The following is a translation of the message sent by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe on the occasion of the 84th Anniversary of the National Day:

Esteemed national people,

Today is the 84th Anniversary of the National Day, on which, the struggle for independence was launched with the participation of the entire national people who made energetic efforts in unity during the struggle. It must always be documented in the history of independence struggle as a momentous launching day of the national movement that continued to march with greater momentum till reaching the goal — the independence — with the setting up of a national education system in the country as the starting point of the march.

Throughout the course of history, Myanmars were able to preserve and promote their dignity and integrity by daringly warding off all foreign aggression and encroachments with unyielding spirit. Although Myanmar had suffered the loss of sovereignty and independence for a certain period of time in history, the entire people were able to regain independence, based on their dynamic and strong patriotism, national spirit and Union Spirit, launching the national movement as the springboard of the struggle. Because of the rapid developments in scientific and technological fields, the neo-colonialists are adopting new means, trying to encroach on, dominate and manipulate others through social, economic and cultural spheres and the media and information industry, instead of resorting to use of force old and obvious methods such as expansion of their territory with the use of military power or hegemonism. Hence, we must have constant national awareness to ward off their perpetration, while relying on patriotism and Union Spirit as our fundamental strength.

Since 1998, the Government has been laying down and implementing education promotion programmes for today’s youths to adapt themselves to the changing socio-economic lives, which are the consequences of the development in science and technology, they are going to face in the 21st Century. And beginning fiscal 2001-2002, the Government has launched the national education development projects to produce human resources equipped with the international standard education and high fervour of patriotism and national spirit.

(See page 2)
Rubber cultivation that will bring prosperity to the country and the growers

Rich in natural resources is the Union of Myanmar. Efforts are being made for national development by making a good use of these rich natural resources.

Being an engine of the country’s economy, agriculture is to be taken as the base in the drive for all-round development of other sectors. In the agricultural sector, steps are being taken to ensure local food sufficiency as well as extend the sown acreage of perennial plants in addition to that of new crops, so the export of goods will be on the rise.

Of perennial crops, oil palm and rubber have now become a commercial success. Oil palm can satisfy the demand for local food while rubber has turned out the promising source of foreign exchange.

For Myanmar, the topographical conditions favour the cultivation of rubber. On the whole, rubber can be grown nationwide save some areas in Mandalay, Magway and Sagaing Divisions.

So profitable a livelihood is the culture of rubber that even poverty can benefit from it. The government is rendering assistance to rubber growers. Moreover, it allots land to national entrepreneurs so that they can undertake rubber cultivation on an extensive scale. Permis-
sions have also been granted to national entrepre-
neurs for free trade of rubber.

Myanma Perennial Plants Enterprise provides anyone who want to invest in rubber cultivation by means of land allotment and provision of strain, technology, fertilizer and pesti-
cide. It takes six to seven years to nurse rubber plants, and they can be used for commercial purpose for 30 years.

Rubber being an industrial raw material, most consumer goods are made of it. As natural rubber fetches high price, some industrial na-
tions have to use synthetic rubber.

In today’s world market, Myanmar rubber sells for US$ 1,100 to 1,300 per metric ton. Even its cuttings are priced at US$ 1,000. Since rubber is a ready foreign market and can gain profits, it should be grown on an extensive scale.

With a growing demand in the world market, the sown acreage of rubber, the perennial plant beneficial for both the country and the growers, should be extended.

The national education development projects have been launched with the aim of safeguarding the national interest in the long run, and they are bearing good results and achieving success. At this opportune time, the Government and all the people will have to lend themselves fully to the efforts for emergence of a peaceful, modern and development nation and building of a discipline-flourishing democratic state, utilizing the strength of highly qualified human resources.

In accord with the fine traditions of the auspicious National Day, which was born during the struggle to establish the national education system that helped vitalize nationalism and nationalistic fervour of the people and the nation to regain independence, all the national people will have to strive in harmony and unison, based on national spirit, patriotism and Union Spirit, for the success of the seven-point Road Map, while keeping in the fore the national policy — non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity, and perpetuation of sovereignty.

Hence, I would like to urge the entire people of the nation in all seriousness to exert efforts with full national strength in accord with the Objectives of the 84th Anniversary of the National Day.

— Keeping national spirit alive and dynamic and uplift of national prestige and integrity
— Uplift of national education
— Perpetuation of independence and sovereignty of the State
— Success of seven-point future policy programme of the State.

— MNA

Airports in the Union: Thirteenth Inspected

YANGON, 5 Dec — Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe, accompanied by Deputy Minister Col Nyan Tun Aung, Officer on Special Duty Brig-Gen Myo Tin and officials, went to Kawthoung Airport today and inspected the airport and the runway.

The minister inspected passenger lounges, X-ray Monitor Control room and the airport building and gave instructions on the cleanliness inside and outside the airport.

Next, the minister inspected the airway control tower.

Afterwards, the minister and party proceeded to Bokpyin Airport and inspected along the runway.

At the briefing hall, the minister attended to the needs after hearing reports by the officials.

On arrival at Myeik Airport, the minister together with Chairman of Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Coastal Regional Command Maj-Gen Ohn Myint inspected Myeik Airport building.

When the minister and party arrived at Dawei Airport, In-charge of the airport Maj Kyaw Thu reported on the tasks of Dawei Airport Construction Project and Brig-Gen Kyaw Aung of Dawei Station gave supplemental reports.

The minister and party inspected the constructing of new airport building and earth works for the runway.

Dawei Airport is also being extended into the airport with 12,000 feet in length and 200 feet in width, where Boeing 747-400 aircraft can land. — MNA

Education Minister provides teaching aids to monastic education school

YANGON, 5 Dec — Minister for Education U Than Aung, accompanied by Director-General of No 2 Basic Education Department (Upper Myanmar) Lt-Col Win Htein and officials, yesterday provided teaching aids to Myatyanada Monastic Education School in Chanmyathazi Township and Thungaza Monastic Education School in Chanayethazan Township.

The minister and party also paid obeisance to Sayadaws of the monastic education schools and viewed around the students learning at the schools.

All this needs to be known

* Do not be frightened whenever intimidated.
* Do not be bolstered whenever flattered.
* Do not be softened whenever appealed.
Malaysia to host 2nd East Asia Forum

KUALA LUMPUR, 4 Dec — Malaysia will host the 2nd East Asia Forum (EAF) on December 5-6 here, which will be opened by Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

The forum is jointly organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the East Asian Business Council of Malaysia and its theme is “Towards an Integrated East Asian Community”, the ministry said in a statement released here.

Those that have confirmed participation are the Foreign Ministers of Laos, Myanmar, the Philippines, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Singapore and Senior vice-minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, the statement indicated.

Former leaders who are expected to attend are Malaysia’s former Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, Japan’s former Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata, former President of South Korea Kim Dae-jung, according to the statement.

The former leaders are scheduled to make speeches after the keynote address by Abdullah Ahmad Badawi on December 6. In addition, representatives from the Government, private sector and scholars of the ASEAN+3 countries are also expected to participate in the forum.

Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), now grouping 10 states in the region, was set up in 1967 to boost regional cooperation.

ASEAN+3 mechanism involves cooperation among the 10 ASEAN countries and China, Japan and South Korea.

The forum comprised two closed sessions, the first entitled “Political and Security Cooperation” involving the foreign ministers and head of delegations, while the second session will be on Economic and Financial Cooperation, which will see the participation of captains of industry. The forum is one of the 26 measures recommended by the East Asia Study Group as a mechanism to enhance the ASEAN+3 cooperation and to achieve the region’s common goal of an East Asian Community. — MNA/Xinhua

Putin accuses US of pursuing dictatorial foreign policy

NEW DELHI, 4 Dec — Russian President Vladimir Putin accused the United States on Friday of pursuing a dictatorial foreign policy and said mounting violence could derail progress towards bringing peace and democracy to Iraq.

Putin also criticized the West for setting double-standards on terrorism, pursuing Islamic fundamentalists in Afghanistan and Iraq while giving refuge to “terrorists” demanding Chechnya’s independence from Russia.

The Kremlin leader’s tough remarks came on a visit to former Cold War ally India, where he and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh issued a joint call for greater cooperation in stabilizing and rebuilding Iraq.

Unilateralism increased risks that weapons of mass destruction might fall into the hands of terrorists, and would stoke regional conflicts, Putin said in a hard-hitting speech to an invited audience. “Even if dictatorship is packaged in beautiful pseudo-democratic phraseology, it will not be able to solve systemic problems,” Putin said. “It may even make them worse.”

Putin did not name the United States, but clearly had the Administration of President George W Bush in mind when he said policies “based on the bar-rack-room principles of a unipolar world appear to be extremely dangerous”. Putin was a vocal opponent of the US-led war to oust Saddam Hussein, but has since joined efforts to rebuild Iraq’s war-hit infrastructure.

Moscow’s assent was key to a recent Paris Club deal to write off most of Iraq’s foreign debts. Putin said he was worried by mounting violence and loss of life linked to operations by US-led coalition forces in Iraq, and said these may disrupt plans to hold elections now scheduled for January 30, 2005.

Again the Russian leader was not specific, but he appeared to be referring to the US operation to crush the hard-guerrillas in the Iraqi city of Fallujah.

“This may put a question mark over holding of fair and democratic elections in Iraq early next year,” he said.

Putin’s speech echoed comments he made earlier to an Indian newspaper in which he said the war had turned Iraq into a breeding ground for terrorists. — MNA/Reuters

India, Russia sign joint declaration for strategic partnership

NEW DELHI, 4 Dec — Indian and Russia signed Friday a Joint Declaration emphasizing strategic partnership between the two countries and taking note of the transformation in the global environment in recent years.

The two countries also signed accords on outer-space, long-term cooperation in the field of joint development and use of Russian Global Navigational Satellite System (GLONASS) for peaceful purposes, visa-free travel for holders of diplomatic and official passports and cooperation between the cities of Mumbai and St Petersburg, the Press Trust of India reported.

The agreement on outer-space and GLONASS was signed by Indian Space Research Organization chairman G Madhavan Nair and director of Russian Federal Space Agency A Perminov. India’s Foreign Secretary Shyam Sharan inked the deal on visa-free travel with Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Alexeev.

Mumbai Municipal Corporation mayor Mahadev Desale signed the agreement for cooperation with Valentia Matvienko, governor of Russian President Vladimir Putin’s home town St Petersburg. — MNA/Xinhua

1,269 US troops killed since beginning of Iraq war

WASHINGTON, 4 Dec — As of Saturday, 4 Dec, 2004, at least 1,269 members of the US military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count.

At least 988 died as a result of hostile action, the Defence Department said as of Friday. The figures include three military civilians. The department did not update its numbers Saturday.

The AP count is nine higher than the Defence Department’s tally, last updated at 10 am EST Friday.

The British military has reported 74 deaths; Italy, 19; Poland, 13; Spain, 11; Ukraine, nine; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary and Latvia have reported one death each.

Since 1 May, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,131 US military members have died, according to AP’s count. That includes at least 879 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military’s numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military: One US soldier was killed by a roadside bomb Saturday north of Baghdad.

An Iraqi police officer guides a wounded civilian into al-Yarmuk hospital after he was hurt in an early morning car bomb attack near a police station beside the heavily protected so-called ‘Green Zone’ in central Baghdad, on 4 Dec, 2004. — INTERNET

Singapore, Chinese firms can make win-win partnership

SINGAPORE, 4 Dec — A Singapore official said Friday that joint ventures between Singapore enterprises and Chinese firms can create win-win partnership.

Minister for Transport Yeo Cheow Tong made this remark at a business meeting gathering held here on Friday. Yeo said that many Singapore companies have successfully penetrated the China market by establishing partnership via investment in Chinese enterprises, supporting global customers as they expand into China, and banding together as a group to overcome shortcomings such as size or service offerings.

On the other hand, Yeo added, Singapore’s unique location, long history as an international trading hub and its sufficient operating environment can provide Chinese enterprises with the ideal gateway to expand into regional and global markets. — MNA/Xinhua
Pakistan willing to train Malaysians in submarine operations

KUALA LUMPUR, 4 Dec — Pakistan has offered to share its expertise in submarine operations with Malaysia.

With 35 years experience in submarine operations and valuing the long-standing Kuala Lumpur-Islamabad ties, the Pakistani Navy “is ever willing to share its vast knowledge and know-how with Malaysians,” Pakistani Navy Commodore Mohammad Asif told local reporters in Port Klang, 40 kilometres west of here, Friday.

Mohammad Asif is also Mission Commander of visiting Pakistani Navy vessels, PNS Tariq, a frigate, and PNS Nasr, a tanker. They arrived at the port on Tuesday for a three-day training and good-will visit. Their next destination is Brunei.

Mohammad Asif said the Royal Malaysian Navy (RMN) could seek assistance from the Pakistani Navy should the need arise.

He said Malaysian and Pakistani Navy personnel participated in training and joint naval exercises regularly.

“I suppose we can learn from each other. One aspect is the submarine operations where we can gain from each other,” he said.

On his opinion of Malaysia, Mohammad Asif said Malaysia was a fine example of a successful Islamic nation.

“As a Muslim, it gives me great pleasure to see an Islamic country modernizing and developing, putting it on par with other advanced countries in the world,” he added.

Visiting Pakistani Navy vessels, among others, participated in a basic naval training exercise at the RMN base in Lumut.

Miss Peru crowned Miss World

MANILA, 4 Dec — Twenty-year-old Miss Peru was crowned Miss World on Saturday in a southern Chinese resort town, as China looks to become the regular host of an event that would have once been deemed heretical.

Miss Peru, Maria Julia Mantilla Garcia, was named Miss World 2004 after a pageant that has been held biannually in countries ranging from 6 to 10 degrees in Celsius, reported the Daily Star on Saturday.

The whole country is likely to witness at least two to three cold waves ranging from mild to moderate level during this winter, Deputy Director of Dhaka Met Office Arjumand Habib was quoted by the newspaper as saying.

The country’s northern and central parts will witness mild to moderate cold waves, and the night temperature will fluctuate between 6 to 10 degrees there.

Greater Mekong River Subregion ministers to meet in Laos

MANILA, 4 Dec — Ministers of the six countries sharing the Mekong River will meet in Vientiane, capital of Laos, on December 14-16 to discuss ways to intensify regional cooperation, the Asia Development Bank (ADB) which assisted the programme said on Friday.

With increasing efforts in Asia towards greater economic integration, the ministers from the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) countries — Cambodia, China, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam — will discuss at their 13th GMS Ministerial Conference how to move cooperation more effectively to achieve their common goal of growth, equity and prosperity for the subregion, said ADB President James D. Wolfensohn.

The GMS Programme, assisted by ADB since 1992, has catalyzed the move towards regional economic integration by enhancing cooperation among the GMS countries and thus improving the competitiveness of the region’s products in Asia and beyond, said ADB.

The ministerial meeting will include a GMS Senior Officials Meeting on December 14, a Development Partners Meeting on December 15 and the Ministerial Meeting on December 16.

The Development Partners Meeting will bring together representatives from more than 50 bilateral and multilateral development agencies as well as representatives of the private sector.

The investment requirements in the GMS region are huge and it will therefore be critically important for the GMS countries to successfully mobilize new resources from public and private sectors inside and outside the region, said Rajat Nag, Director-General of ADB’s Mekong Department.

“The GMS countries’ dialogue with existing and new development partners is very important feature of the GMS Ministerial Conference,” said Mr Nag.

The GMS ministers will also discuss the preparation for the Second GMS Leaders’ Summit to be held in Kunming, southwest China in July 2005.

Home to some 250 million people, the subregion, as big as Western Europe, is expected to become a dynamic growth area in the years ahead, according to ADB.

China, Bulgaria to promote cooperation in agriculture

BEIJING, 4 Dec — China is ready to promote cooperation with Bulgaria in a bunch of agricultural sectors, said Chinese Vice-Premier Hui Lianguu here Thursday.

In meeting with Mehmed Dikme, Bulgarian Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, Hui said the Chinese Government values and supports the exchanges and cooperation in agriculture between the two countries.

“China hopes the two countries can carry out extensive cooperation in such agricultural fields as technology, product processing and machinery,” Hui said.

Over the past half century, China-Bulgaria relations have been kept stable development and the two countries have extended its cooperation in economy, culture, education, science and technology, said Hui.

Bangladesh expects cold waves in mid-December

DHAKA, 5 Dec — A series of cold waves with foggy weather are likely to sweep across Bangladesh from the second half of December, as the temperature is projected to dip below 10 degrees in Celsius, reported the Daily Star on Saturday.

As a civilized country with a long history, he said China is one of the leading players in the world stage in the 21st Century.

Both Italy and China have shared common views on many important international issues and they have carried out cooperation in many fields, said the 84-year-old President.

Ciampi said his state visit to China would serve as an impetus to boost bilateral cooperation.
Visitors look at scale model of newly developed apartment at the real estate exhibition on 5 Dec 2004 in Shanghai, China.

One more civilian airport to be built on Tibetan Plateau

XINING, 4 Dec— Engineering experts have approved a feasibility report on building a civilian airport in Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture of Yushu, northwest China’s Qinghai Province.

The project evaluation was made by experts from the China International Engineering Consulting Company. And the approved report will be submitted to the State Development and Reform Commission for final approval, according to sources with the provincial commission of development and reform.

The planned airport will allow access to the outside by air for the 260,000 Tibetan residents outside by air for the prefecture. Jiegu Town, capital of the prefecture, is now linked to the provincial capital of Xining City.

Putin arrives New Delhi

NEW DELHI, 4 Dec— Russian President Vladimir Putin arrived here early Friday on a three-day visit to India. Putin, who is heading a high-level delegation of ministers, officials and businessmen, will hold talks with Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

He will also meet President A P J Abdul Kalam and other Cabinet ministers and opposition leader.

The two countries are expected to sign a series of agreements.

They will also issue a joint declaration, spelling out their overall vision of cooperation and steps to concretize their strategic partnership, a senior Indian official said.

Indian FM rejects UNSC membership without veto power

NEW DELHI, 4 Dec— Indian Foreign Minister K Natwar Singh said Thursday that India would not accept UN Security Council membership without veto power.

Dismissing reports that India may get into the Council without veto power, Singh told the Rajya Sabha, or Upper House of Parliament that such reports were “purely speculative,” the Indo-Asian News Service reported.

“Without a veto, I do not think (UN Security Council membership) will be acceptable to the country,” he said.

The minister said New Delhi’s stance on the issue is wellknown and India is working together with Japan, Brazil and Germany in this regard.

On suggestions that India could get into the Council first and then work for achieving veto power, he said the expansion of the Security Council was an “extremely complicated issue with wide ramifications.”

Singh also said New Delhi would wait for the report on UN reforms from UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan which is expected in the middle of the month.

“We will study the report. This issue is very much before the government. We will apply our mind,” he said.

Minister of State for External Affairs E Ahamed said that several countries had expressed their support to New Delhi’s aspirations.

“India believes that the reform and restructuring exercise is important and that by any objective criteria, India’s case is credible and strong,” he said, adding that there has been a growing momentum in support of India’s candidature for the permanent Security Council membership.

ADB approves loan for railway project in S-W China

MANILA, 4 Dec— The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a 180-million-US-dollar loan for a railway project aimed at helping remove transport constraints to growth in southwestern People’s Republic of China.

The project, to build a 167-kilometre railway from Dali County to Lijiang City in northwest China’s Yunnan Province, will develop efficient, safe and environment friendly rail transport in the region, creating jobs and income generating opportunities, and providing better links for the poor in the area, the ADB said Friday in a statement.

The single-track railway will provide the shortest land route between the two key centres in the province, the statement said.

Besides laying of railway track, the project will construct 11 new railway stations and install modern signalling and safety systems, including mechanized track maintenance.

Car bombings, other attacks kill nearly 40 in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 4 Dec— A wave of attacks that included car bombings here and in Baghdad have left nearly 40 people dead in Iraq exacerbating fears that violence could derail Iraq’s January elections. Against that backdrop, the special advisor on Iraq to UN General Secretary Kofi Annan was quoted as saying the current climate of insecurity makes holding elections impossible.

The Patriotic Union of Kurdistan’s chief in Mosul, Saad Pira, told AFP that 17 Kurdish militiamen were killed and more than 40 wounded when a suicide car bomber rammed their convoy as they were traveling through the Karama neighborhood of Mosul Saturday afternoon.

“An Opel car slammed into the convoy and exploded against the minibuses, two of which were totally gutted by fire,” Pira said.

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The art show is part of the "Year of France in China", a Sino-French cultural exchange event which was officially launched on 10 October. The 51 paintings include those by Claude Monet, Paul Cezanne, Edgar Degas, Edouard Manet and Alfred Sisley. The collection is believed to be a feat of light and colours and beauty of humanity. Of the 51 works, 38 are from the Musee d’Orsay in Paris, 11 others are from other French museums, and one from the Moet Hennessy Louis Vuitton Group, which is sponsoring the exhibitions in China.

The outstanding paintings are matched by their insurance value — 5 billion euros or 6.02 billion US dollars.

The display in Shanghai, scheduled to run at the Shanghai Art Museum, is a follow-up of the exhibition in Beijing, which was held from 11 October to 27 November at the National Art Gallery.

The art show attracted approximately 300,000 visitors in Beijing. The National Art Gallery in the nation’s capital had to extend service time every day, and at the end of the event, it set a record of nonstop operation for consecutive 36 hours to receive enthusiastic art lovers.

Service time extension will also be arranged for the impressionist art exhibition in Shanghai, according to the Shanghai Art Museum.

"Many Chinese at my age have been familiar with some of the exhibits since childhood. The pictures were printed in our school textbooks, and it’s so cool to see the real ones," Li He, a Beijing journalist was quoted by a local paper as saying.

"We have presented Impressionism in China because it shows the essence of the French spirit, that is, of romanticism and freedom," said Serge Lemoine, d’Orsay who is also a co-curator of the exhibitions in China.

Impressionism is an art movement that happened in the late 19th and early 20th centuries in the West, chiefly in France. It is so important to art history that it brought about a fundamental change to Western art and also had an impact on Chinese art, he added. He believed the Chinese public would find it easy to accept Impressionism because it involved elements of Chinese art.

MNA/Xinhua

Pakistan keen to promote trade with neighbouring countries

ISLAMABAD, 4 Dec— Pakistan is keen to promote its trade links with its neighbouring countries and thaw in Pakistan-India relations is a good omen for the promotion of trade between the two countries, Acting President Muhammad mian Soomro has said.

Talking to a delegation of shippers from India and the representatives of shipping lines, the official Associated Press of Pakistan Thursday quoted Soomro as saying that the Pakistani Government attaches great importance to the port and shipping sector and has set up a separate ministry with a view to promoting ports and shipping sectors in the country.

Soomro said there are a lot of prospects for promoting trade with Central Asia countries via Pakistan. He hoped that Gwadar Port would be a centre of business activities for trade to Central Asia, China and Middle East countries.

Foreign businessmen should use this channel to promote their business activities, the acting president said.

Members of the Indian delegation briefed the acting president about the problem relating to their business areas and put forward various proposals to improve the facilities at the ports of Pakistan, the report said.

More Japanese firms feel labour shortage amid eco recovery

TOKYO, 4 Dec— More companies in Japan are feeling a labour shortage amid improving economic activity, sending a related index to a seven-year high, according to a quarterly labour ministry survey released on Thursday.

The index, which is calculated by subtracting the percentage of companies having surplus regular workers from the percentage of firms facing labour shortages, came to 11 points in the November survey, up 3 points from the previous survey in August for the first double-digit figure in seven years, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare said.

With the index for the construction industry rising to 1 point from minus 1, companies having labour shortages outnumbered those with labour surpluses in all nine industries.

These are among principal findings by the ministry’s November survey conducted on 5,408 businesses each employing 30 or more workers. Valid replies came from 2,929, or 54.2 per cent of them.

Asked whether overtime work increased in the July-September period over the previous quarter, more companies replied in the affirmative, reducing the index from 12 points to 8 in the manufacturing sector and from 3 points to minus 3 in the nonmanufacturing sector.

MNA/Xinhua

China’s environmental protection donates fund for Tibetan farmers

BEIJING, 4 Dec— China’s environmental protection staff Friday donated 625,000 yuan (75,510 US dollars) to the Aid-Tibet Fund to help Tibetan farmers and herdsmen buy solar energy-powered appliances.

Last June, the Aid-Tibet Fund, founded in 1987, called on people from across the country to donate money to farmers and herdsmen living in remote areas in Tibet to buy solar-energy appliances, which can solve their difficulties in heating, lighting and bathing.

Pan Yue, deputy director of the State Environmental Protection Administration, said this fund will both improve the living standards of the Tibetan people and reduce the damage to woods and vegetation in Tibet.

"Then the fragile environment in the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau can be protected," Pan said.

MNA/Xinhua

Sri Lanka eyes more foreign investment in 2005

COLOMBO, 5 Dec— Sri Lanka expects foreign investment to grow by 50 per cent to 300 million US dollars in 2005 with good performance in its construction, apparel and tourism sectors, The Island newspaper reported on Saturday.

The newspaper quoted Sri Lankan Board of Investment Chairman Saliya Wickramasurya as saying that peace on the island country was essential for realizing the target.

However, with the peace talks between the government and Tamil Tigers far from resuming soon, Wickramasurya said the government will address the most immediate concern of potential investors by exploring ways to reduce labour costs.

"Infrastructure, both in terms of access roads, highways as well as power, that is another strong focus," he said, adding that the government is well prepared to weather the end of the so-called Multi-Fibre Agreement.

Sri Lanka expects to see foreign direct investment of around 200 million dollars this year, the annual average. That is equivalent to around 1.0 per cent of the country’s gross domestic product (GDP).

The government’s 2005 budget passed by Parliament last week focuses spending on rural infrastructure projects, as well as offering incentives for investment in power generation projects and bolstering small- and medium-sized businesses.

MNA/Xinhua
Improvement of Myanmar film and video industry discussed
Plots of stories should be filled with new thoughts, visions as natural as possible

YANGON, 5 Dec —
Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan met with members of the panel of judges of the Myanmar Film Promotion Committee, members of the Video heads, officials, and guests.

Speaking on the occasion, Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan said the meeting was held to seek ways and means for technological improvement of Myanmar film and video, for higher standard and quality of Myanmar films and video plays, and for penetration of Myanmar films and video plays into foreign countries in line with the guidance of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe.

He continued that he met with executives of Myanmar Motion Pictures Asiayon on 20-12-2002 as part of these measures, adding that he always emphasised the development of the film world on such occasions as academy award ceremonies in 2001 and 2002.

He also pointed out the increase in the number of films, video plays and CDs entering the country. According to the statistics, there were a total of 40,791 illegal video tapes and laser discs plus 771 movies from 1988 to 2004. It posed a threat to the world of Myanmar movie and video as well as to national culture, national aspiration, patriotism and Union Spirit, he said.

Myanmar film world would thrive only when these challenges were crushed, he continued. Duties had been assigned to respective committees and censorship boards to provide close supervision for advancement of Myanmar film world, for preservation of cultural heritage, for revitalization of national solidarity and patriotism, for emergence of outstanding film stars, and for prevention of films that are against Myanmar culture and tradition.

(See page 15)
In the afternoon, the Secretary-1 and party left for Lashio in northern Shan State by helicopter.

They were welcomed by Chairman of Shan State Peace and Development Council (North) Commander of North-East Command Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Hla Myint, senior military officers, departmental officials, national race leaders from special regions in Shan State (North) and members of social organizations.

Kachin Peace Group of Shan State (North) Special Region-5 will cooperate with the government in the political drive initiated by the State.

U Mahtu Naw

They proceeded to Shweli Yeiktha in Lashio. In the afternoon, the Secretary-1 met Kokang, Wa, Shan, Kachin and Palaung national races leaders from special regions in northern Shan State and Manpang people’s militia and Monhin and Monha people’s militia separately.

In meeting with Chairman of Kokang peace group in special region-1 U Phon Kya Shin, Vice-Chair-

man U Phon Kya Phyu and CEC members U Kyan Te Wan and U Sit Hsan, the Secretary-1 said there is no change of policy towards national race organizations that returned to the legal fold. Firstly, he said the government would provide assistance for regional development and higher living standard of local people under the framework of law.

He said the State Peace and Development Council has laid down the seven-point Road Map and is implementing them for the emergence of a discipline-flourishing democratic nation that the people desire while making endeavours for all-round development.

The government would continue to implement the tasks without fail for the realization of the objectives, he said.

The National Convention, which is the first step of the seven-point future programmes, is the most important. Only when the National Convention is successful, will other steps such as the drafting of the State Constitution, approval of the people and the holding of elections in accord with the constitution run smooth, he said.

He said the government acknowledges cooperation of Kokang national race leaders with positive attitude for the success of the National Convention.

Efforts for eradication of narcotic drugs in Kokang region are to be put on record in history and the region will continue to exist and thrive as a drug-free zone.

He assured that the government would provide continued assistance in the benefits of the region, local people and the State with no policy changes.

Next, U Phon Kya Shin said efforts would be made for total eradication of narcotic drugs in the region under the leadership of the government. He expressed his pleasure for the clarification by high-ranking officials and fulfilling the requirements for regional development.

He pledged that they would make efforts hand in hand with the government to reach the goal set by the State.

We will work together with the government with Union Spirit until the National Convention, which is the most crucial for the State, concludes successfully.

U Aik Mone

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein receives U Sai Mon of Manpang Militia and U Law Ma of Monhin Monha Militia.

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein hands over presents to U Aik Mone, Chairman of Palaung Peace Group of Shan State (North) Special Region-7 and Vice Chairman U Nyi Lone. — MNA

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein receives U Mahtu Naw, Chairman of Kachin Peace Group of Shan State (North) Special Region-5, and party. — MNA

We will participate in the development drive together with the government in accord with the directive of the State.

U Sai Mon of Manpang Militia and U Law Ma of Monhin Monha Militia.
The Secretary-1 fulfilled the requirements and presented gifts to U Phon Kya Shin.

In meeting with central committee members of Wa Peace Group of Shan State (North) Special Region-2 U Pa saw Laik Kham and U Aung Myint, Secretary-1 Lat-Gen Thein Sein said Wa national race organization had already made it clear that they will continue cooperating with the government and take part in the successful realization of the seven-step Road Map.

The government, on its part, will not change its policy toward the national race groups and they understand one another. Thus, continued efforts are to be made for ensuring successful realization of the objectives.

Next, central committee member of Wa Peace Group of Shan State (North) Special Region-2 U Paw Laik Kham expressed thanks for State-level officials themselves came and explained, and pledged that they will continue to cooperate with the government in successful holding of the National Convention.

Afterwards, Chairman of Shan Peace Group of Shan State (North) Special Region-3 U Lwei Maung expressed his belief in the government leadership and spoke words of thanks.

Next, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein presented gifts to Chairman of Shan Peace Group of Shan State (North) Special Region-3 U Lwei Maung and party.

In meeting with Chairman of Kachin Peace Group of Shan State (North) Special Region-5 U Mahtu Naw, Vice-Chairman U Zaw Yon and General Secretary U Zaw Hsai, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein said the State, without changing its attitude towards the national armed groups which have returned to the legal fold, will remain committed to successful implementation of the seven-point Road Map, and continue to cooperate and work together with them. Next, U Mahtu Naw pledged to cooperate with the government in the political drive initiated by the State. The Secretary-1, after giving necessary assistance, presented gifts to U Mahtu Naw.

Similarly, the Secretary-1 in meeting with Chairman of Palaung Peace Group of Shan State (North) Special Region-7 U Aik Mone and Vice-Chairman U Nyi Lone, said national race armed groups have returned to the legal fold as they trusted the government. That’s why the government on its part will continue to render assistance to them in accord with the State’s policies. U Aik Mone replied that they will work together with the government with Union Spirit until the National Convention, which is the most crucial for the State, concludes successfully. The Secretary-1 fulfilled the requirements and presented gifts to U Aik Mone.

In meeting with U Sai Mon of Manpang Militia and U Law Ma of Monhin Monha Militia in Shan State (North), Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein presented gifts to U Sai Mon of Manpang Militia and U Law Ma.

Efforts should be made...

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In meeting with central committee members of Wa Peace Group of Shan State (North) Special Region-2 U Pa saw Laik Kham and U Aung Myint, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein said Wa national race organization had already made it clear that they will continue cooperating with the government and take part in the successful realization of the seven-step Road Map.

The government, on its part, will not change its policy toward the national race groups and they understand one another. Thus, continued efforts are to be made for ensuring successful realization of the objectives.

Next, central committee member of Wa Peace Group of Shan State (North) Special Region-2 U Pa saw Laik Kham expressed thanks for State-level officials themselves came and explained, and pledged that they will continue to cooperate with the government in successful holding of the National Convention. He also reiterated that they will strive for national and regional development under the leadership of the government.

Afterwards, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein presented gifts to U Paw Laik Kham.

In meeting with Chairman of Shan Peace Group of Shan State (North) Special Region-3 U Lwei Maung and Vice-Chairman U Kai Hpa and U Sai Swunt and U Ron Khe, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein explained the State policy towards the national race groups and cooperation to be extended until the successful realization of the seven-point Road Map starting from the National Convention.

Afterwards, Chairman of Shan Peace Group of Shan State (North) Special Region-3 U Lwei Maung expressed his belief in the government leadership and spoke words of thanks.

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In meeting with U Sai Mon of Manpang Militia and U Law Ma of Monhin Monha Militia in Shan State (North), Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein presented gifts to U Sai Mon and U Law Ma.
Objectives of the 60th Anniversary National Day

★ Keeping national spirit alive and dynamic and uplift of national prestige and integrity
★ Uplift of national education
★ Perpetuation of independence and sovereignty of the State
★ Success of seven-point future policy programme of the State.

Chinese delegation visits Defence Services Museum

YANGON, 5 Dec—The Chinese delegation led by General Ge Zhengfeng, Deputy Chief of the People’s Liberation Army of the PRC, on their visit to Myanmar, arrived at the Defence Services Museum on Shwedagon Pagoda Road, Dagon Township this morning. The guests were welcomed by Lt-Col Zaw Win of the Defence Services Museum and officials.

Prizes of ASEAN Radio Quiz presented

YANGON, 5 Dec—ASEAN Radio Quiz was held on 2nd December and the enthusiasts took part in it. In the quiz, Maung Ko Ko Thein of Thingangyun Township won the first prize, Ma Le Le Naing of Thangay Township second, Ma Khin Myo Kyaw of Dagon Myothit (South) third and Ma Thanda of Thayawady Township consolidation prize respectively. Prizes were presented by the officials concerned.

General Thura Shwe Mann sees off General Ge Zhengfeng, Deputy Chief of General Staff of the People’s Liberation Army of the PRC. (News on page 1) — MNA

General Ge Zhengfeng, Deputy Chief of General Staff of the People’s Liberation Army of the PRC and party visits Defence Services Museum. — MNA

YANGON, 5 Dec—The Chinese delegation led by General Ge Zhengfeng, Deputy Chief of General Staff of the People’s Liberation Army of the PRC arrived at Sittway and attended to the requirements. The guests were welcomed by Lt-Col Zaw Win of the Defence Services Museum and officials.

Winners of ASEAN Radio Quiz. — MNA

Construction of Yandaing Aung Sutaung Pyae Pagoda inspected

YANGON, 5 Dec—Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Aung Htwe of the Ministry of Defence together with Chairman of Shan State Peace and Development Council (North) Commander of North East Command Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing arrived at the Sasana Beikman in construction project of Yandaing Aung Sutaung Pyae Pagoda, a replica of the Shwedagon Pagoda, which is 135 feet in height on Wizaya Bumi hill in Lashio on 1 December afternoon. Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and the commander paid obeisance to Padamnya Myatshin Muni bronze image and Buddha images in the Beikman. Later, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe paid homage to Seinphudaw, Htidaw and Hnguemyataidaw to be hoisted on the pagoda and Buddha images to be consecrated in it and gave necessary instructions on the construction of the pagoda. Afterwards, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe also inspected the construction project of the pagoda and progress of the construction. After hearing the reports by the officials he gave necessary instructions on it. — MNA

Health Minister tours Rakhine State

YANGON, 5 Dec—Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint on 3 December arrived at Sittway People’s Hospital in Sittway and inspected OPD, laboratory room, X-ray room, operation room, and wards and attended to the requirements. He also met doctors, nurses and staff of the hospital. Afterwards, the minister inspected Mid-Wifery Training School and Nursing School in Sittway and attended to the needs.

During his tour, Dr Kyaw Myint also oversaw Kyauktan Station Hospital in Sittway.

The minister and party reached yesterday Kwan-Taung Rural Health Department in Ponnagyun Township and briefed on rural health care activities.

Next, he inspected Ponnagyun Township Hospital’s X-ray room, cold-storage room, operation room and wards, and fulfilled the requirements. When he arrived at YOtaYoke Station Hospi
tal in the township and ApankwA Station Hospital in Kyauktaw Township, the minister comforted the patients there. Later, Minister Dr Kyaw Myint inspected Kyauktaw Township People’s Hospital, MyanmarBw Station Hospital in MaungU Township, Minbya Township People’s Hospital and MaungU Township People’s Hospital and left instructions and attended to the needs. — MNA

Minister Dr Kyaw Myint inspects Minbya People’s Hospital. — HEALTH

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Minister Dr Kyaw Myint inspects Minbya People’s Hospital. — HEALTH
Rural development measures in Sagaing Division inspected

YANGON, 5 Dec—Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye and Secretary of the Union Solidarity and Development Association (Central) Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan formally opened “Linn Yaung Cha” self-reliant library in Kyaukka (North) USDA Model Village-tract.

Afterwards, the commander and minister formally opened the new building for No 90 basic education post-primary school, which was constructed at a cost of K 3.2 million.

Next, officials of the School Board of Trustees handed over the documents related to the new school building to the Monywa Township Education Officer. Later, the commander donated a TV set for the library.

Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye, USDA Secretariat Member Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan formally open No 90 Basic Education Post Primary School in Kyaukka Village in Monywa Township. — MNA

USDA and gave necessary instructions. The minister proceeded to the Upper Myanmar Government Press where he gave instructions on undertaking information tasks to be sharp and dynamic and timely completion of publishing of school textbooks.

The minister inspected round the press and gave necessary instructions. On 1 December afternoo, the minister arrived at the TV retransmission station in Taungoo, Bago Division and met staff of the station and gave instructions on uninterrupted broadcasting of TV programmes, security and fire preventative measures and growing of shade trees and vegetables in the compound of the station.

Lwnyeint Monastery Presiding Sayadaw passes away

YANGON, 5 Dec—Religious Affairs Department has announced that State Ovdahacariya Shan State (South) Nyaungshwe Inlay region Lwnyeint Monastery Presiding Sayadaw Bhaddanta Medhavi (Agga Maha Saddhama Jotikadhaja), aged 91, vasa 71, passed away at 7.20 pm on 4 December 2004.

The Sayadaw was born of U Kyaw Ywet and Daw Sho Phee in Theingyi Village, Monywa Township, Hinthada District, Ayeyawady Division. He was novitiated in 1288 ME and ordained in 1296 ME.

The Sayadaw undertook religious matters throughout his life as Visoldhaka at the Sixth Buddhist Synod, as Chairman at Inlay Regional Pariyatti Sasanapala Examination, as State Visanayadhara and as State Ovdahacariya Sayadaw. The Government presented the Sayadaw with Agga Maha Saddhama Jotika Bhaddana Medhavi in 2000.

First CLMTV-ECS Trade Fair continues

YANGON, 5 Dec—The First CLMTV-ECS Trade Fair 2004 continued for the third day today at Myanmar Convention Centre here.

Eight ministries, 135 local companies and 20 foreign companies and 163 organizations from five nations — Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam — participate in the fair. There are 162 booths displayed at the fair and about 50,000 people visited the fair yesterday.

Ministries yesterday fetched K 1,413,498; private companies, K 10,721,741; Myanmar Pearl Booth, K 404,200 plus US $ 75; foreign companies, K 771,050; totaling K 13,310,489 plus US $ 75.

At the fair, wood-based furniture, electronic appliances, traditional medicines, plastic pipes, paints, traditional clothes, foodstuff and sculptures are put on display. Moreover, cultural troupes entertained the visitors with dances daily. Fine Arts Department of Myanmar and cultural troops of Thailand and Cambodia will entertain the audience with dances tomorrow. Besides, Myanmar Fashion Show will also be staged and vocalists will entertain the audience. This morning, talks on Myanmar pearl were held at the first floor of Myanmar Convention Centre and Managing Director of Myanmar Pearl Enterprise U Maung Toe gave talks on pearls, trade of Myanmar pearls and pearl market. The trade fair continues tomorrow for the forth day at the same venue.

To ensure the convenience of visitors to the trade fair, bus lines No 79, No 51, No 102, No 103, No 96, No 168 and No 224 are plying—MNA
Berlusconi to appoint two new ministers to Cabinet

ROME, 4 Dec—Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi said he would appoint two new ministers to his Cabinet later on Thursday in a move aimed at finally resolving long-standing tensions within his centre-right coalition.

Berlusconi told members of his Forza Italia (Go Italy) party in Parliament.

Berlusconi said both ministers would come from the ranks of the Christian Democratic and Centrist Union group (UDC), including party leader Marco Follini, who is expected to become deputy prime minister.

The reshuffle makes it increasingly likely that Berlusconi’s government will become the first administration since World War II to serve a full five-year term in office.

“We are strengthening the government, which is going to last the whole legislature,”

HK University libraries adopt text messaging service

HONG KONG, 4 Dec—Students of the University of Hong Kong will get instant text messages on overdue library books since the launch of Library Messaging Service Thursday.

Offered by the university’s ETIC Consulting Limited (ETIC), the new service is part of the university’s on-going efforts to enhance the communication between the university, the administration and students, as well as to improve the university’s operations by adopting the latest applications in information technology.

The text messaging service allows the HKU libraries to send text messages on overdue books, book reservations and new book announcements.

Students of the university were happy about the new service. They said that in the past, they depended on the e-mail system to check for the latest library news and library book status.

The new service not only allows them to obtain the latest information but also largely enhance the efficiency of the operation of the library, said some students.

The service is based on one of the applications of the ETIC Mobile Messaging Platform, which solves the problem of granting the different standards and protocols of mobile operators and, thereby, enabling organizations to fully capitalize on the potential of wireless messaging applications.

President of Japan’s biggest engineering company commits suicide

TOKYO, 4 Dec—The president of Japan’s biggest Marine civil engineering company, Penta-Ocean Construction Co, died on Friday after falling from an office window in the company’s eighth-floor office in Tokyo, Japanese media reported.

A Tokyo police spokesman said it appeared that Hideaki Kato, 56, had committed suicide.

Penta-Ocean specializes in large-scale waterfront projects around the world. A company spokesman said an announcement would be made soon on who would replace Kato, who took over at the top of the company in April 2002.

The company’s share price fell almost 10 per cent to close at 155 yen and was the biggest loser on the Tokyo Stock Exchange’s first section.

Media reports said Kato left notes addressed to his family and the company. Penta-Ocean reported a net loss of 2.56 billion yen (24.77 million US dollars) in the half-year to September 30 but forecast a profit of two billion yen for the full year.

In 2003/04, the company posted a profit of 3.29 billion yen.—MNA/Reuters

Three wounded in Slovak shopping mall blast

BRATISLAVA, 4 Dec—Three people were wounded in a Slovak shopping mall on Thursday.

The explosion destroyed a restaurant inside the mall in central Bratislava and smashed windows of a primary school nearby. A student was hurt by flying glasses.

“There was an explosion at lunchtime when the restaurant was filled with people. The restaurant was hit by gunfire,” said a spokeswoman of Bratislava’s police, quoted as saying.

Fortunately, no one was killed, only two people were wounded seriously, and one other was lightly injured,” she added.

The police declined to elaborate on the cause of the blast, but printing it may have connection with organized crime circles.

The former boss of the restaurant, who was said to have had business relations with crime bosses, was shot dead in 1993. Another blast ripped through the restaurant in 1991.

Bangladesh’s forex reserve gets boost

DHAKA, 4 Dec—Bangladesh’s foreign exchange reserve got a boost to 3.16 billion US dollars, thanks to a surge in export earnings, increased foreign aid inflow, and reduction in trade deficit in the current fiscal so far.

The foreign exchange reserve of the country in the last week of November 2005 was 3.27 billion dollars. At present the sum dropped to 3.16 billion dollars after a payment of 110 million dollars to the Asian Clearing Union, but it is still considerable achievement, as the reserve in the corresponding period of 2003 was just 2.44 billion dollars, according to a source at the Bangladesh Bank (BB). The BB source predicted the amount will increase further due to the release of 200 million dollars in improve in foreign remittances and export earnings.

In July-August of 2004 export earnings registered 26 per cent rise, and in remittances inflow in July—September quarter grew by 14 per cent to 863 million dollars, as the growth rate in the corresponding quarter of the previous fiscal was 0.88 per cent only.

The aid inflow has shot up by more than 365 per cent to 382 million dollars in the first two months of fiscal 2004-2005 from 200 million dollars in the corresponding months of the previous fiscal.

The official attributed the surge to World Bank’s release of 200 million dollars in development support credit in August 2004. This growth in foreign aid means in the current fiscal the government will not have to borrow from local sources at higher interest.

Bangladesh’s trade deficit also decreased significantly. In July 2004 it stood at 5.76 billion dollars, compared with 68 million dollars in July 2003, possibly due to a sharp rise in exports, the source said.

50 kilos of heroin seized in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 4 Dec—Pakistan’s Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) has recovered 50 kilos of heroin in Quetta, capital of southwest Baluchistan Province.

The Nation newspaper quoted ANF sources as saying that a raid was conducted in town when the ANF received a tip-off that drug Mafia would smuggle heroin from Quetta to certain foreign countries. During the search, two suspects were apprehended, said The Nation’s report, adding that further investigations are underway.

German unemployment rises to 10.8% of workforce in November

BERLIN, 4 Dec—The number of people out of work in Germany rose to 10.8 per cent of the workforce in November from 10.7 per cent in October, government figures showed Thursday.

There were 7,000 more people without jobs in November than the previous month bringing the seasonally adjusted jobless total to almost 4.5 million, the Nuremberg-based Federal Labour Office said.

The unchanged unemployment figure rose by 50,800 to nearly 4.3 million in November from 4.25 million in October, the equivalent of the workforce, the office said.

Experts forecast that the number of people out of work will break the symbolic five million barrier next winter, underlining Chancellor Gerhard Schroder’s employment drive.

“Gross domestic product growth of 0.1 per cent in the third quarter is still not enough to provide the sufficient positive impulses for the labour market,” said Labour Office president Frank-Juergen Weise.

The German Government estimates the country’s economy will grow at the rate of 1.8 per cent in 2004 and 1.7 per cent in 2005.—MNA/Xinhua

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MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua
South African Govt wants control over Internet

JOHANNESBURG, 4 Dec — South African Communications Minister Ivy Matepe-Casaburri on Thursday called for greater “legitimate” government involvement in the governance of the Internet.

Addressing the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) annual meeting in Cape Town, the minister said it is no secret that the South African Government has been critical of the existing Internet governance structure. This is “because they were established by and skewed in favour of those who first implemented these technologies as this had the consequence of potentially disadvantaging those who are only now accessing (gaining access to) these technologies,” she said. About three million South Africans have access to the Internet at present, making South Africa the largest Internet consumer in Africa, according to the minister.

However, the Internet has been beyond the control of the government, MNA/Reuters.

Even “safe” levels of benzene damage immune system cells

WASHINGTON, 4 Dec — Even “safe” levels of benzene damage immune system cells and could lead to cancer or other problems, US and Chinese researchers reported on Thursday.

A study of factory workers in China shows that tiny amounts of the chemical can affect bone marrow and blood cells—which suggests the chemical is even more dangerous than people believed, Qing Lan of the National Cancer Institute and colleagues there found that arginine depletes immune system cells, said Poon. Benzene is just about everywhere and it is almost impossible to avoid. It is known to cause leukaemia and to the general public to mobile repair, shoe manufacture, and other industries and to the general public from cigarette smoke, gasoline, and automobile emissions, the researchers wrote in their report, published in the journal Science.

Arginine is effective on suppressing cancer cell growth. "Child survival must right of all is the right to survive," said UNICEF spokesman. He added that the process of selecting a new leader for UNICEF is flawed because there is no agreed criteria to judge a candidate to lead the organization. “This discredited process threatens to damage the integrity of the UN system and, more importantly, it may well prove disastrous for the future of child health," said Horton.

MNA/Reuters

UNICEF needs visionary leader for child survival, development

LONDON, 4 Dec — The survival, rather than the rights, of children must be the priority of UNICEF over the next decade because 10 million children are dying every year — many from preventable causes, a medical journal said on Friday.

The attack on the United Nations Children’s Fund came in a commentary published online by the editor of the Lancet magazine, Dr Richard Horton. Horton also criticized how the leader of the organization is chosen.

"Child survival must sit at the core of UNICEF’s advocacy and country work,” said Horton. "Currently, and shamefully, it does not. "The language of rights means little to a child stillborn, an infant dying in pain from pneumonia, or a child desiccated by famines,” said UNICEF spokesman. Monk said that liver cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death in Hong Kong, and conventional treatments were found not effective for advanced liver cancer.

A study done by HKU and the Polytechnic University of Hong Kong found that arginine depletes immune system cells, said Poon. Benzene is just about everywhere and it is almost impossible to avoid. It is known to cause leukaemia and to the general public to mobile repair, shoe manufacture, and other industries and to the general public from cigarette smoke, gasoline, and automobile emissions, the researchers wrote in their report, published in the journal Science.

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MNA/Reuters

HK researchers develop novel treatment for liver cancer

Hong Kong, 4 Dec — A study result of novel liver cancer treatment released by the University of Hong Kong (HKU) on Friday showed that arginine is effective on suppressing cancer cell growth.

A study done by HKU and the Polytechnic University of Hong Kong found that arginine depletes immune system cells, said Poon. Benzene is just about everywhere and it is almost impossible to avoid. It is known to cause leukaemia and to the general public to mobile repair, shoe manufacture, and other industries and to the general public from cigarette smoke, gasoline, and automobile emissions, the researchers wrote in their report, published in the journal Science.

Arginine is effective on suppressing cancer cell growth. "Child survival must right of all is the right to survive," said UNICEF spokesman. He added that the process of selecting a new leader for UNICEF is flawed because there is no agreed criteria to judge a candidate to lead the organization. “This discredited process threatens to damage the integrity of the UN system and, more importantly, it may well prove disastrous for the future of child health," said Horton.

MNA/Reuters

Driving bans for diesel cars without filters

FRANKFURT, 4 Dec — Drivers of diesel-powered cars without particle filters could face occasional bans in many European city centres next year under new EU air quality rules about to take effect, officials and activists say.

The regulations seek to limit particulate matter that pollutes the air and has been linked to a series of health problems, especially in children, the elderly and sick people.

“We assume that there will be driving bans in all the big (German) cities in built-up areas and indeed several times a year depending on weather and traffic conditions,” said Juergen Resch, head of the Deutsche Umwelthilfe environmentalist group. At issue are European Union limits on particulate matter that communities have to uphold from 2005 under clean-air guidelines adopted in 1996. They also cover levels of other pollutants such as nitrous oxide, lead and carbon monoxide. Despite the long transition period, dozens of cities seem unprepared to meet the new standards, officials say. One study found that five times as many people die from inhaling microscopic particulate matter — much of which comes from diesel smoke — than die in vehicle accidents.

Material rubbered off tyres, construction dust, and emissions from industry and heating also play a role.

Environmental groups are poised to help citizens file lawsuits over excessive pollution levels and say they stand excellent chances of success.

The Council of German Cities estimates that the first violations of air-quality rules should begin in late February, when weather conditions tend to trap particulate matter.

It sees driving bans as a measure of last resort and would prefer alternate steps such as deterrents.

Driving bans are hardly “safe” levels of benzene damage immune system cells

A study of factory workers in China shows that tiny amounts of the chemical can affect bone marrow and blood cells—which suggests the chemical is even more dangerous than people believed, Qing Lan of the National Cancer Institute and colleagues there found that arginine depletes immune system cells, said Poon. Benzene is just about everywhere and it is almost impossible to avoid. It is known to cause leukaemia and to the general public to mobile repair, shoe manufacture, and other industries and to the general public from cigarette smoke, gasoline, and automobile emissions, the researchers wrote in their report, published in the journal Science.

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MNA/Reuters
AC Milan move to point behind Juve by beating Parma 2-1

MILAN, 5 Dec— Late goals from Brazilian Kaka and midfielder Andrea Pirlo gave AC Milan a 2-1 win at lowly Parma in Serie A on Saturday.

The champions move to just a point behind leaders Juventus who are at home to Lazio on Sunday but it was so nearly a costly defeat for Carlo Ancelotti's side.

Milan, who face Juve away on December 18, dominated the first half but only managed to create three serious chances.

Ukrainian striker Andriy Shevchenko, a contender for the European Footballer of the Year award, hammered a shot against the post in the 13th minute.

Then Dutchman Clarence Seedorf went close again in the 34th minute when his shot was superbly saved by Parma's French keeper Sebastien Frey.

Parma created little and it was their first real effort on goal that provided them with the lead.

Australian Mark Bresciano whipped in a free kick from the right and Alberto Gilardino, a Milan transfer target, rose well to glance a header past the poorly positioned Dida.

Ancelotti made three changes as he sought a way back into the game and it was one of those substitutes, Serginho, who pounced to fire home from the edge of the area.

Nuremberg's Ivica Banovic converted a penalty in the 74th minute when his shot was superbly saved by Parma's French keeper Sebastien Frey.

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Bayern Munich hold 2-2 draw at Nuremberg

DUEBLIN, 5 Dec—Bayern Munich squandered their chance to widen their lead at the top of the Bundesliga on Saturday when they gave up a late goal and were forced to settle for a 2-2 draw at Nuremberg in the Bavarian derby.

Defending champions Werder Bremen moved up to fifth with a 6-0 win over Friburg, with German striker Kevin Kuranyi scoring twice.

Nuremberg's Ivica Banovic converted a penalty in the 74th minute when his shot was superbly saved by Parma's French keeper Sebastien Frey.

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Barca keep stranglehold on leadership of Primera Liga

MADRID, 5 Dec— Barcelona kept their stranglehold on the leadership of the Primera Liga with a 4-0 win over a lightweight Malaga at the Nou Camp on Saturday.

Leading scorer Samuel Eto'o took his tally for the season to 12 as he helped himself to a well taken double.

Portugal midfielder Deco scored with a spectacular 25-metre strike and highly rated youngster Andres Iniesta weighed in with another.

The victory, Barca's seventh in seven home games this season, sent them 10 points clear of arch-rivals Real Madrid at the top of the Primera Liga.

Real travel to Villarreal on Sunday with a weakened side as they rest several first-choice players ahead of next week's decisive Champions League clash against AS Roma.

Earlier, last season's champions Valencia notched their third victory in a row as they rode their luck to snatch a late 1-0 win at dominant Albacete.

Substitute forward Xisco scored the winner three minutes from time when he netted with a deflected shot from five metres out after centre-half Carlos Marchena had cut a neat pass back from the byline.

The win lifted Claudio Ranieri's side up to third in the table, level on 25 points with Real and two ahead of Espanyol who travel to Real Zaragoza on Sunday.

Barcelona were never put under any pressure by feeble Malaga who only managed to keep the home side at bay in the opening quarter by packing their defence.
Improvement of Myanmar film...

He cited successful stories of some Myanmar films screened in foreign countries as a result of relentless efforts. He also called for the active participation of the artists in the drive for the establishment of a modern, developed, disciplined-flourishing democratic nation in line with the seven-point Road Map in cooperation with the government, the Tatmadaw and the national people.

Next, Myanmar Motion Picture Asiayon Vice-Chairman U Kyi Myint gave suggestions on the tasks for improvement of Myanmar films and video industry and expressed his thanks.

Officials of the respective committees and boards also gave their suggestions on the occasion.

Vice Chairman-1 of Myanmar Motion Picture Asiayon U Kyi Myint. MNA

Those present at the meeting with Information Minister and responsible officials for Myanmar film promotion, film stars and technicians. — MNA

Some Myanmar films achieve success in foreign countries for their relentless efforts.

Technician U Kyi Min Thein. — MNA

Sunday, 5 November, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been fair in the whole country. Night temperatures were (3°C) below normal in Chin and Rakhine States, Magway and Yangon Divisions, (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Kachin State and Taninthayi Divisions and about normal in remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Hakha (3°C), Namsam (4°C) and PyinOoLwin (6°C). Maximum temperature on 4-12-2004 was 94°F. Minimum temperature on 5-12-2004 was 60°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 5-12-2004 was 74%. Total sunshine hours on 4-12-2004 was (8:7) hours approx. Rainfall on 5-12-2004 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 112.28 inches at Yangon Airport, 106.77 inches at Kaba-Aye and 109.68 inches at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 7 mph from Northeast at (06:30) hrs MST on 5-12-2004.

Bay inference: Weather is partly cloudy in the South Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 6-12-2004: Except for the possibility of isolated light rain in Taninthayi Division, weather will be generally fair in the whole country. Degree of certainty is (40%).

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

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

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 6-12-2004: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 6-12-2004: Fine weather.
**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

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**Government to provide continued assistance in interest of regional, local people and State with no policy change**

**Secretary-1 meets national race organizations in Shan State (North)**

YANGON, 5 Dec — Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, accompanied by member of the State Peace and Development Council Li-Gen Aung Htwe of the Ministry of Defence, Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt, Minister at the Prime Minister’s Office Brig-Gen Pyi Sone, Minister for Cooperatives Col Zaw Min, Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint of the Ministry of Defence, Deputy Minister for Education Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo and officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, left here and arrived at Magway Airport on 4 December.

The Secretary-1 and party were welcomed by Chairman of Magway Division Peace and Development Government to provide continued assistance in interest of regional, local people and State with no policy change.

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**INSIDE**

It is undeniable that the rise in constructive cooperation with Myanmar is due to the government’s steadfast objective of market economic system and democratic goal being undertaken by the Tatmadaw government.

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Secretary-1Lt-Gen Thein Sein greets U Phon Kya Shin, Chairman of Kokang Peace Group. — MNA

* Will strive for total eradication of narcotic drugs.
  
  **U Phon Kya Shin**

* Will continue to cooperate with the government in successful holding of the National Convention.
  
  **U Paw Laik Kham**

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* U Lwei Maung expressed his belief in the government leadership and spoke words of thanks.

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**Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein greets U Paw Laik Kham, central committee member of Wa Peace group of Shan State (North) Special Region-2. — MNA**

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SECRETARY-1 MEETS NATIONAL RACE ORGANIZATIONS IN SHAN STATE (NORTH)