2003 closed Wednesday at 12,575.95, up 24.38 points from the end of 2002, an annual rise of 35 per cent on the year and representing its highest level since early 2001. Twenty per cent of the residents expect conditions to be the same as this year and just 6 per cent feel conditions will worsen. The improved confidence comes with optimism in the city's economic performance in 2004 will be better than that of 2003, more than doubling last year's 32 per cent. Only 16 per cent of the respondents expect conditions to be the same as this year and just 6 per cent feel conditions will worsen. The improved confidence comes after a strong economic rebound in the second half of 2003. Cementing that upsurge, the Hang Seng Index closed Wednesday at 12,575.95, up 35 per cent on the year and representing its first annual gain since 1999. The global confidence survey, by research companies Taylor Nelson Sofres and Gallup International, underscores the public sentiment that Hong Kong's prospects have finally turned the corner.

**ITC says instability in Iraq to affect all regional countries.**

Akbars, 3 Jan — Iraqi Turkmen Front (ITC) warned on Friday that instability and splitting up of Iraq would not only affect Iraq, but also all the regional countries. The ITC’s figures as of Friday. Non-hostile injuries numbered 382. The latest deaths reported by the military: — A soldier died Friday when a truck traveling towards the Baghdad airport flipped on its side. — A helicopter pilot died Friday when a helicopter assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division was shot down by enemy fire. — An 82nd Airborne Division soldier was fatally shot Tuesday when another soldier was cleaning a weapon and it fired a chambered round. It was reported that the Arabs and Turkmen began firing shots at Arab and Turkmen demonstrators on Wednesday. It was reported that the Arabs and Turkmen began protesting in the morning to demand that Kirkuk remain under a central Iraqi government and not be incorporated into any proposed Kurdish federation. Such kind of incidents damaged Iraq's integrity at a time when peace and order were needed the most in Iraq, especially when peace and order were needed the most in Iraq, especially after the beginning of military operations in Iraq. According to the Defence Department’s figures, since the start of military operations, 2,397 US service members have been injured as a result of hostile action and 130 of non-hostile causes, according to the Defence Department’s figures. Since the start of military operations, 2,397 US service members have been injured as a result of hostile action, according to the Defence Department’s figures as of Friday. Non-hostile injuries numbered 382. The latest deaths reported by the military: — A soldier died Friday when a truck traveling towards the Baghdad airport flipped on its side. — A helicopter pilot died Friday when a helicopter assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division was shot down by enemy fire. — An 82nd Airborne Division soldier was fatally shot Tuesday when another soldier was cleaning a weapon and it fired a chambered round.

**HK economy in 2004 draws world’s most confidence.**

Hong Kong, 3 Jan — Hong Kong economy in 2004 has drawn the most confidence in the world, an international survey found as the New Year comes. “Hong Kong undoubtedly suffered more than most (places) throughout 2003, particularly the impact of SARS,” Taylor Nelson Sofres Hong Kong project director Andrew Davison was quoted as saying by the newspaper. The number of Hong Kong residents who expect 2004 to be prosperous has nearly tripled from a year ago to 35 per cent. And more than half of Hong Kong people expect the unemployment rate to fall over the next 12 months. In contrast, a survey by Mastercard International 18 months ago found Hong Kong to be one of the most pessimistic places in the region. Overall, the new poll, which surveyed more than 65,000 people between November and December in 60 countries and regions, found increased optimism around the world, with three of the top 10 most optimistic places located in the Asia-Pacific Region. — Internet

**ITC Turkey Representation said in a written statement.**

“Turkmens and Arabs staged a march on 31 December, 2003 in Kirkuk aiming to protest the initiatives to form a federative state in northern part of Iraq, including Mosul, Kirkuk and Dihya cities which are densely Turkmen populated,” said the statement. “Kirkuk is neither a Turkish nor an Arab city, but an Iraqi city although Turkmens and Arabs constituted majority in the city,” it added. — Internet

**Iraqi children walk past the remains of Baghdad’s Nabil restaurant on 1 January, 2004, after it was destroyed in a blast the night before. US soldiers and Iraqi police were on high alert on Thursday for more attacks to mark the start of 2004, after a car bomb ripped through a Baghdad restaurant, killing five New Year revelers.**

**India aims to fly hypersonic plane in 2007.**

Bangalore, 3 Jan — Indian defence scientists are aiming to fly an indigenous “hypersonic plane” in 2007, designed to cruise three times faster than existing fighter aircraft by consuming less fuel. An eight-metre technology demonstrator is being built by the Hyderabad-based Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL) which will be powered by a Supersonic combustion ramjet (Scramjet) engine, that takes oxygen from the atmosphere and burns liquid hydrogen. “The ground tests of the engine would begin next year and we aim to fly the unmanned aircraft in 2007”, DRDL Director Prahlada told PTI here. The aircraft would be integrated in India’s aviation capital Bangalore and Hyderabad, he said. The supersonic combustion ramjet or scramjet engine fired-hyper plane is a high speed transport aircraft that could reduce the flight time by hours because of the weight factor and the engine that does not have a compressor or a turbine. India has achieved considerable progress in the air breathing engine technology (ramjet) at sub-sonic speed in its surface-to-air Akash missile programme, but is yet to master the technology at supersonic speed of up to 7 mach (speed of sound is one mach). “We are improving on our expertise in air breathing engine technology and it would be an unmanned aircraft,” Prahlada said.

Incidentally, the country is in race with the US, Japan, Russia and China to build a hypersonic plane which is expected to revolutionize low cost space travel. The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) has begun conceptual studies to build and launch a reusable launch vehicle using air-breathing technology by 2015, he said.

DRDL is jointly working with academic institutions including the IITs and IISc, besides collaborating with the Mishra Dhatu Nigam (Midani) to develop high temperature Nickel Cobalt alloys and carbon composite materials, which could withstand heat during high-speed flight of the hypersonic plane. — Internet
US helicopter shot down in Iraq; one killed

FALLUJA, 3 Jan—Guerrillas shot down a US military helicopter in central Iraq Friday, killing one pilot and injuring another, while ethnic tensions flared again in the northern city of Kirkuk, leading to at least one death.

The US Central Command said the OH-58 Kiowa observation helicopter was brought down by enemy fire about 30 miles west of Baghdad near the volcanic town of Falluja.

A policeman who saw the crash said the helicopter was hit by a missile. “We were in a joint patrol with US troops to remove land mines and I saw a helicopter hovering in the sky which was hit by a missile,” policeman Mohammad Abdul Aziz said.

“It was split into two and went down in flames.”

13 journalists killed covering Iraq war

NEW YORK, 3 Jan—Thirteen journalists were killed last year covering the war in Iraq, the highest death toll for the media in a single country since 1995, a watchdog group said Friday.

In all, 36 journalists were killed worldwide last year, up from 19 in 2002, the Committee to Protect Journalists said.

Iraq was the main reason for the increase.
“ Iraq is a dangerous place for many of the people who are there now,” said Ann Cooper, the organization’s executive director.

“It’s still a huge story,” she said. “It’s particularly a huge story for American media. There are probably hundreds of journalists there at any given time, and they’re at great risk.”

CPJ said it was particularly troubled by the deaths of four journalists in Iraq killed as a result of US military action. It has called on the Pentagon for a public accounting.

The count only includes journalists killed as a direct result of their work; the list does not include six other reporters who died from illness or accidents while covering the war.

The group is also investigating the cases of four missing journalists, and 12 journalist deaths that may have been work-related.

Conflict in the Middle East also claimed the lives of two journalists in Israel and the occupied territories.

Five journalists were killed in the Philippines, four in Colombia, two in Brazil, and one each in Cambodia, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Iran, Ivory Coast, Nepal, Pakistan, Russia, and Somalia.

The death toll in Iraq was the highest for a single country since 24 journalists were killed in Algeria eight years ago.

Shanghai receives gas through west-east pipeline

SHANGHAI, 3 Jan — Shanghai, China’s largest city and economic centre, has officially begun receiving gas from the west-east gas pipeline.

The project would provide 500,000 cubic metres of gas to Shanghai every day, to ease local shortages in winter, said Chen Geng, president of PetroChina in charge of the pipeline project.

Construction started in July 2002 and the project cost more than 200 billion yuan (24.1 billion US dollars). It is designed to carry 12 billion cubic metres of natural gas a year from the Tarim Basin in the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region and the Changqing gas field in Shaanxi to the eastern regions.

A total of 3,900 kilometres of pipeline will be laid for the project. The eastern section, linking Shaanxi and Shanghai, was completed and started trial operations in October 2003.

When the western section, from Lunnan of the Tarim Basin to Qinzhou in Guangxi, is completed, the Tarim Basin will replace Changqing as the main gas source on January 1, 2005.

A gas supply network is expected to be competed in Shanghai in 2005, boosting local gas consumption to three billion cubic metres a year from the current 300 million cubic metres.

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US Army Cpt Brent Harrington, from Maryland, of the 1st Regiment, 22nd Battalion 4th Infantry division and Iraqi Civil Defence Corp (ICDC) Corporal Jabar Hamed walk past cars during a joint patrol in Saddam Hussein’s hometown of Tikrit, north of Baghdad on 2 Jan, 2004. — INTERNET
Union of Myanmar
State Peace and Development Council
Notification No 1/2004

(See page 7)
Union of Myanmar State Peace and Development Council Notification No 1/2004

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(4 January, 2004)

The State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar has conferred titles and medals of commendation on the following persons.

Gallantry Medals

1. U Tin Shein, Taungngai village, Bokpyin Township, No 4. U Hla Tun, No 5 Inya Myaing Road, Bahan Township.
2. U Thein Oo, Chairman, Myanmar Computer Federation.
3. U Aung Kyi Myint, Farmer, ward 2, Merchant Street, Daikku, Bago Division.
4. U Aung Kyi Myint, Factory Manager, Myanmar Shipyard Development Corporation,
   Myanmar Shipyard, Ministry of Transport.
5. U Aung Kyi Myint, Factory Manager, Myanmar Shipyard, Ministry of Transport.
17. U Aung Kyi Myint, Factory Manager, Myanmar Shipyard, Ministry of Transport.
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68. U Aung Kyi Myint, Factory Manager, Myanmar Shipyard, Ministry of Transport.
Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt ...

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt has a cordial conversation with the outstanding students. — MNA
Prime Minister attends cash presentation ceremony for all-round renovation of Naga Hlainggu Aungchantha Pagoda

Yangon, 3 Jan — The cash presentation ceremony for all-round renovation of Naga Hlainggu Aungchantha Pagoda was held in conjunction with the ceremony to offer 1,000 robes for the welfare of Kaungtay at Mayangon Township, Yangon Division, this morning attended by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt.

Also present on the occasion were the members of the Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee of State Sangha Mahayana and Buddha, the Committee Presiding Sayadaw of Kaungkya Kyaut, Agga Maha Pandita Dwipitakadhara Bhaddanta Jaggabiravamsa, ministers, deputy ministers, the Vice-Major, officials of the State Peace and Development Council.

Certificates of honour awarded

Yangon, 3 Jan — The Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services presented the certificates of honour to 20 military personnel for their outstanding performance in discharging the national defence duties. — MNA

Notifications on titling and medals of commendation


Under the Notification No 1/2004, religious titles have been conferred on Sayadaws and nuns and laity. Abhidhaja Mahayana and Buddha have been conferred on two Sayadaws; Agga Maha Pandita Titles on 18 Sayadaws; Maha Dhamma Kathika Buhuahajaditha Title on one Sayadaw; Dhamma Kathika Buhuahajaditha Titles on two Sayadaws; Maha Gatha Vaccha Kathikka Title on 32 Sayadaws and four nuns; Maha Gatha Vaccha Panda Titles on 45 Sayadaws and eight nuns; Gatha Vaccha Panda Titles on 22 Sayadaws and eight nuns; Agga Maha Kathmananadita Titles on seven Sayadaws; Maha Kathmananadita Titles on four Sayadaws; Kathmananadita Title on Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhama Joikita Titles on nine Sayadaws; Agga Maha Saddhama Joikita Titles on 54 Sayadaws; Maha Saddhama Joikitakha Titles on 54 Sayadaws, two nuns and eight nuns; Joikita Titles on 28 Sayadaws, two nuns and two laity; Agga Maha Thi Thi Saddhama Manjotadhara Titles on five laity; Agga Maha Thiri Sudha Manjotadhara Titles on five laity; Thiri Sudha Manjotadhara Title on four laity; Thiri Sudha Thimmye Theingi Titles on six laity; Thittha Sudhama Manjotadhara Titles on four laity, Thittha Sudhama Theingi Titles on 11 laity, Sudhama Maha Manjotadhara Titles on five laity, and Thittha Thimmye Theingi Titles on two laity.

Under the Notification No 2/2004, Gallantry Medals and medals of commendation were presented to 100 personnel. — MNA

Parade of outstanding students

(from page 16) The flag-bearing team of No 4 BEHS in Tamwe Township, the band of No 8 BEHS, Mawlamyine and outstanding students who were winners in the 11th Myanma Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions marched.

The band of No 8 BEHS, Mawlamyine performed marching songs “Aung-lan-win-tha-maung-ah-ant-hin-san”, “U-si-chin-myar”, “Ma-pyan-khway”, “Auld Lang Sing” and “Myanmar-pyi-thar”.

The flag-bearing team of No 2 BEHS, Latha Township and the band of No 3 BEHS in Taunggyi presented dances.

Ma Ngu Maung and party presented a song and dance to the accompaniment of Botahtaung Township — K 37,985,100 including K 10 million by U Maung Maung Kha Swo-Dawe Aye Aye Soe and family; K 3 million by U Thein Win (Shwe Thwin Lwin) Co-Daw Naing and family; K 2.3 million by Managing Director of Gunskil Engineering & Fire Autoconditioner Co Ltd.

Six trafficked Myanmar girls taken

Yangon, 3 Jan — Six Myanmar girls aged 6 to 12, who have been trafficked into Thailand for child labour due to high levels of poverty, are back home yesterday after the coordination between Myanmar Government and the Thai Government.

They were welcomed at the airport by officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Ministry of Immigration and Population, Myanmar Women Affairs Federation, UN Inter Agency Project (UNIAP).

The girls stayed at women’s vocational training school in Natmauk Road in Bahan Township.

They visited the Shwedagon Pagoda and Yangon Girls’ Training School of Social Welfare
The sole desire to regain the national independence. There was the force, the political struggle to liberate the nation using the experience of the elders and energetic efforts of the young. With the participation of all the national races from both places were totally divided and in the darkness due to wrong views. With the participation of all the national races from both places were totally divided and in the darkness due to wrong views. The colonialists were prepared to launch a major war with the nation, the Federation was able to fully restore pace and stability during the post-independence period as an independent nation, and the effective participation of individual parties that were within the ASEAN family and the parties that were within the ASEAN family and the parties that were within the ASEAN family and the parties that were within the ASEAN family.

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Honouring the 56th Anniversary Independence Day:

Flourishing industries of the Ministry of Industry-2 in the time of the State Peace and Development Council

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal year</th>
<th>GDP (kyat in million)</th>
<th>Fiscal year</th>
<th>GDP (kyat in million)</th>
<th>Fiscal year</th>
<th>GDP (kyat in million)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1990-91</td>
<td>725.90</td>
<td>1995-96</td>
<td>1824.69</td>
<td>2000-2001</td>
<td>8848.61</td>
</tr>
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</table>

The motto “transformation from conventional farming to mechanized farming” has now been successfully translated into reality. Ever since its assumption of the State’s responsibilities to date, the Government has been striving day in, day out for ensuring harmonious and equitable development of all parts of the Union.

The Government with a view to developing the industrial sector has established 18 industrial zones at the regions with potential resources, after organizing private industries. Some 7,000 national industrialists are making efforts to the best of their ability to manufacture respective industrial products at the industrial zones.

Among them, Yangon, Mandalay, Ayethaya of Taunggyi and Monywa industrial zones are in the forefront. They are also fulfilling the requirements of the State, gaining technological assistance from the Ministry of Industry-2.
Thousands of books are waiting to give you knowledge free of charge

**ADVERTISEMENTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mechanical Water Pump Gland Packing</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>3000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water Proof Insulated Covered Winding Wire</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>2500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>News Print Paper</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>2500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thermoplastic Powder</td>
<td>1 Lot</td>
<td>3000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bleach Powder</td>
<td>1 Lot</td>
<td>2000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PIA flight lands in Delhi, IAF plane touches down in Islamabad**

New Delhi, 3 Jan - Passenger flights resumed Thursday between India and Pakistan for the first time since aviation links between them stopped since Decemver 2000.

A Pakistan International Airways flight, carrying 40 passengers, arrived here from Lahore bringing hopes of stronger people-to-people contact as many on board the plane came to meet their relatives.

Earlier, an IAF Boeing 737 aircraft carrying External Affairs Minister Yashwant Sinha, National Security Advisor Birjesh Mishra and senior Indian officials reached Islamabad.

**ARRIVAL/CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MY “BAGO” VOY NO BG 759/N**

Consignees of cargo carried on "BAGO" Voy No BG 759/N are hereby notified that the vessel arrives at Yangon port on 04-01-2004 and will be berthing on about 05-01-2004 and cargoes will be discharged into the premises of Myanma Port Authority where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily between 8 am to 11.30 am and 12 noon to 4 pm upto 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.

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**Dazed man rescued from Bam six days after quake**

Bam (Iran), 3 Jan - At first they thought he was dead, but as they dug through the ruins, the rescuers realized the young man lying alongside six corpses was still alive and blinking and mumbling.

He had been trapped under a wardrobe, which probably saved his life when the world's most devastating earthquake in decades flattened his hometown of Bam in southeast Iran six days ago.

Yoshollah Saadat, a 27-year-old shopkeeper, was rescued around midnight (0300 GMT on Wednesday) by Red Crescent workers, who had all given up hope of finding any more survivors in Bam's mud-brick buildings, nearly all of which collapsed.

"They were taking out the corpses and they found him. They thought he was dead and then they realized he was alive," Saadat's wife Fatimeh Asghari, 22, said as medics treated him for a broken hip in a Red Crescent truck at Bam Airport. "I can't express how happy I am," she told Reuters.

An ambulance medic held the dazed man's face and asked if he could say his name. The man mumbled "Yadollah" several times in reply. His right leg appeared to be covered by a metal splint. "You can call it a miracle or anything you like," said Red Crescent worker Ali Aghar Namadi. "I'm just happy. At least we have saved one life. I have been in war and through many struggles and I've never been so happy." MNA/Reuters

**Crosswords Puzzle**

ACROSS

1. Perfume
2. Gap-filling material
3. Misser
4. Compel departure
5. Negotiate
6. Raffle
7. Indifference
8. Story
9. Acress
10. Rope
11. Plane
12. American reindeer
13. Gentile poke
14. Inapt
15. Defencless
16. Recompense
17. Weared

DOWN

1. Private study
2. Bird of prey
3. Renegade
4. Short ear
5. Plane
6. Money advanced
7. Ravine
8. 12 Spoken
9. Forbid
10. Frugal
11. Hanging ornament
12. 19 Gave up
13. Majestic
14. Fathead
15. 23 Take a dip
16. Hesitate
India provides funds to upgrade Sri Lankan air base

Colombo, 3 Jan — The Indian Government has offered to provide 500 million rupees (about 5.2 million US dollars) to Sri Lanka to upgrade the Palay Air Base in the northern Jaffna Peninsula for strengthening closer defence ties with the country, the official Daily News said on Friday.

The Indian Government pledged the assistance to Sri Lanka’s Air Operations Commander Lieutenant-General Lionel Balagalle’s recent visit to New Delhi.

The upgrading of the Palay Air Base has been seen as a prime need by the Sri Lankan defence authorities owing to its dilapidated state with pinch holes in several areas in the landing strip. During his four-day visit to India, Balagalle who is also the Head of Joint Operations Command, also held talks with the Indian defence officials seeking their assistance to obtain helicopters on lease to transport troops to the Jaffna Peninsula.

The upgrading of the air base will include the renovation of the 450-metre long tarmac and the modernisation of the signal light system and the ground handling equipment at the air base with airworthy and sophisticated equipment. Sri Lanka and India expect to further strengthen defence ties through the proposed defence agreement between the two neighbouring countries.

High-dives into muddy Tiber brighten Roman New Year

Rome, 3 Jan — Four Romans braved the chill to dive 52 feet off a bridge into the muddy River Tiber to mark a New Year tradition on Thursday.

A crowd of hundreds cheered the divers as they flung themselves off the Cavour Bridge into the swirling river that winds through Rome.

Italian diver Aldo Corrieri, 40, dedicated the event, which has taken place since 1946, to world peace.

“I am dedicated this to peace in the world and to the other films, was grand mar- shal and rode at the front of the parade.”

Disney’s 100-feet-high float was the tallest in the 115-year-old parade’s history.

With all the US territory under a high terrorism threat, parade watchers were shoul- der-to-shoulder with unif- formed and undercover po- lice officers. Reports said about 1,000 local, state and federal law enforcement of- ficers were there to provide security for the estimated 800,000 people who watched the parade. Hundreds of oth- ers were also working behind the scenes, keeping eyes on surveillance monitors, air- space radar and electronic sen- sors designed to sniff out bio- logical or chemical agents.

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Cardboard kills 20, disrupts traffic in Bangladesh

Dhaka, 3 Jan — Cold weather and thick fog have been responsible for at least 20 deaths and disrupted travel across Bangladesh over the last three days, Dhaka news- papers said on Friday.

The newspapers said most of the victims were from the old and poor in the country’s northern and western districts, where the lowest temperature recorded on Thursday was nine degree Celsius (48.2 degree Fahrenheit).

Weather officials on Friday warned that temperatures might dip even further over the next few days. Over 200 people died in admits to hospi- tals with cold-related dis- eases, health officials said.

The cold weather also hit the capital Dhaka and southern port city of Chattogram.

Some 200 people died from exposure to cold weather this time last year — also mostly in the north.

Transport officials said thick fog disrupted flights and the movement of ships and ferries.

Ugandans urged to exercise self-restraint, mutual respect in 2004

Kampala, 3 Jan — The ruling Uganda National Movement has called on Ugandans to exercise self- restraint and mutual respect as the country enters a new political phase.

The call came from Movement Vice-Chairman Al Haji Moses Kiggoya in his New Year message to the nation, according to local daily The New Vision on Friday.

Kiggoya said the Move- ment had decided to open the political space whose ultimate goal is unity and the ability to work together, irrespective of political af- filiation or opinion.

Uganda is one and for all of us.

The ultimate goal is to build a peaceful, united, democratic, industrialized and a prosperous country where all Ugandans can freely participate in the de- velopment process,” he said.

Kiggoya said that the move- ment should be replaced with dialogue and coopera- tion to avoid confusion.

He wished all Ugandans a peaceful year and called for the strengthening and the consolidation of the good aspects sown by the Movement government in the last 17 years.

318 kilos of cocaine seized at Madrid Airport in 2003

Madrid, 3 Jan — Spanish authorities seized a total of 318 kilos of cocaine at Madrid’s Barajas International Airport in 2003, police said on Thursday.

Police arrested 127 drug traffickers at the airport. In 2002, they seized 412 kilos of cocaine and captured 105 people.

Out of the people arrested over the past year in relation to drug trafficking, 96 were men and 31 women. They included 89 people from South America and Central America and 18 from Spain.

Most of the drug traffick- ers had cocaine in secret com-partments of suitcases, hand baggage, girdles or inner shoe soles, police said. Some of them had the drug inside their bodies and had to be taken to the hospital to remove it.

Regional anti-drug police officers were there to provide security for the estimated 800,000 people who watched the parade.

Hundreds of oth- ers were also working behind the scenes, keeping eyes on surveillance monitors, air- space radar and electronic sen- sors designed to sniff out bio- logical or chemical agents.

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Secretary-1 attends opening of 56th Anniversary Independence Day Exhibition

YANGON, 3 Jan — Under the objectives of the 56th Anniversary Independence Day commemoration, all the national people to collectively safeguard the national independence and ensure perpetuation of sovereignty; all the national people to collectively strive for the building of a new, modern and developed nation; all the national people to strive for the emergence of enduring State Constitution; all the national people to collectively strive for the successful implementation of the seven-point future policy of the State, a ceremony to open the 56th Anniversary Independence Day commemorative Exhibition was held at Tamadaw Convention Hall on U Wisara Road here at 9 am today.

State Peace and Development Council Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win attended the opening ceremony of the exhibition. It was organized by the subcommittee for the observance of the exhibition.

Chairman of the Central Committee for observance of the 56th Anniversary Independence Day Exhibition Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win attended the ceremony.

Also present on the occasion were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, ministers, the Yangon Mayor, deputy ministers, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, the chairman of subcommittee for observance of the exhibition and members, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads, the chairman of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association and CEC members, members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association and social organizations, departmental staff, students and guests.

First, Chairman of the subcommittee for observance of the exhibition Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein formally opened the exhibition by cutting a ribbon.

The Secretary-1 next viewed round the portrait of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe displayed at the central booth, quotations, the pictures depicting the founding of the first Myanmar Emperor and the building of a modern developed State and the booths of Myanmar the origin of human beings, cultural evidences of Bronze Age and Iron Age, the First, Second and Third Myanmar Emperors, independence struggles and attainment. Scenes of Myanmar, computer quiz, companies and the ministries and other booths. Officials at the exhibition conducted the Secretary-1 and party round the exhibition.

News and Periodicals Enterprise book shop and Sarpay Beikman book shop are selling various kinds of books and the exhibition continues up to 11 January from 9 am to 5 pm daily.
Puhtolon Bridge on new Monywa-Yagyi-Kalaywa road inaugurated

YANGON, 3 Jan — As a gesture hailing the 56th Anniversary Independence Day, Puhtolon bridge, constructed under the arrangement of the Office of the Quartermaster General by the Directorate of Military Engineers of the Ministry of Defence, was opened with a ceremony at the entrance to Chinkin Township, Monywa District, Sagaing Division, this morning.

It was attended by members of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint and QuartermasterGeneral Lt-Gen Tha Aye, Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, Director of the Military Engineers Maj-Gen Tin Tun, senior military officers, local authorities, local people and members of social organizations totalling some 10,000.

Western bank lagged behind others in successive eras. So, the Head of State gave guidance to construct Monywa-Yagyi-Kalaywa strategic road to facilitate transport to Kalaywa situated at the entrance to Chin State (North), and contribute towards the development of the regions on the western bank of the river, he said. The 115-mile long new Monywa-Yagyi-Kalaywa road is 45-mile shorter than the old and reduced the time to travel from Monywa to Tamu, Haka, or Tiddim. A total of 174 small and large bridges were situated along the road. The bridge then inaugurated was one of the four bridges of 180-foot and above. The bridge, 450-foot in length and 36-foot in width including two 4-foot pedestrian lanes, would contribute towards the development of towns and villages along the road and serve the interests of local people and their new generations. Under the arrangement of the Office of the Quartermaster General, Tatmadawmen, within the short period of one year, were able to construct the bridge installed with high quality iron beams produced in the country. Being able to produce iron beams by Myanmar engineers was the success of the technology and the entire nation can take pride, he said. The bridge would contribute towards the development of the regions in Sagaing Division and Chin State, facilitating the border trade with the other country. The State had been constructing roads and bridges all over the country with the aim of narrowing the development gap among the regions. Only after constructing irrigation and transport facilities essential for the development of the country, the tasks to enhance the economy of the State and living standards of the people could be carried out. Therefore the Government, under the guidance of the Head of State, had been

Puhtolon Bridge on new Monywa-Yagyi-Kalaywa road inaugurated

The Puhtolon Bridge on Monywa-Yagyi-Kalaywa road in Kani Township, Monywa District, Sagaing Division. — MNA

State Peace and Development Council Member Quartermaster-General Lt-Gen Tha Aung Myint addresses the opening ceremony of the Puhtolon Bridge on Monywa-Yagyi-Kalaywa road. — MNA

Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint formally unveils the stone inscription of the Puhtolon Bridge. — MNA

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

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

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

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives national race leaders

**Yangon, 3 Jan—** Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, Chairman of the Work Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races, received U Sandar, Chairman of Kayah State Special Region-2, Vice-Chairman U Tun Kyaw and party at Zeyathri Beach on Kommyintha at 5 pm today. Also present on the occasion were Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing, Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Nyunt, Chairman of the Government’s Office U Soe Tint and departmental heads.

During their meeting, the national race leaders said they fully welcomed and supported the seven-point future policy of the State and promised to attend the National Convention. Next, the national race leaders reported on matters relating to regional development tasks of education, health, economy and road and bridge construction. Later, U Sandar presented a New Year gift to Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt. — MNA

Parade of outstanding students in commemoration of 2003-2004 academic year School Family Day held

**Yangon, 3 Jan—** A parade of outstanding students in commemoration of the 2003-2004 academic year School Family Day was held in front of the National Indoor Stadium 1 on Waizayanta Road in Thayangyun Township this morning, attended by Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt.

The ceremony was held with four objectives—to implement education promotion programme and national education promotion programme, to show all-round educational development skill of students, for the students to try study hard after taking great interest in all-round educational development skill and to promote the students’ outstanding and brilliant skill.

Also present were Vice-Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, members of Myanmar Education Committee, the ministers, the attorney-general, the chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board, the Yangon mayor, the deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of departments, diplomats, resident representatives of the UN agencies, members of School Family Day Organizing Committee and Work Committee, the directors-general of departments under the Ministry of Education, rectors and principals of universities and colleges, members of the Secretariat of the Union Solidarity and Development Association, Town Council, Education Officers, school heads, teachers, parents, members of school board of trustees, officials of NGOs, outstanding students and guests.

Ma Pyi Mon Thet and Ma Win Leh Phyu, a seventh standard and a ninth standard of No 2 Basic Education High School, Sangyoun Township and Naw Ruth and Naw Mary, a ninth standard and a seventh standard of the same school acted as masters of ceremonies and announced the agenda in Myanmar and in English respectively.

Outstanding student Ma Ei Ei Chan of No 1 BEHS, Dagon Township and Ma Khin Mya Thet Hnin of No 1 BEHS, Sangyoun Township sang a song “Son-npyi-pwe-daw-doh-hnwe-pyay” composed by pianist Saw Win Thwin of Yankin Education College with the accompaniment of the band of No 1 BEHS, Dawbon Township. Two hundred girls students of No 2 BEHS, Kamayut Township performed dances.

State Flag-bearing team of No 1 BEHS, Botataung Township marched together with the band of No 3 BEHS, Bagas, playing the national anthem. Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and those present saluted the State Flag.

Next, outstanding eighth standard students in literature, school activities and all-round development sectors, flag-bearing team of No 3 BEHS, Mingala Taungnyunt Township, the band of BEHS in Kyauklae Township, outstanding tenth standard students of the 2003-2004 academic year, flag-bearing team of No 4 BEHS, Botataung Township, the band of BEHS in Dawbon Township and students who won prizes in Pyinnyatazaung literary contest, Myanmar and international social relations skill contests also marched.

The band of BEHS in Dawbon Township presented “San-pya-doh-Tatmadaw” and “Myanmar School”.

The flag-bearing team of No 2 BEHS, Sangleung Township and the band of No4 BEHS in Thanlwin Township and students who won prizes in sports, physical education, painting and arts at home and abroad marched.

The band of No 4 BEHS in Tanwe Township presented the song “Mya-pan-khway”.

(See page 9)

The parade of outstanding students in commemoration of 2003-2004 academic year School Family Day in progress. — MNA