YANGON, 2 DEC—Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe left Thandwe by air and arrived back here this afternoon, after making inspection tours of Sittway, Kyauktaw, An, Kyaukpyu and Thandwe townships in Rakhine State from 29 November to 2 December.

During his tour of Rakhine State, the Senior General inspected progress of An and construction tasks and gave guidance to the officials yesterday.

Upon arrival at Hinywet Dam near Auk Village in An later in the morning, the Senior General and party were welcomed by Col Myint Swe of An Station, Chairman of An Township PDC U Kyi Win and members, and officials of Construction Group 3 of the Irrigation Department. Col Myint Swe reported on salient points of the irrigation facility, supply of water to the town, and arrangements for greening surrounding areas and cultivation of summer paddy with the use of surplus water.

In response, the Senior General gave guidance to the officials and viewed water storage of the dam. With a 70-foot-high and 750-foot-long earthen embankment, the dam was built to supply clean water to local people. Plans are under way to supply the surplus water from the dam for greening of An Airport and its environs and growing of summer paddy.

Next, the Senior General and party inspected progress of construction of wards, surgical ward, main building, operation theatre and ward-to-ward pavements of 100-bed people’s hospital project in An. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, Commander Brig-Gen Min Aung Hlaing and Medical Superintendent Dr Ye Nyunt conducted them round the project site.

The Senior General gave guidance on systematic construction of the medical facility in accordance with the

(See page 8)

The Government has to weigh its income up to use funds in proportionate ratio for extending all public transport, education, health facilities.
Towards promotion of friendship and cooperation among ASEAN nations

Practising the active and independent foreign policy, the Union of Myanmar has friendly relations with other nations of the world. Moreover, it has been actively cooperating with members of international organizations including the UN, neighbouring countries and members of the Association of South East Asian Nations, especially with neighbours and those in the region in trade and economic affairs while maintaining traditional ties of friendship.

At the invitation of Mr Bounnhang Vorachith, Prime Minister of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Lt-Gen Soe Win, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, attended the 10th ASEAN Summit held in Vientiane from 28 to 30 November. Moreover, the Prime Minister also attended Cambodia-Laos-Myanmar-Vietnam Summit, the Heads of State/Government of ASEAN+China, Japan and Republic of Korea, the Heads of State/Government of ASEAN+India and the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Commemorative Summit.

Prin Gen Li Tgen Soe Win called on Laotian Prime Minister Mr Bounnhang Vorachith at the latter’s office in Vientiane on 27 November. At the meeting, Prime Minister Li Tgen Soe Win said that Myanmar would boost cooperation with her neighbours, other nations in the region and UN organizations and provide technical assistance and construction experiences for the construction of the Mekong Bridge. Laotian Prime Minister Mr Bounnhang Vorachith expressed pleasure at the socio-economic development of Myanmar and progress of the National Convention, the first step to the seven-point Road Map, and believed that Myanmar would successfully realize the remaining steps.

During his visit to the LPDR, Prime Minister Li Tgen Soe Win also met with Vietnamese Prime Minister Mr Phan Van Khai, Cambodian Prime Minister Mr Samdech Hun Sen and Singaporean Prime Minister Mr Lee Hsien Loong and discussed matters on promotion of bilateral relations and cooperation in a friendly atmosphere. Moreover, Prime Minister Li Tgen Soe Win signed the Vientiane Declaration on Enhancing Economic Cooperation and Integration among Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam on 28 November. We believe that Prime Minister Li Tgen Soe Win’s visit to the LPDR will contribute a lot to promotion of friendship and cooperation among ASEAN nations and regional development.

Transport service develops on Myeik-Bokpyin-Kawthoung Road

YANGON, 2 Dec — A ceremony to commence Myeik-Bokpyin-Kawthoung (Palo) Bus-line Services was formed at the highway terminal in Myeik yesterday morning.

Present were Chairman of Tannahyi Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Coastal Region Command Maj-Gen Ohn Myint, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Hone Ngang, senior military officers, departmental officials, chairmen of bus-line committees, social organizations and local people.

Commander Maj-Gen Ohn Myint gave a speech. Division Police Force Commander Police ColHa Myint presented commemorative pennants to the commander and officials. At the auspicious time, the commander and Chairman of the Supervisory Committee for the Bus-line Control Committee commenced the bus-line.

Similarly, Myeik-Bokpyin-Kawthoung (Palo) Bus-Line Committees was formed in Kawthoung. Chairman of the District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Tin Soe gave a speech. Brig-Gen Khan Zaw Win and officials launched the bus-line. Myeik-Bokpyin-Kawthoung Road is 276 miles long and two furlogns long.

MNA

Minister of Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo addresses opening of 14th IFNGO ASEAN NGOs Workshop on Prevention of Drug and Substances Abuse. — MNA

14th IFNGO ASEAN NGOs Workshop on Prevention of Drug and Substances Abuse hosted

YANGON, 2 Dec — The State Peace and Development Council has appointed Pro-rector U Than Swe of Meiktila Institute of Economics under the Higher Education Department (Upper Myanmar), the Ministry of Education, as Rector of the same institute on probation from the date he assumes charge of his duties. — MNA

The minister received leaders of delegations at the lobby of the hotel and explained the measures being taken for the eradication of narcotic drugs in the nation.

At 11 am, the workshop was inaugurated. Afterwards, 122 delegates of the People’s Republic of China, Mauritius and Australia presented the topic “Strive for New Destiny: ASEAN Drug Free 2015.” The workshop continues up to 4 December. MNA

Kandawgyi Gardens inspected

YANGON, 2 Dec — Yangon City Development Committee Chairman Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin inspected construction tasks in Central Forest Zone of Kandawgyi all-round upgrading tasks today and gave necessary instructions to the officials.

Head of Engineering Department (Buildings) U Zaw Win and officials explained the construction of Maunt Popa Tower and spiral stairs, installation of two lifts and renovation of ceilings. After hearing reports, the mayor instructed them to make arrangements for letting in natural light in every storey, safety at the site and meeting the set standard.

Afterwards, the mayor inspected the construction of Kandawgyi circular bridge and arrangement for future plans and beautifying tasks. Next, the mayor stressed the beautifying of the park and extended growing of flowering plants. — MNA
Australia hails launch of FTA negotiations with ASEAN

CANBERRA, 2 Dec— Australian Trade Minister Mark Vaile said on Wednesday the launch of negotiations on a free trade agreement (FTA) between Australia, New Zealand and 10 Southeast Asian nations is a historic development in Australia’s engagement with Southeast Asia.

During a summit in Vientiane, Laos, leaders from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Australia and New Zealand agreed to launch the FTA negotiations in early 2005. “An FTA will help boost our trade and commercial links with one of the most economically-vibrant regions in the world,” Vaile said in a statement. “It will lead to further job creation in our export sector, adding to the 1.4 million jobs created since 1996,” he said. Australia has had FTA agreements with Singapore and Thailand. Vaile said an ASEAN FTA will further consolidate Australia’s economic integration with Southeast Asia.

The minister said he is particularly pleased that the leaders also endorsed a range of negotiating principles including a commitment to a comprehensive agreement covering both goods and services, and the progressive elimination of all forms of barriers to trade. “Australia already enjoys a substantial trading relationship with ASEAN, but an FTA will provide a solid platform for future growth,” he said. Australia’s two-way merchandise trade with ASEAN was valued at 32.8 billion dollars (25.4 billion US dollars) in 2003-04 financial year. ASEAN countries currently purchase more than 11 per cent of Australia’s merchandise exports and just under 15 per cent of services exports. — MNA/Xinhua

New Zealand announces initiatives to build links with ASEAN

WELLINGTON, 2 Dec— The New Zealand Government has agreed to a range of initiatives to build closer ties with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Prime Minister Helen Clark announced on Wednesday.

Clark’s announcement in a press conference in Auckland today emerged within the middle of a flurry of dialogue partnerships for New Zealand. “It’s indicative that New Zealand and South East Asia go well beyond trade or development assistance. It’s important to acknowledge the breadth and richness of our relationship. This package of initiatives is intended to do this,” Clark said. — MNA/Xinhua

US knew of suspected Iraqi abuse in 2003

WASHINGTON, 1 Dec— Senior US Army generals in Iraq were told in December 2003 that special operations troops and CIA personnel were suspected of abusing Iraqi prisoners— four months before the scale of prisoner abuse became public in television photos that shocked the world.

The December 2003 report on suspected prisoner abuse, confirmed by US officials on Wednesday, also showed the US leadership in Iraq had clues about prisoner treatment before photographs of detainees being abused at Abu Ghraib jail emerged within the military in the middle of January. But officials disputed the notion that the warning had been ignored. “It’s indicative that there were some troubling signs, and actions were taken early on. It got overcome by other investigations (after the Abu Ghraib abuse became known). But it was not ignored,” an Army official said.

When the abuse photographs, including ones showing a US female soldier holding a naked prisoner on a leash, were shown on US television, they prompted calls by political opponents and human rights activists for Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld to resign. The Pentagon said it was investigating but the existence of the 2003 report was not revealed. — Internet

Saudi Arabia to raise oil output to 12.5 million BPD

ABU DHABI, 1 Dec— Saudi Arabia plans to raise its oil production capacity to 12.5 million barrels per day (BPD) from the current 11 million bpd over the next few years, local Arab News reported on Tuesday.

Saudi Petroleum and Mineral Resources Minister Ali Bin Ibrahim al-N’aimi told the daily that plans have been developed to increase the kingdom’s sustainable production capacity to 12.5 million bpd over the next few years. The decision to raise production capacity on this scale reflects the kingdom’s belief that demand for Saudi oil will continue to increase in the coming years.

However, the minister declined to set a specific date for the start of extra production, saying market demands will dictate a timetable. — MNA/Xinhua

Iraq will cost Blair votes, says ministerial ally

LONDON, 2 Dec— Iraq will cost Tony Blair votes, a close ministerial ally of the British Prime Minister said on Tuesday, six months before an expected general election. “There is a significant number of people who would regard themselves as friends of the Labour government who have been virulently opposed to the intervention in Iraq,” Charles Falconer, a member of Blair’s cabinet, said in an interview. “I recognise for some of them they won’t be able to vote for the government because of it,” said Falconer. “I don’t know what the size of that bit will be but I recognise that as a fact.” Opinion polls show that Blair’s US President George W Bush’s closest ally in Iraq and a major troop contributor, is on track to win a third term at an expected May election but that his huge parliamentary majority is at risk.

Britons tend to vote on domestic issues but analysts say more British military casualties in Iraq or a failure to carry out Iraqi elections set for January could turn more voters against Blair. “Believethis to be a significant issue that affects significant numbers of people,” Falconer told Reuters. “A slide in Blair’s public trust and popularity ratings, primarily over the US-led war in Iraq, sparked a flurry of speculation earlier this year over his future, prompting him to take the unprecedented step of setting his own departure date.” — Internet
Nowadays, rubber is an essential item in the world. Some industrialized nations are creating synthetic rubber and using it as they could not obtain natural rubber as much as they need although they have offered higher prices. Rubber is always in high demand in the world market.

As I happened to read a piece of news about rubber fetching higher prices, I, who have been observing what kind of business is good to do, have a sudden urge to grow rubber.

On page 4 of the Myanmar Alin Daily published on 25-11-2004, it was stated that Vietnam had earned more foreign exchange than last year for rubber price had been on the increase; that it earned US$ 383 more than million last year.

As I had saved a considerable amount of money, I was wrapped in thought that what kind of business I should do for my children in the long run. Agriculture is my favourite interest.

Therefore, I observed agriculture daily. And I went to Hlegu-Indagaw area to inquire land prices there.

There, I got acquainted with Daw Aye Mi Mi Soe, an agricultural entrepreneur, through a friend of mine. She is making progress in growing over 300 acres of rubber in Alien Special Zone, Indagaw, Bago Township.

Ko Pho Thaung, Manager U Aung Myo Oo of the project, explained: “Rubber is a kind of material. It is widely used today. One who is engaged in growing rubber in Myanmar which has a favourable weather condition for growing rubber can become a main rubber grower if vast vacant and virgin land in the nation is reclaimed. Everyone should engage in rubber growing since it benefits both growers and the State.

Some 30 years old rubber trees.— PHOTO ARKAR (PARAMI)

“The benefits of rubber. If K 800,000 is invested, there will be an annual net profit ranging from K 250,000 to K 300,000 per acre after seven years. The better maintenance you do, the more net profit you get.”

“I will tell you. To grow one acre of rubber will cost you nearly K 200,000. The expenses for maintenance of one acre of rubber for six years will cost you about K 600,000 at the rate of K 100,000 per year before latex is produced.

If K 800,000 is invested, there will be an annual net profit ranging from K 250,000 to K 300,000 per acre after seven years. The better maintenance you do, the more net profit you get.”

“So, she knows well about the benefits of rubber. Ko Pho Thaung, don’t waver, but grow rubber. Growing rubber means establishment of an business for posterity. But there is one point you will have to wait for about seven years to gain profit.”

“I am ready to wait if there is long-term interest. By the way, let me know, Ah Ma Gyi, the period and capital of investment.”

“Actually, it is more than what I say. I also envy the persons like U Than Sae and U Yen Shin of Dawei. U Than Maung (Turkey umbrella) of Yangon, U Aung Moe Kyaw of Hmawby, U Khin Zaw and U Myint Han of Mon State, U Hla Kyi of Pulaw, U Kyin Yan of Taninthayi and U Maung Linn of Myeik, who have become rich by growing rubber.”

“After 10 years of growing rubber you will recover all expenses. And you will enjoy the annual net profit up to another 20 years. Therefore, it is a profitable business from economic point of view.”

“It is a sound business undertaking.”

“Oh Course! Besides, I will give you a piece of advice to cover the expenses before latex is produced. If crops such as paddy, groundnut, pulses and beans, sesame, water melon are grown among rubber trees, you can not only cover the annual expenses but also earn extra income.”

“It is heartening to hear this. I took interest in it since I learnt from the daily that rubber is in high demand in the world market. I had made up my mind to grow rubber only after meeting you. Thanks a lot.”

“If you want to know more about rubber, you can make inquires at the research and reproduction centre in Indagaw.”

“In this way, I went to the research and reproduction centre (Indagaw) of Myanmar Perennial Crops Enterprise under the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation. There, Manager U Aung Myo Oo of the centre and Assistant Manager Daw Khin Nila Tun replied to my queries heartily.

“At the research and reproduction centre (Indagaw), work is well under way along with Chinese technicians under Myanmar-China Rubber Plantations Establishment Project. New agricultural techniques of Chinese officials are added to the project, explained Manager U Aung Myo Oo.”

“When I asked, ‘Is there any difficulty in recruitment of workers if we engage in growing many acres of rubber?’ Assistant Manager Daw Khin Nila Tun responded that there is no difficulty in recruitment of workers although rubber growing regions are different.

When rubber trees are over 20 years old, latex can be produced through modern techniques. At that time, you no longer need many workers.

To be able to produce more latex from the old rubber trees, ethylene gas-used equipment or ethrel can be used. It is learnt that those techniques are being used in Malaysia after 12 years of research. Malaysia enjoys the highest rubber production rate in the world.”

“Thanks all for detailed explanations.”

“Never mind. We are happy to help everyone who is engaged in growing of rubber.”

As I would like to seek more information about growing of rubber, I went to the Myanmar Perennial Crops Enterprise (Head Office) on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road where I got an opportunity to meet Managing Director of MPE Col Kyi Win and officials.

Col Kyi Win explained: “Rubber is a kind of raw material. It is widely used today. Almost all the personal goods are made of rubber. For example, there are over 400 rubber related items in a car.”

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Let’s grow rubber...

(from page 4)

The government is providing necessary assistance to rubber growers so that it can be beneficial to posterity.

Land allotments were granted to national entrepreneurs to help them engage in extended growing of rubber.

“Ordinary” ton of crumb of rubber is priced at US$ 1,000 in the world market.

“Myanmar Perennial Crops Enterprise under the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation earned over US$ 21 million through over 25,000 metric tons of rubber in 2003-2004 fiscal year.”“Permits have been granted to private entrepreneurs to market and export the product freely.

Meanwhile, the Myanmar Perennial Crops Enterprise is providing necessary assistance to rubber growers and that it can be grown the length and breadth of the nation.

Rubber can benefit not only the growers but also the State.

"A rubber tree will produce rubber most?"

"It is Malaysia. It can be regarded as the highest rubber producing nation in the world. With 4.2 million acres of rubber, Malaysia’s production rate is 1.8 million metric tons of rubber. With 8 million acres of rubber, Indonesia’s production rate is 1.5 million metric tons of rubber. With 4.8 million acres of rubber, Thailand’s production rate is 1.1 million metric tons of rubber."

"Rubber is in high demand yearly in the world as rubber products are being sought after. Even non-rubber producing countries are using synthetic rubber since they cannot obtain natural rubber as much as they can. They are the industrialized countries such as USA, Russia, Japan, France and the People’s Republic of China."

"Natural rubber which is popular in the world can thrive in Myanmar, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, India and the PRC."

"73 per cent of world rubber is grown in Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia combined. The three nations are also enjoying 73 percent of world rubber production. But they have found it difficult to increase growing of rubber due to land constraints.

"Six to seven tons of timber can be extracted from one acre of old rubber trees and they are worth between US$ 1,500 and 1,600. Rubber leaves can also be sold for other purposes."

"I would like to offer extra information regarding acquisition of land. Enthusiasts may contact the respective Peace and Development Councils of Taninthayi Division, Mon State, Kayin State, Rakhine State, Yagon Division, Bago and Ayeyawady Division to acquire land. I have learnt that over 50,000 acres remain to be reclaimed in Ayeyawady Division."

(Translation: TS)
Lt-Gen Soe Win attends ...  
(from page 16)

Mr Lee Hsien Loong, Thai Prime Minister Dr Thaksin Shinawatra, Vietnamese Prime Minister Mr Phan Van Khai and ASEAN Secretary-General Mr Ong Keng Yong.  
Myanmar Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Deputy Minister U Kyaw Thu, ministers and deputy ministers of ASEAN countries, senior officers and officials attended as observers the 10th ASEAN Summit at Room B-4 of Lao-ITECC.  
At 11.30 am, the officials of ASEAN Business and Advisory Council clarified on matters concerning economic conditions of ASEAN countries to Heads of State/Government of ASEAN countries. Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win attended it.  
Next, the ceremony to sign the Vientiane Action Programme and the ASEAN Framework Agreement for the Integration of the Priority Sectors was held at Theatre-1 of Lao-ITECC, attended by Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win and Heads of State/Government of ASEAN countries.

State/Government of ASEAN countries.

Also present on the occasion were Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Deputy Minister U Kyaw Thu, ministers of ASEAN countries, deputy ministers, senior officials and the ASEAN Secretary-General. Next, the Heads of State/Government of ASEAN countries and Heads of State/Government of the People’s Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea attended the working lunch at Room B-6 of Lao-ITECC. They had documentary photos taken at Room B-2 before the ASEAN+3 Summit.  
When the ASEAN+3 Summit was held, heads of State/Government of ASEAN countries, Chinese Premier Mr Wen Jiabao, Japanese Prime Minister Mr Junichiro Koizumi and President of ROK Mr Roh Moo Hyun attended it. The ministers, the deputy ministers and senior officials of ASEAN countries, China, Japan and Korea, the ASEAN Secretary-General and officials attended the summit as observers at Room B-4 of Lao-ITECC.

At 4.45 pm, the summit between heads of State/Government of ASEAN countries and the Prem.ier of PRC was held at Room B-2 of Lao-ITECC. After the summit, the signing ceremony for the Agreement on Trade in Goods of the Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Cooperation between ASEAN and China and the Agreement on Disputes Settlement Mechanism between ASEAN and China was held at Theatre-1. Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha and Economic Ministers of ASEAN countries and China signed the documents in the presence of the heads of State/Government of ASEAN countries and the Chinese Premier. Also present on the occasion were Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Deputy Minister U Kyaw Thu, the ministers and deputy ministers of ASEAN countries and China, senior officials and the ASEAN Secretary-General. — MNA
Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win meets with Chinese Premier

YANGON, 2 Dec — Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win met with Premier of the People’s Republic of China Mr Wen Jiabao at the Lao International Trade Exhibition & Convention Centre in Vientiane.

Mr Wen Jiabao paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Mr Junichiro Koizumi at Friendship House of the Villa Dongpasak in Vientiane, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic on 29 November evening.

Also present were Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Deputy Premier for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu, Myanmar Ambassador to the DPRU U Tin Oo, departmental heads of the Prime Minister’s Office, Pyithu Hluttaw Office and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japanese Foreign Affairs Minister Mr Nobutaka Machimura and Japanese high-ranking officials.

On the occasion, the Myanmar Prime Minister briefed Mr Junichiro Koizumi on developments in Myanmar, measures being taken for enhancing national solidarity and successful holding of the National Convention for drawing the State Constitution.

The Japanese Prime Minister said that he had an understanding of the explanations of his Myanmar counterpart and wished him success in the tasks.

He said he would like the Myanmar counterpart to convey his pledge to Head of State Senior General Than Shwe that Japan and Myanmar had established friendly relations for many years and thus Japan would take steps for strengthening bilateral amicable relations.

PM Lt-Gen Soe Win attends dinner hosted by Laotian Prime Minister

YANGON, 2 Dec — Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar Lt-Gen Soe Win met with President of the Philippines Mrs Gloria Macapagal Arroyo at Lao International Trade Exhibition and Convention Centre in Vientiane, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, at 10.15 am on 29 November.

The Prime Minister and the President cordially discussed matters relating to cooperation between the two nations based on common interest.

Also present were Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha and the directors-general of the Prime Minister’s Office and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Myanmar, Philippines discuss bilateral cooperation

YANGON, 2 Dec — Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar Lt-Gen Soe Win met with President of the Philippines Mrs Gloria Macapagal Arroyo at Lao International Trade Exhibition and Convention Centre in Vientiane, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, at 11.40 am on 29 November.

The focal point of their cordially discussions was technological and economic development.

Also present were Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha and the directors-general of the Prime Minister’s Office and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

ASEA-Russia Foreign Ministers’ Meeting held

YANGON, 2 Dec — ASEA-Russia Foreign Ministers’ meeting was held on 29 November in Vientiane, Lao People’s Democratic Republic.

Russia, as a gesture of hailing the meetings related with 10th ASEA Summit, hot-air balloons decorated with the flags of ASEA nations were released in Vientiane at night.
characteristics of a hospital. Almost cent per cent of construction task has been completed so far. Afterwards, they inspected construction of the runway of An Airfield.

The Senior General held a cordial meeting with officers and other ranks and their families of An Station at An Yoma Hall. Prior to the meeting, Secretary-1 Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein, together with SPDC Member Quarter-master-General Lt-Gen Thida Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Rear-Admiral Soe Thein and Commander-in-Chief Senior General Than Shwe inspected water storage capacity at Hinywet Dam.— MNA

As Government and people...
(from page 1)

(See page 9)

On completion, Minkyaung Creek Bridge will be a 2,704 feet long facility with a 24-foot-wide motorway and two 3-foot-wide pedestrian lanes on it.

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein explains progress in politics and economy of the State.— MNA

On completion, the bridge will be a 2,704 feet long facility with a 24-foot-wide motorway and two 3-foot-wide pedestrian lanes on it. The reinforced concrete bridge will withstand 60-ton loads. Now, 80 per cent of the project has been completed.

In the afternoon, the Senior General and party helicoptered to Kyaukpyu. They were welcomed at Kyaukpyu Airport by local authorities, service personnel, teachers and students, members of the USDA and Rakhine traditional cultural troupe and locals.

At the meeting, the Senior General gave guidance on completion of the project earlier than scheduled for convenience of the people. From the briefing hall, the Senior General inspected work progress.

The Senior General and party flew to Minkyaung Creek Bridge Project on Yangon-Kyaukpyu Road in Yanbye Township, Rakhine State, where they were welcomed by Deputy Minister for Construction Brig-Gen Myint Thein, Project Senior Engineer U Tin Soe and officials. Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun gave an account of the project, progress in constructing approach roads, the main bridge, large bridges in Rakhine State, and repairing of Kyaukpyu-Maei section and Maei-Taungup section on Yangon-Kyaukpyu Road.

Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo reported on tasks for extending cultivation of paddy and boosting per acre yield for regional food security; Minister Maj-Gen Saw Tun, on conditions on Yangon-Sittway Road, progress in constructing Yangon-Kyaukpyu Road; Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, on health care concerns, vaccination and medical treatments to the people in Kyaukpyu District; and requirements for regional development.

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As Government and people...

Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, on assistance to be rendered by the Ministry for Rakhine State to export its marketable crops via border trade centre; Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, on distribution of fuel oil in Rakhine State; Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein, on prospects of Rakhine State in the fish and meat sector; Minister for Hotels and Tourism and for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, on progress made in the tourism industry, and plans for betterment of auto exchange system.

Next, the Secretary-1 elaborated on political and economic development, Our Three Main National Causes, the bounden duty which all national people have to hand down to posterity, and requirements of peace and tranquillity and

Kyaukpyu District is required to extend crops that thrive well in the region, in addition to paddy to raise income. The local people need to double or triple their efforts. The district is required to extend crops that thrive well in the region, in addition to paddy to raise income. As the Government and the people have their own responsibilities, it is important for both to be dutiful. The Government has to weigh its income up to expend the funds in a proportionate ratio on extending all public transport, education, health facilities. As the Government’s revenues mainly come from taxes, its income will increase only if the economy of the people is good.

In this regard, the people should strive with heart and soul for development of the economy and production industries. The stronger the economy and the higher the per capita income of the people in all regions of the country, the greater economic development the Government will enjoy. The Senior General cordially greeted those present at the meeting.

At the Thadoe Maha Bandoola Hall, the Senior General and party cordially met Tatmadaw members and families of Kyaukpyu Station. Before leaving Kyaukpyu for Thandwe by air, they cordially greeted officials, social organizations, cultural troupes, and local people who saw them off at the airport.

(See page 10)
As Government and people...

(from page 9)

In Thandwe today, the Senior General held a meeting on hydroelectric power projects to be implemented in Thandwe region. Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut reported to the Senior General on salient points of Thahtay Creek Hydel Power Project, Thandwe Creek Hydel Power Project, and Kyeintali Creek Hydel Power Project in the region, with the help of maps and charts. Commander Brig-Gen Min Aung Hlaing, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, and Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo gave supplementary reports.

In response to the reports, the Senior General gave guidance, saying that of the projects, priority should be given to the Thahtay Creek Hydel Power Project. Feasibility study and survey should be conducted to implement An Creek Hydel Power Project in An region soonest. Preliminary survey showed that a 15-megawatt power station can be built on the An Creek. Thahtay Creek Hydel Power Project will be located 38 miles south-east of the town. It will be installed with 28-megawatt turbines.

Accompanied by the commander, the Senior General and party inspected private hotels including Amata Resort and Sandoway Resort on Ngapali Beach. The Senior General greeted the hoteliers. He also inspected Ngapali Beach Hotel. Along the beach, he observed the hotels and the potential developments of the beach. After giving guidance, the Senior General inspected the map showing land allotment for hoteliers and new hotel projects.

At Amazing Ngapali Resort, the Senior General inspected the studio suite, and gave guidance on development of tourism industry in the region. After inspecting Thandwe by car the Senior General and party arrived back here this evening.

MNA
THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY-GENERAL'S MESSAGE ON THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF DISABLED PERSONS
3 December 2004

This year’s International Day of Disabled Persons focuses on the goal of full and equal participation by persons with disabilities in social life and development, which is a central message of the World Programme of Action Concerning Disabled Persons.

For many years, persons with disabilities tended to be viewed as “objects” of welfare policies. Today, as a result of a dramatic shift in perspective that has been taking place over the past two decades, persons with disabilities have started to be viewed as people who must enjoy the full spectrum of civil, political, social, cultural and economic rights. This process is admittedly slow and uneven, but it is taking place in all parts of the world. The motto of the international disability movement, “Nothing About Us Without Us”, encapsulates the shift.

The right to make one’s own choices and to participate in all areas of life is figuring prominently in current efforts to elaborate an international convention on the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities. Those efforts are making good progress, and the process itself has seen an unprecedented degree of engagement by persons with disabilities and their organizations in international negotiations, bringing their first-hand experience and expertise to bear on disability issues.

Indeed, it has become increasingly clear that persons with disabilities are the best experts on how to remove barriers to their participation, and must be included in the design, implementation and evaluation of policies and programmes that affect their lives. Moreover, no society can claim to be based on justice and equality without persons with disabilities taking decisions as full-fledged members.

On this observance of the International Day of Disabled Persons, let us reaffirm our commitment to fundamental changes in our thinking about the place of persons with disabilities in society. And let us pledge to work even harder towards fully inclusive societies. — UNIC

Objectives of 57th Anniversary Independence Day

— All the national people to collectively safeguard the national independence and sovereignty of the State and ensure non-disintegration of the Union and national unity
— All the national people to unitedly strive with might and main for emergence of an enduring State Constitution and for building a new modern and developed nation
— All the national people to work in concert for success of the seven-point Road Map of the State with Union Spirit and nationalist spirit
— All the national people to make concerted efforts for building of a new discipline-flourishing democratic nation

News from the Districts

Self-reliant knowledge banks (libraries) mushrooming nationwide

PINLAUNG, 10 NOV — Opening ceremony of Nanvillage Village in Lonepyin Village-tract in Pinlaung Township was held on 29 October at the village. At the ceremony, wellwishers provided 70 books on knowledge including journals and cash for the library.

Head of the township Information and Public Relations Department (IPRD) U Tun Linn briefed on the work of a library.

Township Peace and Development Council Chairman U Saw Hla Oo and officials opened the library.

Similarily, a self-reliant library was inaugurated on 17 October in Totsan Village in Kyaukme Township in Shan State (North).

At the ceremony, Head of the township IPRD U Kyaw Win and wellwishers provided books on knowledge and cash for the library through the supervisory committee members of the library.

A total of 10,410 libraries have been opened up to 30 November all over the country.

KYEMON

Talks on diabetes held in Pathein

PATHEIN, 14 NOV — To mark the World Diabetes Day, talks on diabetes was held at Pathein General Hospital in Pathein, Ayeyawady Division on 14 November.

Physician Dr Tin Maung Win of the general hospital gave talks on diabetic complications and do’s and don’ts for prevention of the disease.

KYEMON

Ditches dug in Wetlet Township

WETLET, 20 NOV — With the aim of supplying irrigation water to be able to cultivate double and triple crops in Wetlet Township, Wetlet Township Irrigation Department has dug the ditches in the township.

On 9 November, under the arrangement of Wetlet Township Peace and Development Council the officials of the Irrigation Department oversaw the digging of the drainage channels flanking Shwebo-Monywa Road near ShwePanGon Model Monsoon paddy field in the township.

The Irrigation Department will irrigate the farmland through the drainage so that monsoon and summer paddy, and winter crops could be cultivated in the township.

KYEMON

Cooperatives Minister attends opening of Sanpya cooperative shop in South Okkalapa

YANGON, 2 DEC — An opening ceremony of Sanpya cooperative shop of AungTagun Trading Cooperative Ltd in South Okkalapa Township was held at the shop this morning attended by Minister for Cooperatives Col Zaw Min.

Director-General Col Soe Win of Cooperative Department, Chairman of Yangon Division General Economic Cooperative Union U Ye Aung and Yangon Division General Coordinator Soe Win of Cooperative Ltd in South Okkalapa Township were also present.

Minister for Cooperatives Col Zaw Min inspected shop of Aung Tagun Sanpya Cooperative Society in South Okkalapa Township.

Chairman U Aye Aye Myint and Myo Naing, wife Daw Tint of Aung Tagun Trading Cooperative Ltd.

Minister for Cooperatives Col Zaw Min inspects shop of Aung Tagun Sanpya Cooperative Society in South Okkalapa Township. — KYEMON

Chairman U Hla Tun Hospice Cancer Foundation U Hla Tun accepts cash donations from wellwishers.

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Chairman of U Hla Tun Hospice Cancer Foundation U Hla Tun accepts cash donations from wellwishers.

Literary prize winners to report by 9 December

YANGON, 2 DEC— The ceremony for presenting the 2003 Life-long National Literary Award, National Literary Award, Sarpy Beikman Manuscript Award and the 15th National Motto, Literary and Photo prizes to the winners will be held at the National Theatre on Myoma Kyaung Street here on 12 December.

The winners of National Literary Award and Sarpy Beikman Manuscript Award are to attend the rehearsal without fail at the venue at 1 pm on 10 December, and to report in person or on phone to the Chief Editor of Sarpy Beikman (Tel: 252560, 381450) not later than 9 December.

And the winners of the 15th National Motto, Literary and Photo prizes are to report in person to the Secretary (Myanma Radio and Television) of the committee for holding the literary contest by 9 December. — MNA

Drive safely

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Drive safely

المحتوى باللغة العربية

البروفيسور الدكتور مهندس رئيس جمعية شباب الجامعات في دكا، الدكتور فرحان أحمد، سAYS: "لا يمكنني التعبير عن مدى رغبتي في تعميق التعاون الدولي وتعزيز العمل المشترك بين الجامعات وغيرها من المراكز التعليمية." يشير الدكتور أحمد إلى أن التعاون الدولي يمثل فرصة هائلة لتعزيز الابتكار والبحث والتعليم العالي، حيث تقوم الجامعات بدور محوري في تدريس المعرفة وتحقيق التقدم العلمي والاقتصادي.

البروفيسور الدكتور نوري فخري، رئيس جامعة عمان privately-owned universities, says that while there is a need to streamline the education system and enhance the quality of education, it is crucial to ensure that private universities are able to compete on a level playing field with public institutions. He argues that this can be achieved through the implementation of standards and regulations that are equivalent to those in public universities.

Dr. Noury Fakhr, the president of the privately-owned private universities, says that while there is a need to streamline the education system and enhance the quality of education, it is crucial to ensure that private universities are able to compete on a level playing field with public institutions. He argues that this can be achieved through the implementation of standards and regulations that are equivalent to those in public universities.

In his address, the president of the privately-owned private universities, Dr. Noury Fakhr, emphasized the importance of collaboration and cooperation between universities and other educational bodies to ensure the highest quality of education. He highlighted the need for a framework that enables universities to share resources and expertise, and for the establishment of a mechanism for the evaluation of university performance.

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TIN OHMNR TUN B.A (LAW) LL.B LLM (U.K) P.O. Box 109/P 241/087201
(For Domers Songja & Boonna, Attorneys at Law, Thailand)

Dated: 3 December 2004

Deputy General Manager
Supply Department, Myanma Railways, Botataung, Yangon

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THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR   Friday, 3 December, 2004

UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF RAIL TRANSPORTATION
MYANMA RAILWAYS

INVITATION TO SEALED TENDER

1. Sealed Tenders are invited by Myanma Railways, for Supply of the Drinking Water Treatment System which will be purchased in Myanmar Kyats:-

Tender No - 52/ MaMa/Local/(CTM)

Sr. No Description Quantity
1 Drinking Water Treatment System 2-Set

Closing Date: 15.12.2004 (Wednesday) (12.00) Hours.

2. Tender documents are available at the office of the Deputy General Manager (Supply), Myanma Railways, Corner of 51st Street and Merchant Street, Botataung, Yangon starting from (1.12.2004) during the office hours.

For further details please call: 291982, 291994, (201555 Ext-602,613)

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Colombia’s coffee exports top $1b for first time

BOGOTA, 1 Dec — Colombia’s coffee export hit a record high from Oct. 2003 to Oct. 2004, topping one billion US dollars, official figures showed Tuesday.

Gabriel Silva, director of Colombia’s National Federation of Coffee Producers, said the growth resulted from the higher exporting prices and the gaining of value of the peso despite the low coffee production.

Silva said the coffee price hikes, which on Monday reached one dollar per pound, will “allow coffee to generate over one billion dollars in net income for the country for the first time in the last four years.”

During the coffee producing season from Oct. 2003 to September 2004, Colombia’s coffee production fell 5.63 per cent and the country exported 10.18 million sacks of coffee, down 2.82 per cent from a previous year.

The National Coffee Fund paid coffee growers 1.81 dollars per sack in 2003-2004 season, an average of 135.57 dollars, 10.15 per cent more than the 123.08 dollars in the previous season.

Donate blood

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Britain says US policy on Guantanamo prison unacceptable

LONDON, 1 Dec — Washington’s policy on the legal status of detainees at the Guantanamo Bay prison camp in Cuba is unacceptable, a senior British minister said on Tuesday.

“I myself regard it as wholly unacceptable that you could seek to put people beyond the reach of the law, and it was argued by the United States of America that that was what the effect of placing detainees in Cuba had done,” Lord Charles Falconer, secretary of state for constitutional affairs, said. Falconer, a close ally of Prime Minister Tony Blair, welcomed the US Supreme Court’s ruling in June that said prisoners have the right to challenge their incarceration in civilian courts.

“The US Supreme Court has said those detainees are within the reach of the law, so the totally unacceptable position of people being beyond the reach of the law has now been brought to an end,” he told reporters.

Blair now awaits the conclusions of the American courts in relation to what procedures will be used to deal with the detainees at Guantanamo, Falconer said. Four Britons are being held at Guantanamo, which was set up in January 2002 to hold combatants captured in Afghanistan and others suspected of association with al-Qaeda.

Guantanamo is an on-going headache for Blair, one result of his Labour Party and the British public for failing to make progress on the issue despite his close relations with US President George W Bush.

Earlier November, Bush was dealt a further setback when a Washington federal court judge ruled that Guantanamo tribunals should not continue to operate in the US because the many of the 550 detainees were prisoners of war, eligible for rights before civilian courts.

German prosecutors urged to investigate Rumsfeld

BERLIN, 1 Dec — A US human rights group urged German lawmakers on Tuesday to investigate allegations that US Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and senior US officers are guilty of war crimes over the Iraq prison one abuse scandal.

In an unusual legal move, the US Centre for Constitutional Rights (CCR) has filed a criminal complaint with Germany’s Federal Prosecutors alongside other prisoners by US soldiers at the notorious Abu Ghraib Prison outside Baghdad.

CCR is taking advantage of a 2002 German law allowing prosecutions for human rights and war crimes regardless of where they were committed or the nationalities of the perpetrators.

The group says Rumsfeld, former CIA Director George Tenet, a senior defence official and seven US military officers, including the former top US commander in Iraq, Lieutenant-General Ricardo Sanchez, were ultimately responsible for the torture and humiliation of the Iraqis by US soldiers at Abu Ghraib.

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War in Iraq causes public health disaster

LONDON, 1 Dec — War in Iraq has caused a public health disaster that has left the country’s medical system in tatters and increased the risk of disease and death, according to a report released on Tuesday.

Medact, a British-based charity that examines the impact of war on health, said cases of vaccine-preventable diseases were rising and relief and reconstruction work had been mismanaged.

“The health of the Iraq people has deteriorated since the 2003 invasion,” Gill Reavey, the deputy director of Medact, told a news conference to launch the report.

“Immediate action is needed to halt this health disaster.”

The report, which is based on interviews in Jordan with Iraqi civilians, health professionals and aid agencies, said the United States of America is wholly unacceptable that the legal status of detainees at the Guantanamo Bay prison camp in Cuba is unacceptable.

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Draft anti-terrorism law submitted to Russian Parliament

MOSCOW, 1 Dec—Russian deputies submitted a draft anti-terrorism law to parliament on Tuesday in the latest security measure.

The bill proposes enabling authorities to introduce a series of emergency measures—including phone tapping, more document checks and media restrictions—if they receive information, even unconfirmed, that an attack is being planned.

"Upon receiving information, pointing to the possibility of the preparation or threat of a terrorist act... temporary special legal restrictions could be introduced as a counter-terrorism measure," the text of the bill, obtained by Reuters, says.

The bill, proposed by the dominant pro-Kremlin United Russia party, could come up for discussion in its first reading by the end of the year, the Duma's security committee head, Vladimir Vasilyev, was quoted as saying by RIA Novosti news agency. MNA/Reuters

Scientists say urinary incontinence in women can be corrected

CHICAGO, 1 Dec—Urinary incontinence in women can be corrected by transplanting the patient's own muscle-derived stem cells into the urethra to strengthen it, scientists said on Monday.

"Not only do they stay where they are injected, but also they quickly form new muscle tissue and when the muscle mass reaches the appropriate size, the cell growth ceases automatically," MNA/Reuters

Study shows experimental vaccine reduced presence of HIV

SAO PAULO (Brazil), 1 Dec—An experimental vaccine reduced the presence of the HIV virus by at least 80 per cent in a Brazilian study of 18 infected patients released in the journal Nature Medicine.

The procedure was successfully done on 20 women aged 36 to 84, the report said.

"These are very intelligent cells," Frauschler said. "Not only do they stay where they are injected, but also they quickly form new muscle tissue and when the muscle mass reaches the appropriate size, the cell growth ceases automatically." MNA/Reuters

Over a ton of cocaine seized in Nicaragua

MANAGUA, 1 Dec—Nicaraguan police have seized more than a ton of cocaine in a nationwide search following Friday's capture of a light plane with arms and drug residues on board, local Press said recently.

Police in the northwestern Leon Department found the drugs in a truck with a Salvadoran licence. The drugs, 1,105 kilograms in total, were packed in 36 sacks and hidden in a compartment of the truck, said Captain Alfonso Silva, chief of public relations of the Leon Department Police.

Differences in the dimensions of the driver's cabin and the cargo compartment drew police attention, said Silva.

The track driver, identified as Genaro Gonzalez, carried two identity cards, one of Nicaraguan nationality and the other Salvadoran.

The confiscated drugs were believed to have links with the drug trafficking light plane. MNA/Xinhua

Brain scans show difference of liar's, truth teller's brain

WASHINGTON, 1 Dec—Brain scans show that the brains of people who are lying are very different from those of people who are telling the truth, US researchers said on Monday.

The study, using functional magnetic resonance imaging of fMRI, not only sheds light on what goes on when people lie but may also provide new technology for lie-detecting, the researchers said.

"There may be unique areas in the brain involved in deception that can be measured with fMRI," said Dr. Scott Faro, director of the Functional Brain Imaging Centre at Temple University School of Medicine in Philadelphia.

"There may be unique areas in the brain involved in truth-telling," Faro added at a news conference.

Faro and colleagues tested 10 volunteers. Six of them were asked to shoot a toy gun and then lie and say they did not do it. Three others who watched told the truth about what happened.

One volunteer dropped out of the study.

While giving their "testimony", the volunteers were hooked up both to a conventional polygraph and also had their brain activity imaged using fMRI, which used a strong magnet to provide real-time picture of brain activity.

There were clear differences between the liars and the truth-tellers.

Faro's team told a meeting in Chicago of the Radiological Society of North America.

"We found a total of seven areas of activation in the deception group," he said. "We found four areas of activity in the truth-telling arm."

Overall, it seemed to take more brain effort to tell the lie than to tell the truth, Faro found.

Lying caused activity in the frontal part of the brain—the medial inferior and pre-central areas, as well as the hip-pocampus and middle temporal regions and the limbic areas. Some of these are involved in emotional responses, Faro said.

During a truthful response, the fMRI showed activation of parts of the brain's frontal lobe, temporal lobe and cingulate gyrus.

Faro said the study was small and limited. Volunteers were not asked to try especially hard to deceive the equipment, he said— noting that it has been documented that some people can fool a polygraph using various techniques.

Using fMRI as a lie detector is expensive, but it may be worthwhile in some cases—such as trying to question a terrorism suspect, or in a high-profile corporate crime case, Faro said. MNA/Reuters

The bust of a statue archaeologists identify as Roman Emperor Philip the Arab, who ruled from 224 to 249 AD, is seen on a beach on the Mediterranean island of Corsica in this recent undated photo. Archaeologists announced on 19 Nov, 2004 that a 2-metre statue of a feminine silhouette and statue fragments of the Roman Emperor were discovered on 23 Oct, 2004 in shipwreck dating from the third century off Porticcio in southern Corsica. -INTERNET

Schwarzenegger's wife says America may amend US Constitution

LOS ANGELES, 1 Dec—California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's wife, Maria Shriver, says America may someday amend the US Constitution and elect a foreign-born president—but it will not be her husband.

"Forget about it. It is not going to happen. The process takes years, and this is as far as it goes," Schriver, the niece of former president John F Kennedy, told Vanity Fair magazine amid talk of amending the Constitution to allow the Austrian-born film star to run for president. MNA/Reuters
**SPORTS**

**Man Utd beat Arsenal 1-0 in League Cup quarterfinal**

**LONDON, 2 Dec** — A David Bellion goal in the opening seconds gave Manchester United a 1-0 win over arch-rivals Arsenal and a place in the League Cup quarterfinal on Wednesday.

The night’s other quarterfinal between Tottenham Hotspur and Liverpool was deadlocked at 0-0 with extra time being played at White Hart Lane. Chelsea and Second Division Watford secured their places in the semifinal draw with victories over Fulham and Premier League Portsmouth respectively on Tuesday.

United’s victory in a game between two second-string sides came five weeks after their first team ended Arsenal’s record 49-match unbeaten league run at Old Trafford, triggering a collapse in form from which the champions have yet to recover.

October’s 2-0 win also led to the ‘Battle of the Buffet’ in which snacks were reportedly thrown at United manager Alex Ferguson in the players’ tunnel, adding to a long-standing enmity between the two sides.

Their latest encounter swung United’s way immediately after kickoff when Bellion’s seemingly harmless shot straight at Manuel Almunia bounced off the Spanish keeper’s knee and into the net.

Cisse afraid of losing left leg

**LONDON, 2 Dec** — Liverpool’s French striker Djibril Cisse feared he would lose his left leg following the injury he suffered against Blackburn Rovers in October. The international forward is out of action for the rest of the season after breaking his leg in two places at Ewood Park, but realizes the situation could have been a lot worse.

“When I was taken from the field, what they did next was so important for my career, what they did in those first few moments was vital,” he was quoted on Wednesday as saying in the Premier League club’s official magazine.

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**UEFA official calls for cooperation to tackle violence**

**ISTANBUL, 2 Dec** — A top UEFA official called on Wednesday for cooperation to tackle soccer violence at a meeting to unveil the logo and ticket details for the Champions League final in Istanbul in May.

Turkish football was rocked last week by the fatal stabbing of a 16-year-old during a match at Besiktas’ stadium in the city.

“Everybody involved in football in Turkey must help each other to prevent violence,” Turkish UEFA vice-president Sener Erzik was reported as saying by Anatolian news agency.

“UEFA and FIFA are both watching the events... and are working on various sanctions to prevent them,” he said referring to violence and racist behaviour at recent matches in Europe.

Turkish football officials pledged to make a success of the final, being staged at Istanbul’s Olympic Stadium on May 25.

“We will do everything we can to make this final the best ever,” Turkish Football Federation Chairman Levent Bicakci told the meeting.

The match will be played in front of 69,000 spectators, down from a usual capacity of 80,000. It was not clear why the capacity had been reduced.

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**Korean favourites Seongnam Ilhwa stunned by Al Ittihad**

**KUAMU LISPU, 2 Dec** — Saudi Arabia’s Al Ittihad stunned Korean favourites Seongnam Ilhwa 5-0 on Wednesday to lift the Asian Champions League title with a 6-3 aggregate win.

Having suffered a 3-1 defeat in the first leg in Jeddah last week which resulted in the sacking of coach Tomslov Ivan, Al Ittihad produced a remarkable performance at the Seongnam Sports Complex to ruin the home side’s hopes of salvaging a disappointing season. Defender Rehda Tukar gave Al Ittihad the lead on 27 minutes when he rose above Park Woo-hyun to head in Chico’s corner.

Hama Idris made it 2-0 for the six-times Saudi champions in first-half injury time after Seongnam failed to clear a Chico freekick.

Seongnam were forced to go on the offensive in the second half which played into the hands of the counter-attacking Saudis, coached by Dragan Talajic.

Al Ittihad took the aggregate lead when skipper Mohamed Noor tucked the ball past Seongnam goalkeeper Yang Young-min after a run down the left by Manaf Abushgeer.

Noor made it 4-0 in the 78th minute and Abushgeer completed an amazing victory with a curling shot five minutes into injury time.— MNA/Reuters

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**Feyenoord defeat Schalke 04 2-1**

**LONDON, 2 Dec** — Feyenoord won the battle of the former winners to reach the last 32 of the UEFA Cup on Wednesday after a 2-1 victory over Schalke 04.

The Rotterdam side, winners in 2002 when they beat Borussia Dortmund in their own De Kuip stadium, joined 1997 victors Schalke in qualifying from Group A.

Feyenoord and former European champions Steaua Bucharest were the only teams on the night to book their place after the French side, who can only be overtaken by European champions Steaua Bucharest, failed to get the point they needed to book their place after a 1-0 defeat to rivals Steaua.

The Romanian side have completed their programme on six points but can only be overtaken by two of the other four teams.

Athletic captain Joseba Etxeberria hit the only goal in first-half stoppage time, firing a superbly taken shot into the roof of the net after striker Ismael Urzaiz had headed back into his path at a rain-drenched San Mames.

Steaua were denied an equalizer late on when Daniel Aranzubia made a fine block from Nicolae Dica.

Besiktas were pegged back by a late equaliser in Istanbul, Sambegou Bangoura cancelling out a first-half strike from Turkish international midfielder Okan Buruk. The 1-1 draw left both sides on four points with all still to play for.

Sporting, who will stage this season’s Group D games in Lisbon, wasted the chance to book their place after failing to get the point they needed at home to Sochaux in Group D.

Johann Konofat scored with an angled drive in the second minute after a mistake by Brazilian defender Polga to net the only goal for the French side, who joined Sporting on six points with one round of matches to go.— MNA/Reuters

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**A free kick by Feyenoord goes through the wall of Schalke 04 during their UEFA Cup football match in Rotterdam. — Internet**

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Yangon, 2 Dec — The Secretariat member of Union Solidarity Development Association (Central) Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan went on inspection tour of rural development tasks in Yinnabon and Township, Monywa District, from 28 November to 1 December.

He attended mass meeting of Maukthayet Village held at Maukthayet Post-Primary School in Yinnabon Township, Monywa District. The minister discussed regional development.

The minister said that he was there to provide necessary assistance to the local people in accord with the guidance of Head of the State Senior General Than Shwe. He urged local people to make efforts for regional development.

He expressed satisfaction for contribution of K 4.9 million of local people to the self-reliant bridge in Maukthayet village.

He added that the government is providing assistance for human resources development. A total of 156 universities and colleges have been built nation-wide and the Government is striving to build a discipline-flourishing democratic nation and thus it is necessary for the people to collaborate with it for realizing the Seven-point future policy programme of the State.

Afterwards, the minister proceeded to Yinnabon BEHS. He met with town elders there and presented prizes to outstanding students.

The minister donated K 100,000 each for Yinnabon BEPS No 1 Yinhbuittin village primary school and Tawa Village Biogas plant. He also presented periodicals for self-reliant libraries and gifts to local people. — MNA

Yangon, 2 Dec — Visiting Deputy Chief of the General Staff of the People’s Liberation Army of the People’s Republic of China General Ge Zhenfeng and party accompanied by Maj-Gen Aye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, Chinese Military Attached Senior Colonel Ma Shoudong and officials, this morning visited Myanma Gems Emporium after paying homage to Shwedagon Pagoda.

At 7:30 am, the visiting Chinese General and party went to Shwedagon Pagoda where they were welcomed by U Thein Zaw and officials of the pagoda board of trustees.

The Chinese General signed in the visitors’ book and presented cash donations for the pagoda to U Thein Zaw and officials. Next, the General and party paid homage to Jade Buddha Image and viewed the big bell donated by King Thayawady. Afterwards, they had group photo taken. They made a clockwise round of the pagoda as an act of homage and viewed round the religious buildings.

On arrival at Myanma Gems Emporium on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road, the Chinese guests and party were welcomed by Assistant Director U Thit Lwin and officials of Myanma Gems Enterprise.

Next, Adviser U Ohn Myint conducted the guests round the Gems Mart. Later, the visiting General put his signature in the visitors’ book. — MNA

Regional development in Sagaing Division discussed

Yangon, 2 Dec — The Secretariat member of Union Solidarity Development Association (Central) Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan meets local people in Maukthayet village, Yinmabin Township. — MNA

Chinese delegation offers cash donations to funds of the Shwedagon Pagoda. — MNA
Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and visiting PLA Deputy Chief of General Staff General Ge Zhenfeng and party at Zeyathiri Beikman Hall.—MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye receives Deputy Chief of General Staff of PLA

YANGON, 2 Dec—Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye received Deputy Chief of the General Staff of the People’s Liberation Army of the People’s Republic of China General Ge Zhenfeng and party at Zeyathiri Beikman Hall on Kommyinttha, here, at 9 am today.

Also present at the call were Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann, members of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo and Lt-Gen Tin Aye of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win and Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt.

The visiting General and party were accompanied by Chinese Ambassador Mr Li Jinjun and Military Attaché Senior Colonel Ma Shoudong. —MNA

Li-Gen Soe Win attends 10th ASEAN Summit, summits of Heads of State/Govt of ASEAN and PRC, Japan and ROK

YANGON, 2 Dec—Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar Lt-Gen Soe Win attended the 10th ASEAN Summit at Lao International Trade Exhibition & Convention Centre (Lao ITECC) in Vientiane, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, on 29 November morning.

First, Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win and Heads of State/Government of ASEAN countries arrived at Lao ITECC, venue of the 10th ASEAN Summit at 8.15 am.

They were welcomed at the entrance of the building by Lao students waving miniature flags of ASEAN countries and presenting Lao traditional music and dances.

Next, Laotian Prime Minister Mr Bounnhang Vorachith welcomed Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win and Heads of State/Government of ASEAN countries at the entrance of the main building of Lao ITECC.

At 8.30 am, Heads of State/Government of ASEAN countries posed for documentary photo at Hall B-2 of Lao-ITECC before the summit.

Next, the summit followed. Present at the summit were His Majesty of Brunei Darussalam Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah; Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah bin Haji Ahmad; Indonesian President Mr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono; Laotian Prime Minister Mr Bounnhang Vorachith; Cambodian Prime Minister Mr Samdech Hun Sen; Singaporean Prime Minister (See page 6) Mr Goh Chok Tong; Japanese Prime Minister Mr Junichiro Koizumi; Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win and Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt; Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar Lt-Gen Soe Win, the Philippine President Mrs Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, Singaporean Prime Minister and Military Attaché Senior Colonel Ma Shoudong.

Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win attends ASEAN+3 Summit at Lao-ITECC in Vientiane, Lao PDR.—MNA

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

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

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