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

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

YANGON, 13 Dec—Prime Minister of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka Mr Mahinda Rajapakse and Madame Shiranthi Rajapakse, currently here, at the invitation of Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win, accompanied by Deputy Minister for Education U Myo Nyunt and wife, Ambassador of Sri Lanka Mr DMM Ranaraja and wife and officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, visited ancient pagodas in Bagan archaeological site yesterday.

Visiting Prime Minister Mr Mahinda Rajapakse and Madame Shiranthi Rajapakse and party arrived at NyaungU Airport at 9.25 am. They were welcomed by Chairman of Magway Division Peace and Development Council Col Phone Maw Shwe and wife Daw San San Myint, heads of department, senior military officers, Chairman of NyaungU District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Teza and members.

Sri Lankan Prime Minister and wife and party visited Shwezigon Pagoda. They offered flowers, water and lights at the pagoda. The Prime Minister signed in the visitors’ book. They proceeded to Lacquerware College where they were welcomed by Principal U Thaung Lin and officials. The visiting Prime Minister and party were conducted round the college.

The Prime Minister and party observed lacquerware of Bagan period and those of the Bagan period, murals, wooden and bronze sculptures, ancient artifacts and structures. The visiting Prime Minister signed in the visitors’ book. They proceeded to Lacquerware College where they were welcomed by Principal U Thaung Lin and officials. The visiting Prime Minister and party were conducted round the college.

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With the inspiration and guidance of the Head of State, scientifically tested medicinal plants and their therapeutic uses on 13 commonly occurring ailments and diseases in Myanmar had been compiled and published.

Professor Dr Pyai Soe
Department of Medical Research

Prime Minister of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka Mr Mahinda Rajapakse and wife and the Sri Lankan delegation visit Bagan Archaeological Museum in Bagan. —MNA
Perspectives

Tuesday, 14 December, 2004

Raise educational standard, foundation of discipline-flourishing democracy

Peace and stability, strong national economy and higher educational standard of the entire national people are the sine qua non for firmly building a peaceful, developed and discipline-flourishing democracy. Moreover, new generation youths are human resources that are capable of creating a better society.

Therefore, the Government of the Union of Myanmar is investing an astronomical amount of money in educational development work. And thanks to the special four-year national education promotion project and the 30-year educational plan, highly-qualified are being continuously turned out.

The closing ceremony of the Special Refresher Course No 6 for the faculty members of universities and colleges was held at the Central Institute of Civil Service (Phaunggyi) in Hlegu Township, Yangon Division, on 12 December and it was attended by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, also Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee. In his address on the occasion, the Secretary-1 said that it was necessary to sharpen the national awareness of new generation youths and train them in such a way that they would be well-prepared for handling future challenges and turning them into opportunities that could promote national interests.

The youths today have the ability to see into the future and are ready to safeguard national prestige and interests. Therefore, they should be trained to be able to tackle various challenges posed by the rapidly-changing world. Not only that, it is necessary to broaden their horizons to be able to see everything clearly in their right perspective. Only with such youths will the Union of Myanmar be able to stand shoulder to shoulder with other nations of the world.

The onus is on all teachers including those from universities and colleges to successfully translate the national education promotion projects and the long-term educational plan into reality.

Therefore, we would like to call on them to execute their duty of raising the educational standard of the entire nation with full national spirit.

Hoteliers to be provided assistance

Yangon, 13 Dec — The Ministry of Hotels and Tourism will provide assistance to the hoteliers, said Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs, and Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Thein Zaw this morning at the meeting related to hotel projects held at the ministry.

He also urged hoteliers to implement the projects for timely completion.

At the meeting, the hoteliers who are implementing the hotel projects in Ngapali and Ngwesaung beaches also reported on requirements for their projects.

The minister yesterday arrived at Bagan NyaungU and inspected progress of the construction of the airport building. Next, the minister also inspected Bagan Nannmyint Tower project being implemented by Htoo Trading Co.

He urged the officials concerned to meet the target date. During his tour, Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw also met with staff of Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications in Chauk and Seikphyu townships.

He instructed officials concerned to attend to the needs for the extension of phone lines and upgrading tasks.

Minister inspects rural development tasks in Taikkyi Tsp

Yangon, 13 Dec — Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt arrived at the worksite of Aphyauk-NyaungU and inspected self-reliance development tasks. Regard-

Self-reliant library opened in Chauk Township

Yangon, 13 Dec — Duwin self-reliant library was opened in Yedwin Village, Chauk Township on 13 December. Township Peace and Development Council Chair- man U Thha, Head of Township Police Force Police Captain Chit Swe, Head of Township Information and Public Relations Department U Myint Thain and Village PDC Chairman U Soe Win formally opened the ceremony by cutting a ribbon.

Head of Township IPRD U Myint Thain delivered a speech and well-wishers donated 177 books on various subjects to Chairman of the Library Supervisory Committee U Soe Win. Later, the chairman of the Village PDC expressed thanks to the book donors for their valuable donations. — MNA

Poem: Organized Without Losing East Stance

* If South-East Asia is united
  With vision blurred,
Not cheerful, angered
Feeling worried
* That’s the West.
* Asian Continent is united
If that development is seen
Feeling of unease grows
That’s the West.
* Not cheerful, unfresh
Whenever there’s remorse
Use audio-visual media profusely
Throw sand in the public face
That’s the West.
* Smileless, mind upset
Whatever he does, stay unwavering
Steadfastly in the East stance
With mutual, reciprocal help
For regional and world well-being
Toward that end we’re striving
That’s Our Asia.

Po Wa (Trs)

Self-reliant library opened in Chauk Township

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Po Wa (Trs)
Indonesian President calls for healthy lifestyle

JAKARTA, 12 Dec—President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono called on the nation to avoid drugs, free sex and smoking as part of a healthy lifestyle campaign he launched on Friday.

“Let’s make a healthy life part of our lifestyle,” the President was quoted by the Indonesian English daily The Jakarta Post on Saturday as saying at the commemoration of the National Health Day held at the Prambanan Hindu temple complex east of Yogyakarta Province.

“A healthy life can be achieved through regular exercise, good nutrition, breast feeding for infants, the use of clean water, good sanitation, and by staying away from narcotics, free sex and smoking,” Susilo said.

While underscoring the danger of smoking to health, the President looked around and asked if there were any cigarette producers in the audience. “Are there any representatives of Gudang Garam, Djumur and Samporna with us here?” Susilo, who is a non-smoker, asked, to the laughter of the audience, referring to the country’s major cigarette makers.

Excise collected from cigarette companies contributes around 25 trillion rupiah (2.7 billion US dollars) to state revenues annually. The National Health Day falls on November 12, but this year’s commemoration took place on Friday due to the President’s busy schedule that included overseas trips to Santiago and Vientiane to attend the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation and Association of South-East Asian Nations summits.

In his speech, Susilo also promised to build more health centres in remote and poor areas to make health care more accessible to the needy. —MNA/Xinhua

Survey shows foreign businesses satisfied with post-WTO China

SHANGHAI, 12 Dec—A recent survey shows 93 per cent of foreign businesses in Shanghai are satisfied with China’s performance following its entry into the World Trade Organization three years ago.

Of the 1,000 foreign-invested companies surveyed, 86 per cent said they are optimistic about China’s investment and trade environment in the coming two years, and more than 95 per cent said they would either expand their China operations or maintain their present size.

The survey, conducted by Shanghai WTO Affairs Consulting Centre in collaboration with Shanghai Society of International Trade, was based on a questionnaire on post-WTO China.

Eleven per cent of the respondents gave China very high scores — over 90 points with grades from zero to 100 — for its overall performance over the past three years. Twenty-seven per cent gave grades between 80 and 89 and 42 per cent graded the country between 70 and 79.

Less than 4 per cent of the companies surveyed gave China failing grades below 60, with comments that the country has a lot to improve to meet its commitments to the world trade conglomerate.

For 49 per cent of the companies surveyed, the most essential issue for China to live up to its WTO commitment is to improve transparency. Other issues concerning their interests include enhancing protection of intellectual property rights and easier market access for foreign companies, according to the survey.

HK to set up four research, development centres

HONG KONG, 12 Dec—Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government will set up four research and development centres, which will also subsume research and development (R&D) works in five technology areas under the Applied Science & Technology Research Institute. The proposal, endorsed by the Steering Committee on Innovation & Technology Thursday, follows a public consultation exercise.

Wong said under the new strategy, R&D centres for automotive parts and accessory systems, logistics and supply chain management, enabling technologies, textile and clothing, and nanotechnology and advanced materials will be set up. —MNA/Xinhua

1,289 members of US military killed since beginning of Iraq war

WASHINGTON, 12 Dec—As of Sunday, 1 December, 2004, at least 1,289 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 1,007 died as a result of hostile action, the Defence Department said. The figures include three military civilians.

The AP count is seven 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 Lithuania one death each. Since 1 May, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,151 US military members have died, according to AP’s count. That includes at least 898 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military’s numbers. The latest deaths reported by the military:

A US Marine was killed Sunday in action in Anbar province.

A US soldier was killed Saturday by a roadside bomb in the latest identifications reported by the military:

Army Chief Warrant Officer Patrick D Leach, 39, Rock Hill, SC, and Army 1st Li Andrew C Shields, 25, Campobello, SC.

Iraq trucks to remain unprotected

WASHINGTON, 12 Dec—Some US military vehicles in Iraq may not get armour needed to survive guerrilla attacks until summer, the Hampton Roads, Va, Daily Press reported Sunday.

The upgrade would come several months after the next big push to rotate fresh troops into Iraq.

A House Armed Services Committee report said the installation of high-quality ballistic-tested armour on Humvees in Iraq was more than three-quarters completed by late last week, but armour for military supply trucks has lagged far behind, with only 15 per cent having the armour. The report said the remaining Humvees should be outfitted by March. —Internet
Pakistan spends $650m on stabilizing rupee

ISLAMABAD, 12 Dec—The Pakistani Government has spent 650 million US dollars from its foreign currency reserves in the past few weeks to stabilize rupee and avoid pressure on exchange rate in the wake of unprecedented hike in oil prices, The Nation newspaper reported Saturday.

Unnamed sources were quoted for providing stability to rupee which evaporated pressures on exchange rate,” a high-level official told the paper Friday.

The rupee against dollar touched the level 63 rupees per dollar rate two months back. The timely decision by the State Bank of Pakistan allowing oil companies to make payments for oil import in rupees instead of dollars also helped in reducing pressures on it.

The rupee gained 2.7 per cent value in November 2004, rising to 59.70 rupees per dollar at the end of last month from 61.37 rupees at the end of October. Huq said the remarks when speaking about Guangdong’s economic development during a recent visit to the Zongshan University. This is four years ahead of the original target given Guangdong’s GDP hit two trillion yuan in 2006, Huq said.

According to the original target set by the provincial government, the GDP is to reach two trillion yuan and the per capita GDP to hit approximately 3,450 US dollars by 2010, double that of 2000.

HK launches Web Care Campaign

HONG KONG, 12 Dec—The Web Care Campaign 2005 organized by the Internet Professionals Association (iProA) was launched here Saturday.

As introduced, targets of this year’s campaign are to organize Internet training classes for 3,000 individuals and to recruit more organizations to participate in the Web Care Award so as to raise the number of web sites eligible for the award to 200.

The campaign also aims to enlist 33 high schools in School Web Care so that more parents can learn how to access the Internet. School Web Care is also in the hope of enhancing communication between members at the same time.

Mastermind of UN workers' kidnapping arrested in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 12 Dec—Authorities in Pakistan said Saturday that Jaishul Muslimeen head Syed Akbar Agha, who masterminded last month’s kidnapping of three UN election workers in Afghanistan, has been arrested in Pakistan’s port city of Karachi.

A report of the local Geo Television said that Pakistan Information Minister Sheikh Rashid confirmed Agha’s arrest and said he is being questioned and has not been handed over to the Afghan Government.

Some of his former Afghan colleagues who quit Jaishul Muslimeen after accusing Agha of pocketing 1.5 million US dollars in ransom in return for the sudden release of three foreign hostages claimed their ex-boss was picked up by Pakistani intelligence officers from a Karachi home last Friday.

Six Army reservists court-martialed for scrumming equipment in Iraq

COLUMBUS, 12 Dec—At a time when some US troops in Iraq are complaining they have to scrum for equipment, six Ohio-based reservists were court-martialed for taking Army vehicles abandoned in Kuwait by other units so they could carry out their own unit’s mission to Iraq.

The soldiers say they needed the vehicles, and parts stripped from one, to deliver fuel to Iraq, but

Two US soldiers killed in Iraq fighting

BAGHDAD, 12 Dec—A US Marine was killed in Iraq’s volatile Anbar Province Sunday and another soldier died in a roadside bombing, while suicide car bombers hit American military vehicles west and north of the capital, killing three attackers but causing no coalition casualties.

Also Sunday, guerrillas fired mortars and rocket-propelled grenades at Iraqi National Guardsmen in downtown Baghdad as part of a campaign to derail next month’s nationwide elections and target Iraqi forces who collaborate with US-led troops. There were no casualties reported. A day earlier guerilla attacks left three senior Iraqi police officers dead.

The US military said in a statement that a Marine assigned to the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force was killed in action Sunday “while conducting security and stabilization operations” in Anbar province, a vast region comprising the battleground cities of Fallujah and Ramadi west of Baghdad. The Marine was the second to die in combat in two days in Anbar.

Meanwhile, a roadside bomb killed a Taskforce Baghdad soldier in the capital’s northern suburbs and wounded three other troops Saturday, the military said.

Fourteen troops were wounded in separate attacks in northern Iraq, including a car bomb ambush in the northern city of Mosul that wounded eight.

The Army is seeking more production of the most fully armour-protected ‘Humvee’ military vehicles, defence officials said on 10 Dec, 2004, after a soldier’s complaint to Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld that troops had to use scrap metal to protect vehicles in Iraq.

Don’t smoke

Guangdong’s GDP to top two trillion yuan in 2006

GUANGZHOU, 12 Dec—The gross domestic product (GDP) of Guangdong Province, one of China’s economic powerhouses, is expected to reach two trillion yuan (241.83 billion US dollars) at the end of 2006, double that of 2000, governor Huang Huahua said recently.

Huang said that Guangdong has a development during a recent visit to the Zongshan University. This is four years ahead of the original target given Guangdong’s GDP hit two trillion yuan in 2006, Huang said.

According to the original target set by the provincial government, the GDP is to reach two trillion yuan and the per capita GDP to hit approximately 3,450 US dollars by 2010, double that of 2000.
China’s foreign trade mix changes for better

BEIJING, 13 Dec— Though China’s average trade volume per capita remains lower than that of developed nation, the country’s foreign trade structure has keep improving.

“In the past 20-plus years, China’s foreign trade has experienced three stages with textiles, mechanical and electronic products and finally hi-tech products as the country’s major exports,” said Chai Haitao, a researcher with the Ministry of Commerce, at a forum last week.

Government statistics show in the 1980s, textile products contributed to 61 per cent of the exports increase. In the 1990s, 50 per cent of the exports increase came from traditional mechanical and electronic products, which now account for over 54 per cent of China’s total export volume.

“In the past three years, hi-tech goods represented by information technology have shown growing vitality in the country’s imports and exports,” Chai acknowledged.

Ministry of Commerce statistics show that the growth rate of hi-tech exports has reached 52 per cent this year, 17 percentage points higher than the increase of China’s total imports. Hi-tech products account for 27.4 per cent of total exports. Exports of laptops, mobile telecommunication equipment, and integrated circuits have grown by 70-90 per cent this year.

China’s exports were mainly in general trade for a long time. But in recent years, the rise of processing trade has changed the trade mix, noted Chai. Processing trade has amounted to 55 per cent of China’s total exports and 39 per cent of total imports.

— MNA/Xinhua

Chinese V-P calls for sound construction of Qinghai-Tibet rail way

BEIJING, 13 Dec — Various government departments and construction units should make concerted efforts to ensure construction safety and quality in the Qinghai-Tibet railway, Chinese Vice-Premier Zeng Peiyan said at a recent State Council meeting.

“The Year 2005 will be significant for the railway construction, as it matters great much to the completion of the entire project,” Zeng said after listening to a report on building the railway.

China launched the Qinghai-Tibet plateau railway project in 2001. With a total investment of 26.2 billion yuan (3.16 billion US dollars), the railway is scheduled to be put into operation in 2007.

So far, the main body of roadbed, bridges, culverts and tunnels have been roughly completed, and related housing, electric power and telecommunications facilities have been launched, Zeng said.

“The railway is expected to be completed ahead of schedule,” he said.

Till this month, 738 kilometres of track has been laid, and it has extended to Gulu Town in Nagqu County in northern Tibet. The 1,142-kilometre line runs at an average altitude of over 4,000 metres.

— MNA/Xinhua

US soldier admits to killing severely wounded Iraqi teenager

BAGHDAD, 12 Dec — A US soldier pleaded guilty to killing a severely wounded Iraqi teenager the latest of several similar incidents that have undercut efforts by the United States to win support among Iraqis and defeat a rampant guerilla attack.

Friday’s conviction of Staff Sergeant Johnny M. Horne Jr, 30, comes almost a month after the November 13 killing of another wounded Iraqi found lying in a Fallujah mosque among the bodies of several people killed during a weeklong operation to retake that city from guerillas. Horne is the first of four soldiers from Company C, 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry Regiment, based in Fort Riley, Kan., to face court-martial on charges of murdering Iraqis during fighting in Bagh- dad’s impoverished Sadr City in August.

This week in Germany, a US tank company commander was ordered court-martialled after being accused of shooting and killing a critically injured Iraqi driver for radical Shi’ite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr on 21 May near Kufa, 100 miles south of Baghdad. As in Horne’s case, witnesses have said Captain Rogelio Maynulet, 29, shot the wounded man out of compassion. Maynulet will be tried on charges of assault with intent to commit murder and dereliction of duty, which carry a maximum combined sentence of 20-1/2 years.

Critics say poor understanding by young US soldiers of the rules of military engagement leads to the killing of civilians.

Garlasco, speaking from New York, said there were 1,000 “questionable deaths” of Iraqi civilians at the hands of military forces since the start of the war in March 2003 until the fall of Baghdad three weeks later. The deteriorating security situation has made it impossible to count such deaths since then, he said.

In a plea bargain Friday, Horne pleaded guilty to one count of unpremeditated murder and one count of soliciting another soldier to commit unpremeditated murder under Articles 118 and 81 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice. Horne had originally been charged with the more serious offenses of premeditated murder, conspiracy to commit murder and solicitation of another soldier to commit murder.

— MNA/AP
More Beijingers buy gold for fashion, investment purposes

BEIJING, 13 Dec — Sales from major retailers of gold products in Beijing show that an estimated 255 million yuan (30.7 million US dollars) of savings deposits has flown into the gold market, despite increased prices for the precious metal.

The figure is tiny compared with the 11.6-trillion-yuan (1.4 trillion-US-dollar) savings deposits outstanding recorded at the end of October, and the capital taken in by such products as gold bars and ornaments is expected to continue to grow rapidly, according to industry analysts.

In the first three quarters of this year, gold jewellery consumption increased 12 per cent year-on-year, though the gold price moved upward from 123 yuan (14.8 US dollars) per gramme at the beginning of the year to the current 132 yuan (15.9 US dollars) per gramme.

Caibai Department Store, a leading gold retailer that claimed approximately 40 per cent of the gold jewellery market in Beijing, reported average monthly sales of more than 10 million yuan (1.2 million US dollars). Its sales for the second half of this year grew 30 per cent over the first half.

Industry analysts said the brisk sales were partly driven by a worldwide promotion for K-gold ornaments kicked off by the World Gold Council at the beginning of this year.

Besides fashion, Beijingers also bought more gold bars and commemorative coins for investment purposes, the analysts said.

Analysts predicted that prices of gold products would go up further, but that would not dampen the confidence of both investors and consumers. The price hike might in turn continue to stimulate demand.

Jewellery becomes hot item of consumption in China

KUNMING, 13 Dec — Jewellery has emerged as the third leading consumption item in China after housing and automobiles, China Gem Association Secretary-General Sun Fengmin said recently.

The jewellery industry in China recorded double-digit growth in recent years with an annual sales value of more than 100 billion yuan (12 billion US dollars), Sun said at the first Yunnan international gem and jade expo held in Kunming, capital of southwest China’s Yunnan Province.

China leads the world in the consumption of platinum, gold and diamonds. The country consumes 1.2 million ounces of platinum and 250 tons of gold annually. More than 20,000 Chinese engage in diamond polishing with a processing volume of three million carats each year. The leading pearl producer in the world, China turns out more than 500 tons of pearls annually, accounting for 90 per cent of the world’s total. The country has become the world’s largest centre for jade processing and consumption as well, selling 6,000 tons of jade per year.

The Chinese Government has taken a series of measures to promote the development of the jewellery industry. It has lowered the tariff rate from 15.3 per cent in 2001 to 10 per cent this year, and it allowed silver, long considered a special commodity in China, to be traded on the open market in January 2000. The Shanghai diamond exchange was officially opened in October 2000.

China’s first gold exchange opened in Shanghai in October 2002.

China has readjusted the tax rate on diamond sales and gold imports to fulfil its World Trade Organization commitments and has promulgated a number of regulations governing gems’ grading.

Mozambique, India to jointly manage Beira rail system

MAPUTO, 12 Dec — The Indian consortium Rites and Icron International (RII) and Mozambique’s publicly-owned port and rail company, the CFM, has launched a joint venture to manage the Beira rail system in central Mozambique.

According to an agreement signed Thursday, the CFM leased the management of the entire Beira rail system to the newly-established Beira Railway Company (CCFB), of which 51 per cent shares were owned by RII and 49 per cent owned by CFM.

The Beira rail system consists of two lines, the Machipanda line, from Beira to Zimbabwe, which is fully operational, and the Sena line to the coal mines at Moatize in the western Mozambican province of Tete, and including a spur into Malawi.

The Sena line was comprehensively sabotaged by civil war. No trains have run along the line for over two decades.

The chairman of the CCFB board of directors, Rui Fonseca, said he was optimistic at the partnership with RII, which he described as an example of “genuine South-South cooperation.”

The general director of CCFB, Anil Madan, appointed by the Indian consortium said “this will be a successful project. Mozambique and India will both benefit, with the support of all.”

RII promised to invest 55 million US dollars in the system, while the World Bank will provide a loan of 110 million US dollars.

Mozambique, India to jointly manage Beira rail system

HK’s education priorities for next year outlined

HONG KONG, 13 Dec — Deciding the way forward for the academic structure reform for senior secondary and higher education and seeking public views on the medium of instruction and secondary school places allocation system are top of next year’s education agenda in Hong Kong.

Speaking at the Education Commission’s annual reporting session Saturday, Secretary for Education and Manpower Arthur Li said that by 2003, when views on the two major reviews are finalized, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government will have completely covered what it has promised in the education reform blueprint launched in 2000.

According to the secretary, professional development of principals and teachers will continue to be of top priority, and a qualifications register will be in place next year to promote lifelong learning. The first batch of industry training specifications will be available by mid-2005.

Li promised the bureau will step up its networking and rally parental and community support in a concerted effort to nurture a new generation of people who would be responsible citizens, lifelong learners, critical thinkers, and good communicators, he added.

Death penalty abolished in Senegal

Dakar, 12 Dec — Senegal’s Lower House on Friday voted overwhelmingly for the abolition of death penalty for all crimes, leaving the western African country the fourth in the region to abolish death penalty.

The other three countries were Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau and Cote-d’Ivore. Senegal has only carried out the death penalty twice since it gained independence from France in 1960. The first time was against a man believed to want to kill independence president Leopold Senghor, the second time against an individual who killed a member of Parliament.

16 killed in Venezuelan military plane crash

CARACAS, 12 Dec — A Venezuelan military airplane crashed Friday in Juniquito, northeast of the coastal state of Vargas, killing all 16 people on board, authorities said.

Among the dead were top-ranking officers, said Antonio Rivero, director of the Civil Protection and Disaster Management.

The aircraft was to participate in a military parade in the central state of Anzucuta, as part of celebrations for the anniversary of the Venezuelan Air Force, Rivero said.

The cause of the accident is under investigation.
In Myanmar, the National Health Plan has been implemented by the Ministry of Health under the guidance of the Head of State. As such, the NHP has been aimed in the solution of many aspects of the current health problems and the WHO has envisaged the upgrading and involvement of traditional medicine as an alternative medicine to serve as a complementary armament in the current health sector. The main aim and duty of any doctor is to alleviate the ailments of his patients without inflicting untoward effects. The same goes with traditional medicine physicians, and it thus, becomes a necessity to prevent the loss of valuable traditional remedies with time due to underuse, misuse and abuse following the lack of research, documentation and quality control.

Myanmar traditional medicine has stood a long history of self-sufficiency even before the use of western medicine under the colonial rule, prominent traditional practitioners like Saya San, have kept the traditional practices alive and active. When the State Peace and Development Council took over, the Head of State has taken a very keen interest in the upgrading and supporting traditional medicine and country-wide traditional medicine conferences and exhibitions were held for public awareness towards Myanmar traditional medicine and its healing ability.

Traditional health services were made available to the public through opening of 14 new township hospitals and 237 dispensaries all over Myanmar. School of Traditional Medical Sciences and Traditional Medicine University were opened in Manda. As such, Myanmar Traditional Medicine can be considered to have entered a new era, becoming more sophisticated, which has gained widespread acceptance and has now been incorporated into the 3rd MB curriculm. Likewise, since acupuncture has gained worldwide acceptance and its definitive beneficial effects have been proven, it has thus, been included in the teaching curriculum of traditional medicine as an alternative medicine. Traditional Medicine became a separate department under the Ministry of Health and research into traditional medicine gained much support from the Head of State. Myanmar Traditional Medicine research also gained worldwide acceptance and many prominent international researchers and ASEAN country representatives including the Prime Ministers from Malaysia and Laos, and Ministers for Health from Vietnam and Cambodia, visited Myanmar. Myanmar delegates were also invited to Malaysia for traditional medicine exhibition.

The Department of Medical Research (Lower Myanmar) has undertaken the responsibility of conducting research and utilization of locally available traditional remedies in the treatment of the 6 priority diseases of Myanmar for many years.

Malaria

With the global upsurge of malaria within the last decade, malaria is considered the number one priority disease in Myanmar. In addition, the increment of problem of multi-drug resistance has added a greater burden, not only on the individual patients, but also for malaria control in general, especially when cost and availability is concerned. With the aim to improve the utilization of locally available resources and attainment of self-sufficiency, the State Peace and Development Council, under the guidance of the Head of State, has formed a committee concerned with the utilization of drugs against malaria using locally available resources. The role of the Ministry of Health, as a member in this committee, is concerned with the aspect of disease control, treatment of malaria, drug production/procurement and finally, to conduct research against malaria. The output of such research was expected to contribute to the Ministry of Industry (1) in the production of effective anti-malarial agents and (2) the Department of Medical Research (Lower Myanmar) has been conducting research on various plants and traditional medicine, reputed to have antimalarial action, including locally available Artemisia annua (arsenic) and the production of quinine from locally available cinchona trees.

Tuberculosis

Tuberculosis, previously considered the disease of the poor, has now become a threat worldwide because of the growing problem of multi-drug resistance. It also stands as the second priority disease in Myanmar and in spite of extensive research and search for newer effective drugs and treatment regimes; both mortality and morbidity remains high even in young people in their most productive age. This added a greater burden, not only on the individual patients, but also for tuberculosis control in general, since patients with untreatable disease then became a vector for additional generation of drug resistant TB among the above populations due to overcrowding, poor living conditions and malnutrition. In addition, not only were the second line drugs extremely expensive, they were less effective and more toxic than the first-line drugs and a greater defaulter rate and non-compliance make these regimes impracticable. In increasing prevalence of MDR-TB and lack of effective standard regime has initiated the search for effective anti-tuberculosis drugs and treatment regimes, which includes screening of reputed plants available locally in Myanmar.

With tuberculosis, development of resistance occurs rapidly and multi-drug combination therapy has been recommended, even with potent and bactericidal western drugs, like rifampicin and pyrazinamide. The same principle applies with traditional medicine where 5 plants are used and for ethical reasons and patient reassurance, these are combined with currently used western second-line anti-TB drugs. However, since dosage regimes for these plants were not well established scientifically, exploration step by step through dose-finding studies starting from the traditionally recommended dose to the maximum tolerated dose is to be done and the appropriate dosage regime developed initially before the actual main trial was implemented. In the main trial, 14 Out of 16 patents recruited showed chest X-ray improvement and sputum conversion to negativity after 2 months of treatment and also showed complete improvement up to 6 months. No significant toxicity and side effect were observed throughout project period. Thus, preliminary results tend to indicate that traditional medicine may have a beneficial complementary role in the treatment of MDR-TB patients. The only drawback is that the patients had to take a vast amount of drugs (4 western and 5 traditional), which may question compliance if the patients were not under close supervision. Thus, further studies should be done to refine and develop the optimal regime for western-traditional combined therapy with minimal effective drugs based on both compliance and efficacy. Further details and application of traditional medicine in tuberculosis will appear in the latter articles.

Diabetes Mellitus

Diabetes mellitus is one of the chronic debilitating diseases that are regarded as incurable by Western Medicine. Non-insulin dependent diabetes mellitus (NIDDM) occurs mainly in adults and old ages; studies did not indicate any signs of adverse complication like heart diseases, renal diseases, hypoglycemia, cerebro-vascular disorders, neuropathy and gangrene. Current management consists of a “shared care”, between several professionals, medical and non-medical, and the active participation of the patient and his family. In Myanmar, traditional medicine is widely used in diabetes mellitus since most people still believe that diabetes mellitus is curable by traditional medicine. For this reason, scientific evaluation of antidiabetic efficacy of Traditional Medicine Formulations have been done and used by the Department of Traditional Medicine as well as plants reputed and used by the traditional medicine practitioners was carried out at the Department of Medical Research (Lower Myanmar), with the aim to document their therapeutic utility and safety for long-term use by the Myanmar community.

Hypertension

Hypertension is a worldwide problem affecting millions of people even during their most productive age, being responsible for 15% of the total strokes, coronary heart disease and renal failure. By culture, Myanmar people regularly consume salty foods daily as salted, dried or pickled fish, or fish paste used in many tasty Myanmar curries. Industrialization, urbanization and change of life style to sedentary work had also caused a dramatic increase in incidence of hypertension and it is now regarded as one of the priority diseases in Myanmar. For this reason, 11 medicinal plants reputed and used by the traditional medicine practitioners were screened for their antihypertensive activity at the DMR (LM). Among those screened, Plantaon major (Linnaeus) (Linn) which was undertaken for her MSc (thesis) by Daw Aye Than, Pharmacology Research Division, was found to be most promising in animal models. Since serial short-term and long-term duration of administration of adverse effects, the plant was further subjected to short-term and long-term studies in humans.

With the approval of the National Ethical Committee, a preliminary clinical trial was conducted by Prof. Dr. Tin Myo Nyunt, Consultant Physician, Thingangyain Sanya Hospital in collaboration with Dr. Ohmmar Myin Tin Haing, Pharmacology Research Division, DMR (LM). After extraction and formulation of plant material into tablets and the development of a rational therapeutic regime for use in hypertension, 10 mild to moderate hypertensive patients were recruited and were given Plantaon major tablets for one month. It was found that Plantaon major significantly reduced the blood pressure of these patients, proving its antihypertensive activity. No adverse effect of the drug were detected during the one month period. However, more detailed studies are needed, like in diabetes, before its therapeutic profile for use in hypertension will become fully established.

Diarrhoea

Diarrhoea is one of the commonest diseases in Myanmar, occurring irrespective of time, age or occupation, but most frequently during the rainy season and occurring in children under 5 years of age.
different eras at Lacquerware Museum. The Prime Minister then signed in the visitors’ book. Principal U Thaung Lwin presented gifts to the Prime Minister.

Prime Minister Mr Mahinda Rajapakse and Madame Shiranthi Rajapakse and party visited Bagan Archaeological Museum with keen interest. The Prime Minister then signed in the visitors’ book and Curator Minister then signed in the visitors’ book.

Visitors’ book and Curator. U Myint Soe Aung presented gifts to the Prime Minister.

Prime Minister U Ba Nyein Lacquerware observed lacquerwares at The Prime Minister also visited Myanma Gems Enterprise and officials.

Kyaukphyu to become important deep-sea port…
State becomes the nation’s leading pepper growing region. Plans should be laid down to plant other perennial crops such as thiseint and rubber that grow well in the region in accord with the guidance of the Head of State. The Kyaukphyu region will have to conduct sea lobster farming in addition to running an offshore and deep-sea fishing industry. Families should raise local strains of chicken to increase their income and help develop the economy township-wise.

The Government has been building infrastructures in all important sectors and implementing the five rural tasks to narrow the gap between the urban and the rural areas to the highest possible degree. The Government has been providing assistance to the project for Kyaukphyu to become an important deep-sea port in the near future. The deep-sea port will help develop trade and economy of the region. Thus, departmental personnel are required to work hard with true goodwill for the regional development.

Chairman of Kyaukphyu Township Peace and Development Council U Myint Hlaing ahoed outlined the geographical condition and low enforcement, as well as health, education and transport sectors of the township. Chairman of Rakhae State Peace and Development Council Commander of Western Command Brig-Gen Min Aung Hlaing and Chairman of District PDC Lt-Col Myo Tint presented other salient points.

After the meeting, Li-Gen Khin Maung Than visited Sein-le-nyo Farm and heard a report on pepper cultivation presented by Lt-Col Myo Tint. The farm has planted over 30,000 saplings of pepper and over 22,000 saplings of kyet-sa-ne.

At the regional battalion, Li-Gen Khin Maung Than held a meeting with Tatmadaw members and families, and discussed the education, health and agricultural sectors. He urged them to strive to conduct agricultural on manageable scales to raise family income and extend welfare projects.

He also inspected Kyaukphyu District Hospital including the medical store, delivery room, and operation theatre as well as x-ray room, and dental ward at Kyaukphyu District Hospital. Officials conducted him around the facility. Finally, he inspected the development of Kyaukphyu by car.

Education Minister addresses conclusion…
(from page 16)

can shape natural resources of the country, ability of the people and development of national economy. That is why constant measures are being taken to open universities and colleges the length and breadth of the nation, the minister said. And emphasis has been placed on the extension of various subjects that have emerged from the result of developing world. Now, any one can witness that the State is applying the modern methods of teaching aids to catch up with the emerging science and technology and diversity of academic subjects throughout the world.

To wind up, the minister said, faculty members on their part are to strive for the successful undertaking of the national education programmes by making full use of these educational resources.

On behalf of Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee, Minister for Education U Than Aung presented model awards to outstanding trainees. Afterwards, the trainee leaders donated cash for the pagoda to alternate members of the pagoda board of trustees who presented certificate of honour and the picture of the pagoda.

The minister signed in the visitors’ book and he presented Swithethanan to the pagoda. The minister and party presented offer- tories to five members of the Sangha. They arrived back here in the evening.

Experiences on AIDS control measures shared
YANGON, 13 Dec—The Myanmar Business Coa- lition on AIDS (MBACA) and other business coalitions in the region shared experiences on AIDS control measures at Traders Hotel on Sule Pagoda Road on 8 December morning. First, Chairman of MBACA U Martin Pan extended greetings.

Next, Resident Representative of UNAIDS Mr. Brahman Das, Deputy Director of AIDS and Vene- real Diseases Control Division of the Ministry of Health Dr Min Thwe, MBACA Executive Director Dr Khin Aye Aye, Chairman of MBACA (Pyay Branch) U Tin Win, Executive Directors of Thailand Anthony Pramutharatana Mr Simon Graham and Ms S Solo- mon of Singapore shared experiences on measures taken to control AIDS by businessmen in the region.

Afterwards, officials concerned replied to que- ries raised by those present.—MNA

On behalf of the Chairman of MEC, Minister for Education U Than Aung delivers an address at closing of Special Refresher Course No 3 for Faculty Members at CICS (Upper Myanmar). — MNA

Commander, minister meet members ...
(from page 16)
U Myint Thein reported on progress of work of the steelplant, member of sub-committee for water supply Director of Irrigation Department U Wai Phyoo on progress in constructing of Nantoo Dam, member of subcommittee for electricity supply superintending electrical engineer U Kyaw Thaung on progress in connecting of power lines and deputy superintending engineer of state development af- fairs committee U Byar Noe on paving the pro- duction roads in the factory and water supply. Next, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lwin Thi gave instructions on timely completion of project, training of factory staff in handling the machine sufficiently, ar- rangements to be made for continuous running of the factory with raw mate- rials needed, systematic use of finical resources and arrangements to be made for environmental conservation.

Afterwards, the commander and the minister inspected progress of work of construction of Machine Shop, Ware House, Forging Shop and Foundary Shop, Nantoo Creek Dam, machines from abroad.

After that they in- spected fertilizers, fibre articles, auto and parts and farm equipment displayed in industrial zone. The minister looked into Stor- age and Distribution Sec- tor of Myanmar Petroleum Products Enterprise in Shwenyaung and Civil Aviation Sector in Heho and instructed officials so as not to run out of fuel, to be good quality, security and prevention against danger of fire. — MNA

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Tuesday, 14 December, 2004 9

Nepalese Minister of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation visits Kyaihtiyo Pagoda
YANGON, 13 Dec—Nepalese Minister of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation Mr Deep Kumar Upadhyaya and his daughter Ms Smriti Retmi Sharma, accompanied by Deputy Minister for Reli- gious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko and wife Daw Myint Myint Yi, Charge d’ Affairs ai of Royal Nepalese Embassy Mr Dilip Kumar Paudel and wife and officials, arrived at Kyaihtiyo Pa- goda in Kyaihtiyo Town- ship yesterday. The minister and party were welcomed by Taci- cal Operations Com- mander of Kyaihtiyo Sta- tion Col Kyaw Kyaw Win, Chairman of Kyaihtiyo Township Peace and De- velopment Council U Myint Oo and members of the pagoda board of trustees.

The minister offered flowers, lights and water to the pagoda and pre- sented cash for the pagoda to alternate members of the pagoda board of trustees who presented cer- tificate of honour and the picture of the pagoda.

The minister signed in the visitors’ book and he presented Swithethanan to the pagoda. The minister and party presented offer- tories to five members of the Sangha. They arrived back here in the evening.

Nepalese Minister of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation Mr Deep Kumar Upadhyaya offers Swithethanan at Kyaihtiyo Pagoda. — MNA

School at CICS, Zibingyi Village Basic Education High School to Minister U Than Aung.

After the ceremony, the minister cordially greeted the trainees. The course lasted four weeks.—MNA
YANGON, 13 Dec—Member of Central Executive Committee of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung inspected construction of Yekyaw Bridge at Shangaungbye Village in Yekyaw Bridge at Shangaungbye Village in Shangaungbye Village in Mezaligon village, Ingapu. — FORESTRY

Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min inspects construction of coaches in Myintnge on 12 December. — RAILWAYS

Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min inspects construction of coaches in Myintnge on 12 December. — RAILWAYS

Delegates who attended World Buddhist Summit leave for Mandalay

YANGON, 13 Dec—Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung, accompanied by the Managing Director of Myanma Railways and officials, saw off 315 delegates from 28 nations, who attended the World Buddhist Summit and are going to visit Mandalay, at the Yangon Railways Station, at 3.30 pm today. The minister has made arrangements for ensuring the convenience of the visitors. — MNA

President of MWA Daw Than Than Nwe delivers an address at the meeting of the MWA. — MNA

MWAF holds meeting

YANGON, 13 Dec—Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation held its meeting today at MWAF Office to discuss its future work programmes.

In her address, President of the federation Daw Than Than Nwe said that the members must discharge duties in accord with the guidance of Head of State, and serve the interest of other members and the federation itself. Vice-President Dr Daw Khin Lay Myint explained the organizational set up of the federation. General Secretary Dr Daw Khin Mar Tun also gave a speech, followed by a general round of discussions. The president in her concluding address highlighted the future work programmes and extension of organizational campaigns. — MNA

Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe inspects upgrading tasks of Ahlon Shipyards and port

YANGON, 13 Dec—Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe, accompanied by Deputy Ministers U Pe Than and Col Nyan Tun Aung, yesterday arrived at Ahlon Shipyards where they heard a report presented by Managing Director of Inland Water Transport U Soe Tint on the history of IWT and other salient points.

The minister gave instructions to officials and staff. Next, the minister and party inspected upgrading project for Ahlon Shipyards and gave instructions to officials concerned. On arrival at Ahlon Jetty of Myanma Port Authority, MD U Tun Myint Naing of Asia world Co Ltd presented a report to the minister on measures being taken for upgrading the jetty. Next, the minister inspected construction of No 1 Wharf and fulfilled the needs. After that, the minister and party inspected construction of retaining wall of Bargaya Jetty. — MNA

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 made concerted efforts for building of a new discipline-flourishing democratic nation

The New Light of Myanmar
YANGON, 13 Dec — Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Phone Swe arrived back here by air yesterday evening from New Delhi, India, after attending the first meeting of Joint Task for Prevention against Violence in BIMSTEC region held in New Delhi, the People’s Republic of India on 9 and 10 December.

The delegation was welcomed back at the Yangon International Airport by the heads of Myanmar Police Force and departments and family.

Myanmar delegation members Head of the Transnational Crimes Department of MFP Police Col Sit Aye, Director of the Attorney-General’s Office U Kyaw Sein and Director of the International Organizations and Economic Department U Nyunt Swe also arrived back on the same flight.— MNA

Myanmar Traditional ... (from page 7)

It is mainly caused by pathogenic microorganisms including bacteria (E. coli, V cholerae, Salmonella species) and viruses (Rotavirus) which spread through contaminated food and water, either through flies or unhealthy environment or unhygienic food handling and preparation.

Preliminary research on diarrhoeal diseases was extensively undertaken by Daw Mar Mar Nyen, from the Bacteriology Research Division DMR (LM), using in vitro and culture laboratory techniques. Studies indicated that 11 TMFs produced and used by the Department of Traditional Medicine and 15 medicinal plants used by the traditional medicine practitioners for diarrhoea, had either bacteriostatic or bactericidal action on various organisms that caused diarrhoea. The findings were presented at the “Third Meeting of the ASEAN Expert Group on Herbal and Medicinal Plants” in July 2000. Based on the above in vitro studies, further in-depth clinical studies were conducted by Dr. Thaw Zin from the Pharmacology Research Division DMR (LM) on diarrhoeal patients admitted to the Infectious Disease Hospital, Yangon. It was found that 2 out of 3 TMFs that have usually been prescribed for non-specific diarrhoea were as effective as the standard western drug, loparamide. No significant adverse effects were noted and it was thus recommended for community use in acute non-specific diarrhoea. These formulations are now locally available from the DTM as well as in many private TM shops.

Dysentery

Dysentery is caused by infection in the gut with pathogenic microorganisms such as amoeba (Entamoeba histolytica) or bacteria (Shigella dysenteriae). Both infections usually spread through faecal-oral route and most frequently result from consumption of contaminated food and water. In the bacteria group, Shigella flexua & shiga species are particularly severe and may even cause death if untreated. On the other hand, dysentery caused by E. histolytica, if localized to the large intestine, may cause distressing symptoms like tenismus and bloody mucus in stools but not death. However, there is danger of spreading through the blood stream into the liver and can result in amoebic hepatitis and liver abscesses. Further spread can later occur to other organs especially the brain and can have fatal consequences.

Preliminary studies on reputed plants having anti-dysentery activity were also done by Daw Mar Mar Nyen who investigated 16 medicinal plants using in vitro and culture techniques and those with promising results had been recommended for further clinical trials in dysentery patients. Clinical trials on dysentery patients were conducted by Dr. Thaung Hla from the Clinical Research Unit (Traditional Medicine), DMR (LM) who investigated the effect of Brueca javanica (rutaevs) on amoebic dysentery patients. It was found that giving 5 kernels of Brueca javanica once a day for 21 days possessed strong amoebicidal action, and effectively cures the dysentery with little or no adverse effects. Technical transfer of research findings to the Myanmar Pharmaceutical Factory, Ministry of Industry (1), was affected on 30.9.2002 for mass production and for economic and safe use by the community.

These above mentioned findings regarding the use of traditional medicine for the six priority diseases had, not only patently revived the national asset of medicine with long history of use in Myanmar, but also, provided significant steps in attaining self-sufficiency and in moving towards the goal “Health for All” with easily available natural resources.

For over 40 years, the Department of Medical Research (Lower Myanmar), in collaboration with the Department of Traditional Medicine, has been carrying out research on traditional medicine. However, only recently, under the directions and support of the Head of State, they had been technically transferred for mass production and used. In Traditional Medicine Exhibition for education towards rational and safe community use. Professor Dr. Paing Soe, Director General, DMR (LM), had personally undertaken to continue all potentially fruitful research regarding medicinal plants and traditional medicinal formulations. The aim is to fulfill any gap in the current health system through integrated approach with western medicine and utilizing whatever technology modern equivalent has the potential to research in, in achieving the goal “Health for All” for the people of Myanmar.

The Myanmar Traditional Medicine Formulary, 1989, is now available to traditional medicine practitioners for reference in their practicing. “Abstracts on Postgraduate MSc Theses from 1974 to 1996”, which consists of concise and unbiased scientific research on four traditional medicinal plants, had been compiled and documented for future reference for MSc and PhD students from various fields who wish to pursue research on traditional medicine.

With the inspiration and guidance of the Head of State, scientifically tested medicinal plants and their therapeutic uses on 13 commonly occurring ailments and diseases in Myanmar had been compiled and published. The aim was not only directed for reference for traditional medicine practitioners in their practice, but also as home-based simple and practical methods that can be used at home based medicine by the community. It was published in both Myanmar and English version. Health and Myanmar Medicinal Plant (1999) is also available in an English version on CD-ROM.

In the year 2001-2002, Professor Dr. Paing Soe, Director General, Department of Medicine Research (LM) initiated the preparation to CD-ROM of volumes of sets of books on traditionally and clinically used 59 Traditional Medicine Formulations regarding local storage and casualty treatment for operations whenever needed. This project was previously undertaken by the Pharmacology Research Division under a UNDP grant, “Standardization, Pharmacological and Toxicological Evaluation of Traditional Drugs and Herbal Medicine”. Since then, continued action has now been undertaken to conserve the valuable research findings which will remain as the pride and national asset of the people of Myanmar in future. If one would either like to read or buy the above-published books, they are available at the Department of Medical Research (Lower Myanmar).

Overall, it can be concluded that all the above research and developments have been done under the guidance of the Head of State and the support of the National Health Committee. Research utilization, not only has become the provision of knowledge and the solution of health problems, but has now progressively supported health services and development of technology for industry as well. Important antimarials such as quinine from cinchona bark and artemisinines compounds from Art- temisia annua (qncin01), can now be produced locally without importation or outside assistance. Myanmar traditional drugs have now been successfully used as complementary arm in malaria and resistant tuberculosis where first line drugs have failed. Myanmar traditional food, Morodocia charantia. L. fruit (Morodocia charantia L.), proven as potential antidiabetic drug, has now been produced by the Myanmar Pharmaceutical Factory, with the technology transferred developed by research. Plants for hypertension have now been scientifically documented for clinical use.

Traditional formufulations proven for use in non-specific diarrhoea are available from the Department of Traditional Medicine and have now been popularly used by the community. Research has also indicated coconut milk as an alternative for oral rehydration in diarrhoea. Long-time popular Brueca javanica (qncin01) for dysentery has been scientifically evaluated for community use and technology transfer has been done for production by the Myanmar Pharmaceutical Factory, Ministry of Industry (1), and the Department of Traditional Medicine. All these achievements of the nation proved the wisdom and goodwill of the National Health Committee, effort of the various departments concerned, and the availability of rich resources in Myanmar, in the fight against the six priority diseases which have inflicted a great burden upon the health of the people of Myanmar for so many years.

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Iran writes to Annan to show support

TEHERAN, 12 Dec— Iranian President Mohammad Khatami on Thursday wrote a letter to UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, voicing his support for Annan’s continuance in office, the official IRNA news agency reported on Saturday.

In his letter, Khatami praised the Secretary-General’s “wise leadership and firm commitment” to the UN Charter, saying he believed the ongoing moves by some powers in the UN to oust Annan were politically motivated and would fail to tarnish Annan’s image as a human rights defender.

Khatami further expressed hope that Annan would hold his position and never waver in his effort to promote unity in the world, taking into consideration such factors as the need to regard the UN’s role as being crucial.

Khatami said Iran had always been and would always be ready to cooperate with the UN to resolve the world’s issues.

The Union of Myanmar Ministry of Construction Public Works

Extension of Invitation for Quotation

The Project Management Unit, Public Works, Ministry of Construction has invited Quotation for Myanmar-Laos Friendship Bridge Suspension Bridge.

On behalf of the Ministry of Construction of the Union of Myanmar, Project Management Unit gives notice that the date for completion and return of the Quotation has been extended to 31 March, 2005 instead of 31 December, 2004.

Managing Director, Public Works

New Zealand celebrates new smoke-free era

WELLINGTON, 12 Dec — All workplaces in New Zealand have gone smoke-free since Thursday mid-night, a move Associate Health Minister Damien O’Connor has described as “start of a new era for New Zealand” and hailed as exciting and timely.

“It was a proactive and comprehensive approach to reducing smoking harm. ” O’Connor said the time was right for the change. “There has been a huge amount of support for the move, from even the most unexpected quarters. People really do see this as a positive step towards improving the health of New Zealanders.”

O’Connor said the new law was a proactive and comprehensive approach to reducing smoking harm. O’Connor said the time was right for the change. “There has been a huge amount of support for the move, from even the most unexpected quarters. People really do see this as a positive step towards improving the health of New Zealanders.”

MNA/AP

US fugitive ex-financier sentenced to over 16 years in prison

NEW HAVEN (Connecticut), 12 Dec — A fugitive financier Martin Frankel, an international fugitive who was captured in Germany, was sentenced to more than 16 years in prison for masterminding a scheme to loot insurance companies of more than 200 million US dollars to pay for a life of luxury.

Frankel asked for leniency in a rambling, 45-minute speech in which he quoted from the Bible and offered justification and apologies for his actions. “Everybody looks at me as if I’m an evil genius,” the balding 50-year-old man said, waving his hands while wearing a denim blazer over his prison scrubs. “I feel ashamed that I allowed this to happen.”

In 1999, Frankel triggered an international manhunt when he disappeared from his home in Greenwich. He was arrested in Germany four months later. He pleaded guilty to 24 federal counts of fraud and racketeering, and cooperated with authorities in prosecuting other defendants in the case.

MNA/AP

Drive with care

Irish News
Search suspended for missing crew from wrecked ship off Alaska

ANCHORAGE (Alaska), 13 Dec—The search for six crew members missing from a wrecked cargo ship off an Alaska island has been suspended, and authorities are focusing on the cleanup of spilled bunker fuel oil from the vessel, an official said on Saturday.

“With water temperature of 43 degrees Fahrenheit (6 C) and the missing crewmen lacking survival gear, chances for their survival are slim, said Marty Early, an Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation official working at the joint command post set up by the US Coast Guard.

The decision was made late Friday, Early said. The ship, the Malaysian-flagged Selendang Ayu, split into two pieces late Wednesday—around 3.5 per cent of the active sea—after grounding off the coast of Unalaska, one of the Aleutian islands. The six crew members were lost when a Coast Guard helicopter crashed during a rescue operation conducted during stormy conditions.

The other 20 members of the Selendang Ayu’s crew and all the Coast Guard helicopter crewmen were rescued, however.

Late Friday, the ship’s owner issued a statement about the end of the active search.

Five of the missing crewmen were from India and one was from the Philippines, according to news reports.

Weather was preventing environmental officials from determining how much fuel oil had spilled off the island, an important site for marine mammals, seabirds and fish.

Initial estimates put the size of the fuel spill at 140,000 litres (636,400 litres), Early said. One of the fuel tanks was breached when the ship split open, she said. “They don’t know about any of the other tanks,” she said.

Early said the forecast was for winds of up to 15 knots with gusts to 55 knots and seas to 24 feet (7.32 metres).

The Selendang Ayu, which was ferrying soybeans from Washington state to China, was carrying nearly 500,000 gallons of fuel oil, as well as 21,000 gallons of diesel fuel.

Japanese encephalitis vectors found in Hong Kong

HONG KONG, 13 Dec — Japanese encephalitis vectors have been found in Hong Kong, according to a survey released here Saturday by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department.

Known JE vector commonly found in Hong Kong in the vicinity of Shek Wu Wai and Shan Pui Tseun in Yuen Long. He noted that JE is an endemic disease of local pigs, and the mosquitoes may acquire the virus from birds and pigs which are known as the reservoir and amplifying host of the disease.

Ho said: “We will strengthen mosquito control actions in the areas concerned and provide technical support to other departments and organizations involved in operations against mosquito breeding—MNA/Xinhua

35,000-year-old flute unearthed in S-W Germany

BERLIN, 12 Dec—A 35,000-year-old flute made from a woolly mammoth’s ivory tusk has been unearthed in a German cave by archaeologists, the University of Tuebingen said on Friday.

The flute, one of the oldest musical instruments discovered, was placed together from 31 fragments found in a cave in the Swabian mountains in southwestern Germany, the university said.

The mountains have yielded rich pickings in recent years, including ivory figurines, ornaments and other musical instruments. Archaeologists believe humans camped in the area in winter and spring.

Mammoths, now extinct, were large elephant-like creatures with hairy coats and long, upcurved tusks. They lived during the Pleistocene period from two million to 11,000 years ago.

The university said it planned to put the instrument on display in a museum in Stuttgart—MNA/Reuters

Oil producers, consumers alike must act responsibly on energy use

RABAT (Morocco), 12 Dec—US Treasury Secretary John Snow said on Saturday that oil producers and consumers alike must act responsibly on energy use, a day after OPEC oil producers agreed to slash production to keep prices down.

At a news conference following a forum designed to encourage countries in the Middle East and North Africa to adopt more free-enterprise policies, Snow was asked whether the global economy faced a threat from the producers’ action. “Obviously it is a matter we will want to follow and follow closely,” Snow said.

“The global economy is strong,” Snow added. “It is important that we continue to stay on that growth path, and staying on (it) requires all of us to do what we can to maintain the current momentum,” he added.

OPEC representatives meeting in Cairo Friday said they would withdraw one million barrels daily of production — around 3.5 per cent of current supply — from January and March to discuss whether further cuts were necessary.

The OPEC cuts will hit consumers in the northern hemisphere during the peak winter heating season, potentially adding pressure to prices at a time when policymakers worry that inflation risks more broadly are on the rise.

The OPEC countries are seeking to stabilize the market so that they receive for their product, fearing that a buildup in stocks of oil could lead to a sharp drop in prices.

Still, prices are around 30 per cent above the start of the year, although US crude has dropped by 40 per cent. US dollars from a record high of 55.67 US dollars a barrel in late October.

US Delphi Corp plans to cut 8,500 jobs next year

WASHINGTON, 12 Dec—US Delphi Corp announced on Friday that it plans to cut 8,500 jobs worldwide next year as part of an ongoing restructuring.

The cut will account for about 4.6 per cent of total work force for Delphi Corp., the largest automotive supplier in the United States and the world.

Of the total job-cut announced Friday, Delphi said 3,000 of the cuts were expected to be US hourly employees and 5,500 would be from outside the United States—MNA/Xinhua

Faith Akin, Turkish actor-director of ‘Gegen Die Wand,’ poses with his trophies at the European Film Awards Ceremony in Barcelona, on 11 Dec, 2004. Internet

Ford recalls 474,000 Escape SUVs for accelerator problem

WASHINGTON, 12 Dec—Ford Motor Co announced on Friday that it is recalling about 474,000 Ford Escape sport utility vehicles worldwide because of an accelerator problem that can cause the engine to race.

The recalled vehicles are from model years 2002 to 2004 and the vast majority are in the United States, Ford spokeswoman Kristen Kinley said in Detroit.

The company said that it does not know of any accidents or injuries related to the problem.

US Coast Guard.

mand post set up by the working at the joint command post set up by the US Coast Guard.

G-7 agrees to set up bioterrorism crisis centre

PARIS, 12 Dec—G-7 health ministers have agreed to set up a bioterrorism crisis centre to marshal a global response to germ warfare attacks, and pledged to provide millions of shots for a global “vaccine bank”.

The move comes amidst concern since the September 11, 2001 attacks on the United States that militants such as al-Qaeda might use biological weapons in any future strike.

“Despite our efforts, we have to admit that “they can use it at any moment,” US Health Secretary Tommy Thompson told Le Figaro daily in an interview published on Saturday.

The United States has earmarked the equivalent of 80 million doses of smallpox vaccine for a 200-million-dose vaccine bank, run by the World Health Organization (WHO) to which Britain, France, Germany and Canada have also made pledges.

Ministers said after a meeting in Paris on Friday that the crisis centre could also help manage natural disasters like the Asia bird flu outbreak, which has killed 29 people this year.

The new crisis centre will be based at the G-7 health ministers’ secretariat in Ottawa.

“We don’t have the right to say a bioterrorism attack could never happen. A bioterrorist attack is not a virtual threat,” French Health Minister Philippe Douste-Blazy told reporters.

An around-the-clock hotline between G-7 health ministries is already up and running and should cut the response times to future crises.

MNA/Reuters

Oil producers, consumers alike must act responsibly on energy use

WASHINGTON, 12 Dec—Ford Motor Co announced on Friday that it is recalling about 474,000 Ford Escape sport utility vehicles worldwide because of an accelerator problem that can cause the engine to race.

The recalled vehicles are from model years 2002 to 2004 and the vast majority are in the United States, Ford spokeswoman Kristen Kinley said in Detroit.

The company said that it does not know of any accidents or injuries related to the problem.

MNA/Xinhua

US Delphi Corp plans to cut 8,500 jobs next year

WASHINGTON, 12 Dec—US Delphi Corp announced on Friday that it plans to cut 8,500 jobs worldwide next year as part of an ongoing restructuring.

The cut will account for about 4.6 per cent of total work force for Delphi Corp., the largest automotive supplier in the United States and the world.

Of the total job-cut announced Friday, Delphi said 3,000 of the cuts were expected to be US hourly employees and 5,500 would be from outside the United States.

MNA/Xinhua

Japanese encephalitis vectors found in Hong Kong

WASHINGON, 12 Dec—The US Government recorded a budget deficit of 115.2 billion US dollars in the first two months of the 2005 fiscal year beginning from 1 October, the Treasury Department announced on Friday.

The shortfall was slightly larger than the deficit of 112.5 billion US dollars posted for the corresponding period of fiscal year of 2004.

The report said that the US Government spending in October and November totalled 386.8 billion US dollars while the revenues was only 271.4 billion dollars.—MNA/Xinhua

PEOPLE OF MYANMAR
Valencia notch 4th Primera Liga win
MADRID, 13 Dec—Valencia put their European woes behind them on Sunday to notch their fourth Primera Liga win in a row with a 1-0 victory at home to basement side Numancia. Centre-half Carlos Marchena scored the winner on 21 minutes when he headed in from point-blank range at the far post after Numancia keeper had palmed a Vicente free kick off the line. The win put Claudio Ranieri’s side—who had exited the Champions League midweek—into provisional second spot in the table, 10 points behind leaders Barcelona who snatched a late 2-1 win away to Albacete on Saturday.

Real Madrid and Espanyol, who are two points further adrift in the standings play their matches against Real Sociedad and Real Mallorca later on Sunday. Deportivo Coruna, who exited the Champions League group phase without scoring a goal after their 5-0 defeat against Monaco on Wednesday, were only able to manage a 2-2 draw at home to Sevilla, a result that left them in eighth place in the table.

AC Milan crush Fiorentina 6-0
MILAN, 13 Dec—Italian champions AC Milan crushed Fiorentina 6-0 at the San Siro on Sunday with Andriy Shevchenko and Clarence Seedorf scoring two goals each.

Ukrainian Shevchenko, widely tipped to be named European Footballer of the Year on Monday, took his season tally to 11 goals as Milan moved within a point of leaders Juventus who are away to Bologna later on Tuesday.

Inter Milan drew for a remarkable 12th time in 15 games with a late Christian Vieri strike giving them a 2-2 draw away to lowly Siena who had defender Stefano Argelli sent off in the 59th minute. Brazilian Adriano, who had opened the scoring, missed a 95th minute penalty and Tore Andre Flo’s 87th minute header looked to have given Siena a 1-0 win away to Brescia.

Milan have hit top form at just the right moment as they face rivals Juve at the Delle Alpi stadium next Sunday in a game which could determine who goes into the New Year in first place.

Carlos Ancelotti’s side went ahead in the 15th minute when Andrea Pirlo’s penalty was put out by Fiorentina keeper Cristiano Lupatelli but Dutchman Van der Vaart doubled it when he headed in from point-blank range at the far post after a characteristic stinging drive from midfield.

The goal took the defence unawares and then Seedorf tapped in a Massimo Ambrosini pass to make it 6-0 in the 83rd minute.

Inter’s latest point leaves them well out of the title running in fifth place and once again they paid for their poor defending.

Adriano fired Inter ahead from the penalty spot in the 36th minute but the lead lasted just five minutes as Siena defender Daniele Portanova, who had conceded the spot kick with a foul on Esteban Cambiasso, was left unmarked to head the Tuscans level.

VFL Wolfsburg thrash Arminia Bielefeld 5-0
FRANKFURT, 13 Dec—VFL Wolfsburg roared back to form on Sunday with a 5-0 home win over Arminia Bielefeld that took them back up to fourth place in the Bundesliga at the halfway stage.

Thomas Rytter volleyed in the opening goal after 14 minutes and a Diego Klinsmizewicz header and two Thomas Hradic strikes put them 4-0 ahead by the interval. Martin Petrov got the fifth from the penalty spot in the 67th minute.

Victory took the early-season leaders back to within four points of Bayern Munich, who held on to top spot going into the six-week winter break after fighting back from 2-0 down to claim a 2-2 draw with VfB Stuttgart on Saturday.

Bayern lead the standings with 34 points, ahead of Schalke 04 on 34 after the two teams met in Munich, where they were held to a 1-1 draw at home to bottom club SC Freiburg on Saturday. Stuttgart are third on 31, followed by Wolfsburg on 30.

In Sunday’s other game Bayer Leverkusen drew 1-1 away to Borussia Moenchengladbach. Wolfsburg had slipped down to seventh place after a run of three successive league defeats and another loss would have made their 16-day holiday period for the club, particularly after so much early-season promise.

Accurate crossing was the key to their spectacular recovery on Sunday. Andres d’Alessandro’s perfect ball over the top of the protesting VfB defenders was met by a powerful header from the advancing Petrov to score with a low volley before Petrov’s masterclass settled the game.

Aston Villa outplayed, lost 2-1 to Birmingham City
LONDON, 13 Dec—Aston Villa’s unbeaten home record disappeared in the worst way possible on Sunday as West Bromwich Albion were outplayed 2-1 by local rivals Birmingham City in a robust Premier League derby.

The victory was only Birmingham’s second away from home all season and continued their impressive record against Villa since their return to the Premier League, having chalked up three wins and two draws in their five meetings since 2002. Birmingham went ahead after nine minutes when Clinton Morrison fired in a low shot that bounced awkwardly and went through the hands of goalkeeper Thomas Sorensen.

David Dunn doubled the lead in the 18th with a well-struck shot from near the penalty spot and it was no more than Birmingham deserved against a home side who had barely woken up.

Real Madrid’s Brazilian Ronaldo (R) celebrates his goal against Real Sociedad with teammate Frenchman Zinedine Zidane (L) during their Premier League clash at Santiago Bernabeu Stadium in Madrid. Spectators at Real Madrid’s Santiago Bernabeu Stadium were evacuated following a bomb scare.—INTERNET
Guarantee citizens’ normal life and work this year.

Local media attributed the good public order to the importance attached by the government of the Macao Special Administrative Region (SAR), hard efforts made by public security force and the support from the central government and relevant departments in China’s Mainland. “Only by maintaining a good public order, can economy develop steadily,” Macao’s Chief Executive Edmund Ho Hau Wai stressed soon after he took the post in December 1999.

The Macao security forces’ crackdown on criminal offenses has effectively protected residents’ life and property, and maintained public order and social stability over the past five years.

Macao was haunted with gangduoms, robbers, murderers and kidnappers before it returned to the Motherland in 1999. According to Chieung Kuo Vai, secretary for security of the Macao Special Administrative Region, the public security forces dealt a heavy blow on organized crimes and controlled and improved public order in the first year after Macao’s return to the Motherland. At the same time, they streamlined the organizational structure by way of strengthening jail organization and preparing for the establishment of the Customs office and the general police bureau.

The public security forces optimized their operational capacity and improved personnel quality and the image of police in the second year, improved their internal management to raise work efficiency in the third year, upgraded personnel quality and introduced advanced technology and equipment in the fourth year, and maintained good public order to guarantee citizens’ normal life and work this year.

In addition, the public security forces have stressed the publicity of observance of laws and regulations among residents, young people in particular.
**Kyaukphyu to become important deep-sea port in near future**

**YANGON,** 13 Dec — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than met with district and township officials in Kyaukphyu, Rakhine State, on 9 December.

At the meeting, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than explained that he was in Kyaukphyu region to make arrangements for regional development, boosting the farming industry and extension of paddy cultivation for regional food sufficiency. Officials concerned will have to reclaim up to 6,000 acres for cultivation, while applying four means to increase per acre yield of all crops cultivated in the region. In addition, they should strive to grow beans and pulses, edible oil crops and summer paddy, and provide assistance for cultivating 300,000 pepper plants. He commended that pepper should be grown in the shade of trees, on manageable scale and with the use of scientific methods till Rakhine.

(See page 9)

**Education Minister addresses conclusion of special refresher course No 3 for faculty members**

**YANGON,** 13 Dec — The conclusion of special refresher course No 3 for faculty members was held at Yadana Hall of the Central Institute of Civil Service (Upper Myanmar) in Pyin Oo Lwin Township, Mandalay Division, yesterday morning, with an address by Minister for Education U Than Aung on behalf of the Chairman of the Myanmar Education Committee.

Also present were Minister for Cooperatives Col Zaw Win, Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min, Minister at the Prime Minister’s Office Brig-Gen Pyi Sone, Deputy Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Brig-Gen Than Tun, Deputy Minister for Culture Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung, Deputy Minister for Labour Brig-Gen Win Sein, member of Civil Service Selection and Training Board U Hla Myint Oo, senior military officers, officials of the SPDC office, heads of department, members of division, district and township PDCs, the rector of the CICS (upper Myanmar), pro-rectors, and trainer faculty members.

At the concluding ceremony, Minister U Than Aung spoke on the occasion. On behalf of the Chairman of the MEC, he said that nowadays, the government is nurturing new generation youths through the education sector to become intellectuals and intelligentsia to overcome the challenges to be faced in the future with an eye to seeing the Union of Myanmar prevailing stability and developing national economy. At a time when the cutting edge of science and technology is penetrating not only into the education field but also into the fields of economy, social, State defence and security, it is indispensable that the education sector is to enhance human resources that (See page 9)

**Commander Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint and Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi inspects power tillers at Taunggyi Ayethaya Industrial Zone.**

**Commander Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint and Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi inspects power tillers at Taunggyi Ayethaya Industrial Zone.**

(See page 9)

**Minister U Than Aung presents award to an outstanding trainee.**

(See page 9)

**All 5,070 prisoners released**

**YANGON,** 13 Dec — The State Peace and Development Council has dissolved the National Intelligence Bureau since 22 October this year. It was observed that the NIB might have committed irregularities. After due review of the case, prison terms of 5,070 convicts were suspended on 11 December 2004 and all of them were released from the respective prisons on 12 December 2004. It was the third time the convicts are released. — MNA