YANGON, 19 Dec—Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe, accompanied by member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, members of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint and Lt-Gen Kyaw Win, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Rear-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint, the ministers, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and heads of departments, arrived at Yeywa Hydel Power Project being implemented by Hydroelectric Power Department under the Ministry of Electric Power, 31 miles South-East of Mandalay.

They were welcomed there by Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut, Deputy Minister U Myo Myint, Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay and officials.

At the briefing hall, Senior General Than Shwe and party heard a report presented by Deputy Minister U Myo Myint on the salient points of Yeywa Hydel Power Project, which is one of 12 projects being implemented in the nation for supply of more electricity.

Next, the deputy minister also reported on progress in construction of ring bund and separation wall, arrangements for construction of the main embankment step by step and pozzolan plant, construction of intake structure.

Afterwards, Minister Maj-Gen Tin Htut presented other salient points, saying that there are now altogether 287 concrete dams in the world; that the main dam of Yeywa Hydel Power Project being constructed is of roller compacted concrete dam type and upon completion, it will be inclusive of the great concrete dams in the world; and that work is well under way for successful completion of the project.

The minister added that in accordance with the guidance of the Head of State road to Kyaukse-Yeywa-Hsinmin cement factory is being constructed; that construction of Dothtawady River-crossing bridge (Yeywa).

(See page 8)
**PERSPECTIVES**

Monday, 20 December, 2004

For higher productivity through innovations in technology

Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council and Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe made the inspection tour of No 1 Iron and Steel Plant and the 100-bed PyinOoLwin District Hospital, Mandalay Division, on 16 December.

In his meeting with officials of the plant, Head of State Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance on the “efforts to be made to produce steel essential for nation-building tasks while taking innovative measures on a self-reliant basis for the long-term operation of the plant”.

Just as the government prioritizes the consolidation of national economic life, it also enables the national forces and makes the most of mineral resources to ensure all-round development in the country.

The government is doing everything in its capacity to improve the industrial sector by constructing factories and setting up industrial zones in areas showing great promise. As a result, a total of 19 industrial zones have been established. Of them, Yangon, Mandalay, Taunggyi and Monywa industrial zones are gaining momentum.

The government is constructing modern foundries in Mandalay, Monywa and Taunggyi industrial zones to enhance their productivity. With the emergence of such foundries and quality of the products of the zones will improve.

Every factory and workshop must attach importance to increased productivity since it is the only way of boosting the country’s economy. Now, No 1 Iron and Steel Plant in PyinOoLwin has moved into top gear to meet the target of producing up to 25,000 tons of steel per annum.

Further, the plant is also making plans to sell pig iron to Mandalay, Monywa and Taunggyi industrial zones to enhance their productive capacity.

To ensure an increase in productivity, the plant is also taking measures for repair of machinery, purchase of raw materials at home and abroad, and fulfillment of other requirements.

This being the case, the onus is on the plant to stick to the guidance given by the Head of State in its efforts to produce and supply the steel, much-needed for the nation-building tasks, while striving for increased productivity by making innovative measures on a self-reliant basis for its long-term operation.

**Myeik Open Golf Championship goes on**

**YANGON, 19 Dec —** With the main sponsorships of Rothmans of Pall Mall Myanmar Pte Ltd, the first Coastal Region Command Myeik Open Golf Championship continued at Myeik Golf Club this morning. After the third round, Zaw Zaw Latt (Srixon) was leading with 213 strokes in the professional golfer event, followed by Aung Win (YCDC) second with 215 and Soe Kyaw Naing (Srixon) and Min Naing (Srixon) with 218 each.

In the handicap 0-12 amateur event Bo Bo was taking the lead with 219 strokes, followed by Zaw Zin Win second with 222 and Nay Lin Tun with 223. In the handicap 13-24 amateur event Kyaw Hein was leading with 71 strokes, followed by Kyaw Kyaw Win and Moe Nyunt second with 72 each. The championship continues tomorrow at the same venue.

**Winners of 6th AWC honoured**

**YANGON, 19 Dec —** A ceremony to honour selected Myanmar Wushu athletes who won five gold, eight silver and nine bronze in the 6th Asian Wushu Championships hosted by Myanmar was held at Shwe Shankan Restaurant on Inya Road at yesterday evening, attended by Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint.

Also present on the occasion were General Secretary of Myanmar Olympic Committee Director-General of Sports and Physical Education Department U Thaung Htay and officials, members of the Panel of Lead Patrons of Myanmar Women’s Sports Federation, patrons of Myanmar Wushu Federation, President of MWF U Khin Maung Lay, vice-presidents and CEC members, guests and winners.

At the ceremony, the Sports Minister made a speech and the president of MWF explained matters related to the 6th AWC.

The Minister presented prizes of honour awarded by MOC to the winners — Swe Swe Thant, Khaing Khaing Maw, Pyae Wai Phyo, Aung Sithu, Zaw Zaw Moe, Sa Tha Htay, Min Min Tun, Aung San Yu, Swe Wint, Moe Wah and Nan Soe Yu Naing.

Next, the President of MWF accepted cash awards for the winners presented by the patrons of MWF. Khaing Khaing Maw accepted cash awards for the winners presented by the president of MWF.

On behalf of the winners, Swe Swe Thant expressed gratitude. Next, the dinner was hosted to the winners and guests.

**MNA**

**Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs leaves for China**

**YANGON, 19 Dec —** Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint left here by air this afternoon to attend the Fifth Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar Regional Economic Cooperation Forum to be held in Kunming, the People’s Republic of China, from 20 to 22 December.

The Deputy Minister was seen off at Yangon International Airport by departmental heads of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, responsible officials and officials of the Chinese Embassy. — MNA
India-China trade crosses $10b mark for first time

BEIJING, 19 Dec — India-China bilateral trade has set a new record by crossing the 10-billion-US-dollar mark for the first time during which India also emerged among the top 10 Asian trading partners of the Communist giant.

India-China bilateral trade reached 10.84 billion US dollars during the January-October period, registering an impressive growth of 82.53 per cent over the corresponding period last year, according to Chinese Customs statistics.

Bilateral trade during the first 10 months of 2004 has already achieved the 10-billion-US-dollar target set by the political leadership of the two Asian giants, official sources said here.

Two-way trade between the two sides is expected to hit 12 billion US dollars during the January-December period, they said. During the January-October period, India was China’s eighth largest trading partner after Japan, Hong Kong, South Korea, Taiwan, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand. Japan topped the list with a bilateral trade of 135.82 billion US dollars during the first ten months.

Indian exports to China during January-October period was worth 6.27 billion US dollars, up 90.86 per cent while India’s imports from China for the same period touched 4.56 billion US dollars, up 72.19 per cent over the same period last year.

During the first ten months, India enjoyed a trade surplus of 1.71 billion US dollars with China. Total monthly volume of bilateral trade in October stood at 1.05 billion US dollars.

The monthly trade value has hovered around the one billion US dollars mark for the past seven months. — MNA/PTT

Coins issued for anniversary of Macao’s return to Motherland

BEIJING, 18 Dec — The Macao Special Administrative Region Financial Authority plans to issue 25,500 silver coins to commemorate the fifth anniversary of Macao’s return to the Motherland.

China Banknote Printing and Minting Corporation (CBPMC), authorized by the Macao Financial Authority, minted the coins, displayed the five kinds of coins Thursday.

Each has a different value of 2,000, 1,000, 500, 200 and 100 patacas. CBPMC has the exclusive franchise to sell 2,000 coins valued at 1,000 patacas and 5,000 coins of 200 patacas and 100 patacas each.

The first batch of such coins will go on sale on December 20 in Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Tianjin, Shenzhen, Xi’an and Taiyuan.

Most Chinese abroad wish to return home to work

BEIJING, 18 Dec — Some 87.7 per cent of the Chinese scholars who study overseas are willing to return to China to work, according to a recent survey.

The one-month on-line survey, conducted by China Youth Daily from October 15, polled 3,100 Chinese students studying or working abroad. The respondents, aged 29 on average, are living in 49 countries and regions worldwide, mostly developed countries.

About 34.5 per cent of them say they wish to return as soon as they complete their study, and 54.1 per cent say they plan to return after gaining some work experience. Shanghai was listed as the city they most wanted to live in, followed by Beijing.

Most of the students who wish to return — about 70 per cent — say they are encouraged by “China’s booming economic development”. Most of those who want to stay abroad, less than 10 per cent of the total, say “sophisticated social relations” and “less sophisticated legal system” in the country kept them away.

This and the results of other similar surveys are dispelling government’s worries of a brain drain, which was common years ago when a number of poor but talented young vied for comfortable life in developed countries.

Singapore takes measures to enhance women’s status

SINGAPORE, 19 Dec — Singapore has taken several measures to improve the position and rights of women in the city state, according to a statement released by the Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports (MCYS) on Saturday.

The statement said that the key advance is the Constitutional Amendment in May of this year to accord the same citizenship rights to the children of Singaporean women as for Singaporean men.

The amended citizenship law allows a child born overseas to a Singaporean mother to acquire Singapore citizenship by descent, rather than in the previous manner where the mother has to register her child.

Other measures include the establishment of the Women’s Desk under MCYS, the equalization of the medical benefits for male and female civil servants, and the removal of the intake quota for female medical students.


Four Americans hurt in Iraq blast

BAGHDAD, 19 Dec — Four American civilians have been injured by a car bomb in northern Iraq.

The military says all four people injured in the attack north of Baghdad work for a Florida-based private security company. Two of the Americans suffered minor wounds. The other two were taken to a military medical facility.

Three Iraqi employees were killed by car bombs in the same part of Iraq in April.

Meanwhile, the US Embassy has confirmed the name of an American contractor taken hostage six weeks ago in Baghdad — a man who has not been seen or heard from since.

Five Turkish security guards killed in Iraq

ANKARA, 18 Dec — Five Turkish security guards were killed in an ambush as they were travelling by car through Iraq to Baghdad, the Turkish Foreign Ministry said.

Earlier an official in the Iraqi town of Mosul was quoted as saying the attackers machine-gunned the guards and decapitated one of them after telling them to get out of the car.

A foreign ministry statement quoted by the Anatolia news agency said eight guards had crossed Turkey’s border with Iraq at Habur in four cars, and were on their way to the embassy in Baghdad, when they were attacked around the flashpoint Iraqi city of Mosul.

Five of the security guards along with two Iraqi drivers were killed.

Two survivors reached Baghdad, while a third returned to the border at Habur, the statement said.

“Armed men made the passengers get out of the cars, lie on the ground, machine-gunned them and cut off the head of one of them,” Muhammet Tahir, an official of the Turkmen Front in Mosul, was quoted as telling the Turkish press agency DHA.

It said US forces who controlled the region had killed two of the attackers.

The CNN-Turk website said one of the victims was a police inspector while three were police officers.

About 70 Turkish nationals, mainly truck drivers, have so far been killed in Iraq since the US-led invasion last year, most of them in road violence and several at the hands of hostage-takers.

Black smoke billows from an oil pipeline near the northern Iraqi city of Samarra on 18 Dec, 2004. — INTERNET

A sales assistant handles gold figurines with a Year of the Rooster motif at a gold shop in Shanghai on 17 Dec, 2004. — INTERNET
Beijing to seek investors for new metro lines

Beijing, 19 Dec — Beijing will select investors for two new metro lines, Loop 5 and Loop 10, through public bidding among domestic private or overseas companies, a government official said.

The move is viewed as an essential step in the reform of Beijing’s investment system in infrastructure construction, said Wang Qi, general manager of the Beijing Municipal Infrastructure Investment Co, Ltd. Earlier this month, the Beijing Municipal Construction Committee announced it would offer a 30-year franchise for the operation of the metro Loop 4 to non-governmental investors, a historic step for the city to open its metro market.

According to Wang, public bidding for the proprietors of Loop 5 and Loop 10 will start on 1st January, 2005, and the government will transfer the right to management of the two lines to the winners for 20-year operation beginning as soon as they are finished in 2007 and 2008, respectively.

Wang said the total investment for loops 4, 5, and 10, all under construction now, will exceed 40 billion yuan (about 4.8 billion US dollars). Currently, two joint-ventures are bidding for the franchised operation of Loop 4. One is the combination of the Hong Kong MTR Corporation, the Beijing Infrastructure Investment Co., Ltd and the Beijing Capital Group; the other is composed of German-based Siemens, China Railway Construction Corporation and Beijing Metro Corporation.

In addition to the operation of the line, the selected company will also need to put up some five billion yuan, about 30 per cent of the loop’s total 15.3-billion-yuan investment. The remaining cost will be covered by the Beijing Municipal Government, added Wang.

Moreover, Wang acknowledged that the Beijing Municipal Government is considering selling franchised operation of several other new metro lines in the future, and Loop 9, to cost some eight billion yuan, will open for bidding next year.

From 2009 to 2015, a 349.7-kilometre track network will be formed in the capital Beijing in the hopes of alleviating heavy traffic. —MNA/Xinhua

Nepali Govt to declare education sector development programme

KATHMANDU, 18 Dec — The Nepali Government will announce a programme to develop the education sector as a violence-free zone, a government official said Friday.

“The programme has been discussed at different levels and will get final shape soon, but we are yet to discuss the programme with the civil society for its effective implementation,” Bidhyadhar Mallik, secretary at the Education Ministry told reporters.

NMA/Xinhua

UN Summit urges actions to meet world anti-poverty goals

UNITED NATIONS, 18 Dec — The UN General Assembly on Friday approved a multilayer work plan for 2005 that culminates in a high-level review of worldwide progress towards attaining the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Unanimously adopting a resolution on the format and organization of its work from late June through mid-September, the Assembly agreed that a High-Level Millennium review would be held from September next year.

The Assembly agreed that the summit should include the same format of debates and round-table discussions of the 2000 Millennium Summit. At that meeting four years ago, world leaders adopted the Millennium Declaration that provided a blueprint to build a better and safer world for the next century through collective security and a global partnership for development.

The world anti-poverty goals aim at a series of ambitious targets, ranging from halving extreme poverty, to halting the spread of HIV/AIDS, to providing universal primary education, all by 2015.

Secretary-General Kofi Annan, in his latest report on the matter, unveiled his ideas for the five-year review summit that the decisions to be taken at the meeting “may determine the whole future of the United Nations”.

“Even more important, they will offer us our best perhaps our only chance to ensure a safer, more just and more prosperous world in the new century, not only for our own sakes but for those of our children and grandchildren,” the UN Chief said in his report. —MNA/Xinhua

Iraq releases Egyptian hostages

BAGHDAD, 19 Dec — Iraqi authorities today set free two Egyptian employees of the mobile telephone company Iraqui, detained on Wednesday on suspicion of helping guerillas.

“They were released and taken to the Egyptian embassy in Baghdad. No charges were made against them,” said Dina Abou Zenada, a spokeswoman for Cairo-based Orascom Telecom.

She said they were Iraqui security chief Mohsen el-Sokarry and his deputy, named only as Walid.

Iraqui had already dismissed suggestions the two men had assisted Iraqui guerillas by providing them with weapons.

It had complained about the manner of their arrest, in a raid by US and Iraqi forces at 3am (local time) on Wednesday. —Internet

Putin urges atomic chiefs to do more to protect N-facilities

MOSCOW, 18 Dec — President Vladimir Putin on Thursday urged Russia’s atomic industry chiefs to do more to protect nuclear facilities in an apparent nod to Western concerns they could be vulnerable to attack or theft.

Russia has always maintained that its civilian and military nuclear sites are safe and properly guarded, and it plans to expand nuclear power production and build new nuclear missiles.

“Nuclear sites should be properly protected from all acts of crime,” ITAR-TASS news agency quoted Putin as saying on a visit to the Kalininiskaya nuclear power station in western Russia.

Russia has the second biggest nuclear weapon arsenal after the United States and is also home to dozens of Soviet-era atomic power stations and research facilities.

The United States and the European Union have long called on Russia to act to prevent nuclear materials being stolen and sold onto the black market — where it is feared they could be bought by militant groups or rogue states.

Putin also said more should be done to reduce the impact on the environment from Russia’s nuclear programmes, whose reputation for safety has still to recover after the 1986 Chernobyl disaster — the world’s worst nuclear accident — and from scandals about dumping radiation-active waste.

MNA/Reuters

Seminar on Chinese charity culture starts in Jinjiang City

XIAMEN, 19 Dec — A seminar on Chinese charity culture, first of its kind in the country, started Saturday in Jinjiang City of east China’s Fujian Province, attracting some 60 experts from across the country including Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macao Special Administrative Region (SAR).

The seminar was jointly organized by China Charity Federation, China Sociology Association, the Sociology Institute under the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Social Sciences Publishing House and Jinjiang City Government. — MNA/Xinhua

Pakistan: PM ends China tour

SHANGHAI, 19 Dec — Pakistani Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz left Shanghai, China’s economic hub, Saturday night, after his five-day official visit to China as guest of Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao.

During his China trip, Aziz met with Wen Jiabao and other senior Chinese leaders, like Chinese President Hu Jintao and Chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference Jia Qinglin, in Beijing. It is the first visit of Aziz to China after his assumption of Prime Minister in August this year. —MNA/Xinhua

A model displays a batik design by Malaysian Michael Shu Pei Loong with a theme of ‘United Malaysia’ or ‘Malaysia Bersatu’ during the final showing of the Seri Endon Trophy Batik Design Competition 2004, in Kuala Lumpur, on 18 Dec, 2004. — Internet
**S Korean President heads for Japan**

SEOUL, 18 Dec — South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun left for a two-day working visit in Japan on Friday.

Accompanied by his wife Kwon Yang-sook, Roh will fly to Kagoshima, a famous Japanese southern island, Friday afternoon. Roh is to meet Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi in the resort island.

Seeking joint measures to tackle the nuclear issue on the Korean Peninsula and ways to adopt a bilateral free trade agreement (FTA) will top the summit’s agenda, according to local media.

In particular, the upcoming summit is to touch on mounting anger in Japan over Pyongyang’s recent submission of false ashes of a missing Japanese abductees.

South Korean Foreign Minister said on Tuesday that he anticipates the abductees dispute between North Korea and Japan will not negatively affect ongoing efforts to promptly resume the stalled six-party nuclear talks.

Roh was scheduled to return home on Saturday afternoon. — MNA/Xinhua

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**Pakistan seizes 1.83 tons of morphine**

QUETTA (Pakistan), 18 Dec — Pakistani authorities seized 1.83 tons of morphine worth millions of dollars and a large quantity of arms from a remote southwestern village near the Afghan border, police said on Friday.

The drugs and arms, including rocket launchers, mortars, anti-aircraft shells and grenades were found in a house near the town of Chaghi in Baluchistan Province near the Afghan border, Colonel Rizwan Malik told reporters.

Officials say a ton of morphine is worth about 10 million US dollars in the international market.

China’s unemployment rate lower than expected

BEIJING, 18 Dec — China’s registered urban unemployment rate is 4.3 per cent this year, 0.4 percentage point lower than the estimation made at the beginning of the year, said the Ministry of Labour and Social Security here Friday.

Addressing a working conference, Zheng Silin, Minister of Labour and Social Security, attributed the success in lowering the unemployment rate to the employment services and control on unemployment the Chinese Government enhanced this year.

According to statistics released by the ministry, China had a total of 8.21 million jobless people, at an registered unemployment rate of 4.2 per cent, in its urban areas by the end of September 0.1 percentage point lower than that of last year.

Meanwhile, a total of 9.1 million jobs were newly increased while 4.6 million laid-off workers had been re-employed from January to November this year. “We will try to create more jobs,” said the minister.

He also said the Chinese Government will make great efforts next year to lock the urban unemployment rate at 4.6 per cent by adding nine million jobs and offering jobs for five million laid-off workers. — MNA/Xinhua

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**“2004 Yearbook of PRC” published**

BEIJING, 19 Dec — Chinese and English versions of the 2004 Yearbook of the People’s Republic of China (PRC) have been published by the Xinhua news agency. The yearbook will be distributed at home and abroad, according to official sources.

The yearbook, the 24th since 1981, covers all social and economic issues in 41 categories to offer a handy reference for both Chinese and foreign readers. All its figures have been checked by authoritative persons and experts from central and local government departments.

The Chinese version contains approximately three million characters.

MNA/Xinhua

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**Singapore, Hong Kong sign aviation maintenance MoU**

SINGAPORE, 18 Dec — The Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore and Hong Kong’s Civil Aviation Department signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on aircraft components maintenance on Thursday.

Entitled “Technical Arrangement on Aviation Maintenance,” the MoU will make it easier for maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) companies based in Singapore to maintain aircraft components on Hong Kong-registered aircraft, and vice versa.

The MoU inked today, which allows the civil aviation authorities of the two sides to mutually re-recognize each other’s approvals, will boost business opportunities for MRO industries in Singapore and Hong Kong through easier access into each other’s markets.

There are now 60 MRO organizations registered in Singapore, which employ more than 11,000 workers and generated a total output of about 2.5 billion US dollars in 2003. — MNA/Xinhua

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**Army blames Iraq for drop in recruits**

BAGHDAD, 19 Dec — Senior Army commanders have expressed fears that the increasingly vocal anti-Iraq war movement is discouraging thousands of young men from considering a career in the armed forces.

They blame high-profile celebrity campaigns against the war, often led by bereaved parents and supported by celebrities and political figures, for worsening recruitment problems, particularly into the infantry.

According to military sources the high media visibility of bereaved parents, such as Rose Gentle, whose 19-year-old son was killed, and the unpopularity of the war have made recruitment and re-tention a problem, exacerbating an already acute recruitment crisis in areas such as Scotland. The problem is now also spreading to the north of England and Wales, forces officials say. As well as a shortfall in young men volunteering, army officers have reported a wider reluctance to support a career in the army with parents refusing to sign consent forms for junior soldiers to sign up and, in some cases, local authorities with a strong anti-war sentiment refusing permission for recruitment officers to put up stands at local venues. — Internet

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**Japan to invest $1b in Indonesia**

JAKARTA, 19 Dec — The Japanese Government said it was ready to finance some one billion US dollars of mega projects in Indonesia, according to Kusumo A Martorejo, co-chairman of the Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The fund would be invested in the sectors of electricity, petrochemical, gas, and textile, the chairman said on the sidelines of the High-Level Government/Private Sector Joint forum, attended by economic ministers and businessmen of Japan and Indonesia.

“The number of Japan’s new investment will be increased to 1.800 million US dollar to one billion US dollar,” he was quoted by the daily Bisnis Indonesia as saying on Friday. — MNA/Xinhua

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**Army bans smoking in public, tobacco sales**

GUWAHATI (India), 18 Dec — The Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan banned smoking in public and tobacco sales on Friday, the first country in the world to do so. The ban by the reclusive, predominantly Buddhist state follows a decision by its national legislature in July to curb smoking to promote national well-being. “A total ban on the sale and smoking of tobacco has been imposed in the country from December 17,” said Lily Wangchuk, a spokeswoman at Bhutan’s embassy in New Delhi. “It is for the well-being of the people, to protect the environment and preserve our culture,” she told Reuters. People who cannot kick the habit can import tobacco for personal use, but at a 100 percent tax. They can only smoke indoors in the privacy of their homes. Shops and businesses defying the ban face fines starting at 225 US dollars, a steep amount by Bhutan’s standards, and repeat violators would risk losing commercial licenses. — MNA/Reuters

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**Bhutan bans smoking in public, tobacco sales**

**India’s textile and garment makers are cranking up capacity ahead of the lifting of global import quotas at the end of 2004 as they seek to cash in on a market in which the sky will be the limit.**

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**Indonesia to increase FDI to 1,800 million US dollars**

Indonesia’s textile and garment makers are cranking up capacity ahead of the lifting of global import quotas at the end of 2004 as they seek to cash in on a market in which the sky will be the limit. — Internet
Cambodian leaders meet with Chinese delegation

PHNOM PENH, 19 Dec—Cambodia reaffirmed on Saturday that Cambodia always pays great attention to strengthen the friendly relations with China, stressing that it will continue to push forward the all-round development of bilateral relationship.

Cambodia’s Senate President Chea Sim and Prime Minister Hun Sen met separately on Saturday with visiting Chinese delegation led by Chen Haosu, president of the Chinese People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC).

Both sides highly spoke the Sino-Cambodian traditional friendly relations initiated by Cambodia’s former King Norodom Sihanouk and Chinese leaders of older generations.

Hun Sen said that the royal government of Cambodia always takes the development of Cambodian-Sino friendly relations as the important part of its foreign policy.

When talking about the issue of Taiwan, Chea Sim and Hun Sen all reaffirmed that Cambodia will continue to stick to the “one China” policy and support China’s cause of reunification.

Former King Norodom Sihanouk offered the royal audience with Chen at the Royal Palace. He thanked the Chinese Government and its people for their great and sincere support and assistance extended to Cambodia.

He expressed the belief that the friendships between Cambodia and China will be further strengthened and developed.

Calling China as his second hometown, Sihanouk said he was greatly impressed with the achievements made by China in various fields and the greatly improving of China’s international status, what he said will be not only benefit the interests of the Chinese people, but also benefit the peace, stability and the development of the region and the world.

Chen arrived here on Friday to start his four-day visit at the invitation of Cambodia-China Friendship Association.

MNA/Xinhua

China’s productive resources sales hit $1.2t

BEIJING, 19 Dec—Chinese sales of productive resources in the first 11 months of this year has exceeded 10 trillion yuan (1.2 trillion US dollars), reaching 10.3 trillion yuan, a historical new high, according to official figures.

The Ministry of Commerce said Friday on its website (www.mofcom.gov.cn) that the year-on-year growth was 19.8 percent without accounting for inflation.

The ministry predicted that the annual growth will be 19 percent and the total volume will amount to 11.4 trillion yuan.

Thanks to China’s macro-economic policies, the productive resources market witnessed the high growth, according to the ministry. This has contributed to the increase in consumption structure, foreign trade, urbanization and the country’s strive to develop the western and northeastern region.

MNA/Xinhua

Indo-Pakistani cine stars to perform together for peace

MUMBAI, 19 Dec—Indian and Pakistani cine stars would perform together for the first time at the ‘Indo-Pakistani Mega Film Achievement Award’ in Dubai on 17 February next year.

“The Pakistani stars would dance to Indian music numbers while the Indian stars would perform to Pakistani music,” show director and actor Sohail Khan told reporters here Friday.

The function at Al-Vasal Stadium would see five stars each from India and Pakistan being felicitated and awarded for their achievement.

“It will also be the first opportunity for Indo-Pakistani film audiences to jointly vote for best film stars in 12 different categories,” according to Riyaz Bhati, MD, Show Blitz LLC, a leading Dubai-based event management company.

An eight member Indo-Pakistan jury would monitor the online polls.

The Indian jury would comprise Waheedah Rehman, Pulahul Nihalani, David Dhawan and Pooja Bhatt while the Pakistan jury would include Samina Peerzada, Naeem Baig, Mareena Khan and Mubassir Lokman.

The concert aims at providing a platform for artists from both countries to come together and seek to break the line of divide. It aims at using cinema as an effective tool to create an ambience for Indo-Pakistani peace and harmony, Khan said.

Bollywood stars, Salman Khan, Hrithik Roshan, Fardeen Khan, Zayed Khan, Shilpa Shetty, Urmila Matondkar, Priyanka Chopra, Mallika Arora Khan and Esha Deol will perform with Pakistani actors, Meera, Zara Sheikh, Soniya Khan, Resham and Saira Nasir among others.

MEXICO CITY, 18 Dec—A powerful cold snap hit the central and northern parts of Mexico, killing 26 people directly and indirectly, the authorities said Friday.

Of the victims, 11 died of hypothermia, 10 of carbon monoxide intoxication, and five of burns.

Thousands more suffer from respiratory diseases like flu or pneumonia.

December this year in Mexico has been harsher than usual due to the El Nino climate phenomenon in the Pacific Ocean, off the Ecuadorian and Peruvian coasts, respectively, said Raúl Rivera Palacios, director of civil protection and disaster management.

Mexico’s central and northern areas were hardest hit, he said.

However, the Mexico City authorities said nobody has died of cold in the capital, as homeless people are taken to shelters for protection.

MNA/Xinhua

Indian Army Chief to visit China

BEIJING, 19 Dec — India’s Chief of Army Staff, General C N C Vij, will visit China next week to hold talks on ways to enhance trust and confidence between the militaries of the two countries.

General Vij would be paying an official visit to China from December 22 to 29 and would have high-level talks on ways to enhance trust and confidence between the militaries of the two countries so as to develop bilateral relations as a whole.

“Details of the high-level visit are being worked out,” a senior Indian Embassy official told PTI, pointing out that it would be the first visit by an Indian Army Chief in over a decade to China, India’s biggest neighbour.

The last Indian Army Chief to visit China was General B C Joshi, who was here in July, 1994.

General Fu Quanyou was the last Chinese People’s Liberation Army (PLA) Chief of Staff to visit India in April-May of 1998.

During the historic visit to China by former Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee in June last year, the two sides signed the first-ever Joint Declaration in which they agreed on the need to broaden and deepen defence exchanges to enhance the mutual understanding and trust between the two Armed Forces.

China maps out plan for expressway network

BEIJING, 19 Dec—Friday’s executive meeting of China’s State Council, chaired by Premier Wen Jiabao, passed in principle a plan for the construction of China’s national expressway network.

Details of the plan were not disclosed, but participants said the meeting reached a decision that construction of the network must conform with China’s economic and social development and take into account regional development, urban and rural development and population distribution.

“Advanced technology and materials should be used to improve construction quality and cut cost,” says the decision. It also calls on reforming the expressway management mechanism.

China’s expressway construction embarked on a fast track since the 1990s. At the end of 2003, China has opened to traffic 29,700 kilometres of expressway, ranking the second in the world.

Cold snap kills 26 in Mexico

An Ariane 5G, sits atop its mobile launch platform in French Guiana in February 2004. —INTERNET
The Union of Myanmar has catchment areas whose annual water flow is 876 million acre feet. In the nation, Ayeyawady, Chindwin, Thanlwin, Sittoung, and Bilin rivers have more catchment areas than any other rivers. So, the Irrigation Department under the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation has been constructing dams and diversion weirs on the tributaries of these rivers to develop the agricultural sector and to supply water.

There are 11 major tributaries that flow into the Sittoung River, namely Hsinthay, Ngalaik, Paunglaung, Hswa, Khabaung, Pyu, Kim, Ye Nwe, Thaukyaykhat and Shwe Kyin creeks. The Khabaung Multipurpose Dam Project, being implemented at the place, 1.25 miles downstream the confluence of Khabaung and Paraing creeks in Ottwin Township, Bago Division, is part of the Sittoung Basin Development Project.

On completion, the Khabaung Multipurpose Dam Project will be able to irrigate 100,000 acres of farmlands, generate 30 megawatts, and prevent flooding of the Khabaung Creek. The earthen embankment of the dam is 920 feet long and 200 feet high. With 14,657-acre water surface, the facility can store 878,570 acre feet of water.

The catchment area of the Khabaung Creek is 418 square miles. The region has an average rainfall of 90 inches a year. The annual water flow of the Creek is 730,000 acre feet.

The Khabaung Multipurpose Dam Project comprises five parts — construction of (1) diversion tunnel, (2) earthen embankment, (3) spillway, (4) diversion weir two miles downstream the dam, and (5) irrigation system.

The construction of the diversion tunnel, main part of the Project, began in December 2001. The Irrigation Department has worked hard to overcome a lot of difficulties in constructing the diversion tunnel with 1,200 feet in length and 13.12 feet in diameter.

The Department was able to construct the breakthrough point on 15 February 2004, and fill concrete to the diversion tunnel in March. A temporary dam had to be constructed to divert the flow of the Khabaung Creek via the diversion tunnel, and it was completed on 20 January. Since 20 May 2004, the flow of the Creek has been diverted through the tunnel. All necessary arrangements are being made to resume the construction of the main embankment in the open season.

With water from the Khabaung Dam, 100,000 acres will be put under paddy, sugarcane and other crops. The region, in which the Khabaung Dam is located, has an average annual rainfall of 90 inches, so the facility has to irrigate farmlands of summer paddy and summer crops only.

Moreover, the project will be able to generate 120 million kilowatt hours a year. Therefore, the Project will help promote the income and living standard of local farmers and contribute to the economy of the State to a certain degree.

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(Translation: MS)

Myanma Alin: 11-11-2004

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Yeywa Hydel Power Project

(from page 1)

the prerequisite for the project had been completed and the facility was opened on 31 July 2004; and that on completion of the project, it will be able to supply power to Shwesayan, Baillin and Meiktila through sub-power stations.

Later, Senior General Than Shwe and party watched documentary video on the project.

Next, Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance, saying that it is necessary to complete the project as soon as possible to be able to meet the electricity demand of the State; that measures are to be taken in accord with the set standard; that serious attention is to be paid to the project as it is a huge one; and that supervisory measures are to be taken for minimizing loss and wastage.

Next, Senior General Than Shwe and party viewed the project from the briefing hall.

Next, Senior General Than Shwe and party inspected construction of Doltitawady River-crossing bridge (Yeywa), work being carried out with the use of heavy machinery and progress of the project.

Afterwards, Senior General Than Shwe and party proceeded to the site for construction of RCC Batching Plant, CVC Batching Plant and Ica Plant where Deputy Minister U Myo Myint and Minister Maj-Gen Tin Htut reported on arrangements for construction of RCC concrete plants and related buildings and measures being taken for conveying of concrete to the main dam by conveyor belt.

Next, Senior General Than Shwe presented a fruit basket to Project Director of Colenco Power Engineering Co Ltd Mr Fischer.

Next, Senior General Than Shwe and party proceeded to the power stations.

Minister U Myo Myint and Deputy Minister for Electric Power U Moe Myint.

The Joint Commission Meeting was preceded by the Senior Officials Meetings held on 15 and 16 December.

On 16 December, Deputy Foreign Minister U Maung Myint paid a courtesy call on Mr Le Cong Phung, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, at the latter’s office.

The delegation was welcomed by Directors-General and responsible personnel of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other Ministries concerned and Mr Pham Quang Khon, Ambassador of Viet Nam to the Union of Myanmar at the Yangon International Airport.

Deputy Foreign Minister U Maung Myint and Dr Bui Ba Bong, Vice Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, discussed bilateral relations, particularly to further promote the existing cooperation in the areas of agriculture, forestry, industry, investment, tourism, sports and prevention of crime. The two leaders signed the Agreed Minutes of the 5th Meeting of Myanmar-Viet Nam Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation on 17 December 2004.

The Joint Commission Meeting was preceded by the Senior Officials Meetings held on 15 and 16 December.
PLA Deputy Chief of General Logistics Department and party conclude goodwill visit

YANGON, 19 Dec — The visiting Chinese goodwill delegation led by Deputy Chief of General Logistics Department of PLA Lt-Gen Sun Zhiqiang left here by air this afternoon.

Before their departure for China, Member of the State Peace and Development Council Quartermaster-General Lt-Gen Thida Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo presented a photo album on goodwill visit and video tapes to Lt-Gen Sun Zhiqiang at the special lounge of the airport. Next, Quartermaster-General Lt-Gen Thida Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Chief of Staff (Navy) Captain Nyan Tun, Vice Quartermaster-General Maj-Gen Khin Maung Tun, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, Chinese Ambassador Mr Li Jinjun, Military Attaché Senior Colonel Ma Shoudong and officials saw off the Chinese delegation led by Lt-Gen Sun Zhiqiang at Yangon International Airport. — MNA

Chinese delegation visits Defence Services Museum, Drug Elimination Museum

YANGON, 19 Dec — Visiting Deputy Chief of General Logistics Department of PLA Lt-Gen Sun Zhiqiang and party, accompanied by Col San Aye Hla of the Ministry of Defence and Chinese Military Attache Senior Colonel Ma Shoudong, this morning visited Defence Services Museum on Shwedagon Pagoda Road. Officials of the museum conducted them round the booths of the museum. Next, the guests visited Drug Elimination Museum at the corner of Han-thawady and Kyandaw Roads in Kamayut Township. They viewed round booths at the museum. — MNA

Cultivation of export crops and promotion of new export items coordinated in Ayeyawady Division

YANGON, 19 Dec — A coordination meeting on cultivation of export crops and promotion of new export items was held at Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Office in Pathein yesterday.

Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South West Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing delivered an opening address. Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Giang Thein discussed extended cultivation of marketable export crops such as rubber, cashew and pepper, cultivation of local fruit, promotion of new export items and assistance of the ministry to growers and exporters.

The commander also said Ayeyawady Division is rich in land and marine resources such as agricultural, marine and forest products. If production and cultivation of crops increase greater economic progress will be made in the region. Especially, he said, rubber, an industrial raw material, is in great demand. He spoke of the need to grow it more.

Present at the meeting were members of Division PDC, chairman of District PDCs, departmental officials, chairmen and executives of Ayeyawady Division Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Rice Merchants Association, Rice Millers’ Association and businessmen.

The minister and guests inspected rice mill No 162 of Myanmar Agricultural Produce Trading in Pathein. — MNA

Yangon Command Commander attends opening ceremony of Danu national race Dhammayon

YANGON, 19 Dec — A ceremony to open Danu national race Dhammayon on Kyartawya Street in Bahan Township took place today. Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung formally opened it. Present on the occasion were Daw Khin Swe and Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Dr Myo Kyaw, Secretary of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council and members, Lt-Col Kyaw Tin, Chairman of Yangon West District and members, among others. Afterwards, Chairman of Danu national race Dhammayon construction committee U Soe Nyunt explained matters related to the Dhammayon. Next, Director-General Dr Myo Kyaw, Chairman U Soe Nyunt and U Tin Maung, a Danu national race, inaugurated the Dhammayon. The minister then unveiled the stone inscription, sprinkled it with scented water and the ceremony ended. — MNA

Industrialists urged to meet production target

YANGON, 19 Dec — Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin together with officials concerned arrived at South Dagon Industrial Zone of the Ministry of Industry-2 yesterday. At the briefing hall, the minister heard reports on annual production to exceed the target, income and expenditures, power supply, arrangements being made for running of machines with full capacity in dry cell workshop, battery container workshop, oxygen gas plant, acetylene gas plant, bolt and nut workshop and LNG plant presented by Managing Director U Kyaw Win of Myanmar Machine Tool and Electrical Industries.

Regarding the reports, the minister instructed officials to make efforts for production to meet the set standard during the period in 2004-2005 fiscal year, to make arrangements for distribution of manufactured goods to the markets, to create condition for production of plastic fire extinguishers, to take preventive measures against outbreaks danger of fire and to systematically store fuel. While the minister was inspecting battery container workshop, bolt and nut workshop, wire workshop and oxygen gas plant, managing director U Kyaw Win and general manager Daw Le Le Win reported production lines to him. After hearing the reports, the minister instructed officials to produce quality battery container more, to distribute bolts and nuts to Shwe Myanmar Shops and Industrial Zones, to make arrangements of test run of machines in wire workshop, to green industrial zone and its environs and to make efficient use of electricity and fuel. — MNA
Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, accompanied by Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Then and officials this morning gave instructions on departmental functions to officials at Myanmar Radio and Television.

At the meeting, Director-General of MRTV U Khin Maung Htay reported on organizational set-up of MRTV, income and expenditure, efficient use of electricity, construction of re-transmission stations and on-going works. Chief Engineer U Tin Wan also submitted progress reports in detail.

After hearing the reports, the minister instructed them to take fire prevention measures in the dry season, practise fire-fighting exercise in accord with the plan, step up TV and radio broadcasting systems, carry out telecasting of TV programmes with the use of fibre optic method, extend broadcast- ing of MRTV-4 programmes with momentum and supervise timely completion of buildings this year meeting the set standard.

The minister and officials inspected fire prevention measures for MRTV building, staff quarters and construction of buildings. Later, the minister gave necessary instructions to officials.

MNA

YANGON — The 22nd Conference of Engineering Organizations (CAFEO) concluded successfully thanks to the assistance and leadership of engineering societies of ASEAN countries, representatives of Canada, Australia, the UK and the US, members of MES and observers.

The Paper-reading Session was held at the designated places of Sedona Hotel this morning and afternoon. Six groups of the resource persons submitted 84 papers to the session. A total of 134 papers were presented to the two-day paper-reading session.

The ASEAN Federation of Engineering Organizations Governing Board, headed by Dr Sein Myint, decided to hold the 23rd CAFEO in Vientiane, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic. Next, the delegates participated in the discussions on development of the AFOE Governing Board.

Afterwards, the press conference on the 22nd CAFEO was held at 2 pm. Present were Chairman of MES Dr Sein Myint, ASEAN Engineers Commission Dr Gue See Sew, Advisers to AFOE Dr Choo Kok Beng and Ir Chitir Lilavivat, chairmen of engineering societies and leaders of the delegations, President of Myanmar Foreign Correspondents Club U Sao Kha Hpa and members and officials.

Ir Prof Abang Abdal Rahman, President of the Federation of Engineering Organisations, delivered an address. Ir Prof Chitir Lilavivat, chairman of engineering societies and leaders of the delegations, President of Myanmar Foreign Correspondents Club U Sao Kha Hpa and members and officials delivered an address.

Next, officials answered the queries raised by the journalists and the press conference concluded at 3.30 pm. At 4 pm, the closing ceremony of the 22nd CAFEO followed. At the ceremony, Dr Sein Myint presented prizes to AFOE Honorary Fellowship winners from Indonesia and Cambodia and ASEAN Engineering Outstanding Award winners from the Philippines, Indonesia, Singapore and Malaysia.

Dr Sein Myint presented SEO Honorary Member certificates to 14 persons—two from Thailand, nine from Myanmar, three from Cambodia and ASEAN Engineer Registrars certificates to 28 persons—one from Indonesia, two from Cambodia, three from the Philippines and 22 from Myanmar.

Next, Dr Sein Myint handed over the flag of the federation to New Chairman of the Federation-cum-Chairman of Laos Union of Science and Engineering Association Ir Chaophong Phanvongsak, to hold the 23rd CAFEO in December 2005 in Laos.

The new chairman extended greetings and explained matters concerning Laos PDR.

Later, Prof Dr Sein Myint expressed vote of thanks and the conference concluded successfully in the evening.

MNA

Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan inspects the site chosen for construction of staff quarter of MRTV. — MNA

A press conference on the 22nd ASEAN Engineering Organization-AFOE in progress. — MNA

ASEAN Federation of Engineering Organizations-AFOE in progress. — MNA

Functions of MRTV inspected

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

Commander, Rail Transportation Minister…

(From page 16)
On 17 December, the commander and the minister attended the ceremony to inaugurate biogas power plant in Thongwa model village in DaikU Township in the afternoon. The commander gave a speech.

Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint of Myanmar and Vice Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development of the SRV sign the Agreed Minutes of the 5th Meeting of Myanmar-Viet Nam Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation. (News on Page 8)

Rail Transportation Deputy Minister greets delegates of WBS

YANGON, 19 Dec — Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation Thura U Thaung Lwin, together with Managing Director of Myanmar Railways U Min Swe, departmental heads and officials, cordially greeted the delegates of World Buddhist Summit who arrived back from Mandalay by special train at Yangon Station at this morning.

Experience on IATSS Forum clarified

YANGON, 19 Dec — Clarification on experience of the 35th and 36th International Association of Traffic and Safety Sciences-IATSS Forum held in Japan took place at Traders Hotel on 17th December.

First, Ma May Swe Zin Myint of Nilay Naing Co Ltd and Tin Maung Oo of Win Trade Co Ltd explained their experiences and Director Mr Toshio Ashizawa replied to the queries raised by those present.

It is the IATSS Forum that the youths from ASEAN countries to exchange views on knowledge and cultures of Japan and respective ASEAN countries.

Youths, aged under 35, may contact IATSS Forum Myanmar Committee and IATSS Forum Alumni Association of UMFCCI.

District News

New school building handed over in Pyapon

PYAPON, 8 Dec — The handing over ceremony of new school building was held at Basic Education Primary School No 17 in Ward 14 of Pyapon Township on 1 December.

Present were Chairman of Pyapon District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Ye Htut, Secretary Maj Maung Htay, Chairman of Township PDC U Khin Maung Yi, District Education Officer U Thein San Aung, District Information and Public Relations Department Staff Officer U Aye Kyu and officials, teachers and students.

Chairman of Township PDC U Khin Maung Yi and District Education Officer U Thein San Aung formally opened the new school building. Next, officials of the construction committee handed over the building to the DEO. The school building is 54 feet long and 30 feet wide.

Labutta FSD demonstrates fire fighting skills

LABUTTA, 3 Dec — The fire fighting demonstration, organized by Myanma Petroleum Products Enterprise and Township Fire Services Department under the leadership of Labutta Township Peace and Development Council, was held at the filling station of MPPE in Labutta on 27 November.

Chairman of the Township Peace and Development Council U Myo Han and officials attended the demonstration. Head of the Township FSD U Soe Naung and FSD members demonstrated the fire fighting skill.

Construction of bridge inspected in Kawkareik

KYA-IN-SEIKKYI, 2 Dec — For ensuring smooth transportation between rural and urban areas in Kyain-Seikkyi Township, Deputy Commissioner of Kawkareik District General Administration Department U Soe Mya, Chairman of Kawkareik Township Peace and Development Council U Tin Win and officials on 16 November inspected the bridge on Kyakhatehau Road built by the Township Development Affairs Committee.

Engineer in-charge U Tun Hla Aung briefed the Deputy Commission and officials on construction matters of the bridge.

It was the development tasks of the township DAC in 2004-2005 fiscal year.

Mr Toshio Ashizawa of IATSS Forum clarifies the course at Traders Hotel on 17th December. — u
China to diversify film import source countries

**BEIJING, 18 Dec—** China will raise the quotas on imported films from other countries, said an official with the State Administration of Radio, Film and Television on Wednesday.

In recent years, China imported about 50 films annually, about a half were from United States.

Since many Chinese are unable to watch many films from other countries, the Film Bureau will make more efforts to show a diversified number of movies. In order to promote Chinese movies from being overwhelmed by foreign competition, the administration requires cinemas to spend at least two-thirds of the annual run time to domestic films.

However, more multi-screened cinemas are being built in China. The administration is actively promoting various types of investment — including private and foreign — to help build more cinemas, bringing more foreign movies to China, said Tong Gang, director of the bureau.

Guan Zheng, head of Huaxia Films and China Film Group, the two Chinese distributors of foreign films, will distribute six films from January to March of 2005. Among them, half are from the United Kingdom, according to Huaxia’s planning manager Guan Zheng.

“In order to enrich the market, ‘multi-nation, multi-type and multi-theme’ is our principle for importing films in 2005,” Guan said.

According to Tong, the proportion of imported movies depends on the scale of the Chinese film market. Currently, most Chinese cinemas are traditionally single cinemas, who can show only a limited number of movies. In order to protect Chinese movies from being overwhelmed by foreign competition, the administration requires the cinemas to spend at least two-thirds of the annual run time to domestic films.

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**Zimbabwe to prioritize development goals to reduce poverty**

**HARARE, 18 Dec—** The Zimbabwean Government said Thursday it will prioritize three Millennium Development Goals (MDG) to reduce poverty and combat the spread of HIV/AIDS pandemic in the country.

The goals include halving poverty and hunger, promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women and combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases by the Year 2015.

In a speech read on his behalf at the Poverty Reduction Forum (PRF) annual general meeting on Thursday, Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare permanent secretary, Lancester Museka urged stakeholders to support the government in its efforts to realize the goals. “While there are eight goals to be achieved by 2015, we have single- out three which we would like all stakeholders to give greater attention. These are the goals that dwell on poverty reduction, HIV/AIDS and gender,” he said.

He said Zimbabwe still faced a lot of challenges in terms of reducing poverty. The drop in the country’s inflation, which is still the world’s highest, did not necessarily translate into a decrease in prices, he said, hence the cost of living remained relatively high for the poor and vulnerable in society.

Speaking at the meeting, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) head for the Poverty and Economic Management Unit, Jessem Chipuka, revealed that Zimbabwe had produced the first comprehensive MDG report with the 2015 national targets on all the development goals.— MNA/Xinhua

**Suez Canal authorities will use chemicals to disperse crude oil spill**

**ISMAILIA (Egypt), 18 Dec—** Egyptian Suez Canal authorities are trying to direct a crude oil spill away from Port Said where it could damage ships and equipment, a canal official said on Friday.

The official said the authorities were attempting to direct the 20,000-metre (13-mile) long slick, heading northwards, towards the port, to an empty waiting area normally used by ships crossing the canal, where it could be dispersed using chemicals.

“If the slick reaches Port Said it could damage ships’ engines and quays,” the official said.

“We are trying to direct the slick to an empty waiting area about 10 kilo-metres from the port... We will use chemicals to disperse it,” he said, adding canal traffic had not been affected by the spill.

The official said six ships were in Port Said on Friday but added it was not possible to say if the port would have to be closed if the slick reached it.

About 10,000 cubic metres of crude oil leaked from a Kuwaiti tanker on Tuesday after it collided with a quay in the canal.

The canal, nationalized in 1956, is a major source of foreign exchange for the Egyptian Government.— MNA/Reuters

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Pfizer Inc finds heart attack risk

NEW YORK, 19 Dec — Pfizer Inc said it found an increased risk of heart attacks and strokes for patients taking high dosages of its top-selling arthritis painkiller Celebrex, the same problem that led to the withdrawal of its one-time competitor Vioxx.

The company said it has no plans to remove Celebrex from the market, but the disclosure on Friday sent Pfizer’s shares tumbling because of fears that it could cripple sales of what had been the most-prescribed drug for treating arthritis.

Acting FDA Commissioner Lester Crawford said the government is advising physicians to consider prescribing drugs other than Celebrex to their patients.

But doctors have already been inundated with phone calls from worried patients and say they will curtail writing prescriptions for the drug. Shares of Pfizer, a member of the Dow index and the world’s largest pharmaceutical maker, plunged 3.23 US dollars, or 11.15 per cent, to 25.75 US dollars in late afternoon trading on the New York Stock Exchange. The decline wiped out almost 25 billion US dollars of Pfizer’s market value.

The drug industry has already been under fire for numerous high profile debacles: Merck &amp; Co.’s withdrawal of Vioxx, the failure of Chiron Corp to deliver half the country’s flu vaccines, and disclosures that drug companies had stifled negative clinical trial data from studies examining anti-depressant use in children.

Both Celebrex and Vioxx are a type of drug called cox-2 inhibitors. Vioxx was pulled from the market in September because it doubled patients’ risk of heart attack and strokes.

National Institutes of Health director Dr Elias Zerhouni said that he ordered a full review of the more than 40 agency-supported studies involving cox-2 inhibitors.

News of the increased heart risk for patients using Celebrex came in one of two long-term cancer prevention trials.

The National Cancer Institute, which was conducting the study for Pfizer, said patients in the clinical trial taking 800 milligrams of Celebrex had a 3.4 times greater risk of cardiovascular events compared to a placebo. For patients in the trial taking 400 milligrams of Celebrex the risk was 2.5 times greater. The average duration of treatment in the trial was 33 months.

AMA concerned over teen use of sweet alcohol drinks

CHICAGO, 18 Dec — Sweet alcoholic drinks aggressively marketed to young people in the United States are anything but “cool and fashionable” and are luring troubling numbers of teens — especially girls — to engage in underage drinking, the American Medical Association said.

A nationwide AMA poll of 741 youngsters aged 12 to 18 found that 31 per cent of girls and 19 per cent of boys had consumed drinks some call “alco-pop” or “malternatives” in the past six months.

The products include fruit-flavoured malt drinks with soda pop-like flavours and packaging that critics say disguises the alcoholic content. The beverages, such as Mike’s Hard Lemonade and Smirnoff Ice, are this generation’s version of wine coolers.

Teen girls said they drank the sweetened beverages more than any other alcoholic drinks, while women 21 and over ranked them as their least-consumed alcoholic beverage, a second poll showed.

Jeff Becker, president of the Beer Institute, an industry trade group, said Thursday that brewers “share the AMA’s concern over illegal underage drinking regardless of the type of beverage being consumed.”

“Flavored alcohol beverages are not new products in the marketplace, and marketing for these is directed at adults,” Becker said. — MNA/AP

Magnetic bracelets can help ease pain of hip and knee

LONDON, 18 Dec — Magnetic bracelets can help to ease the pain of osteoarthritis of the hip and knee, British researchers said on Friday.

In a study of nearly 200 sufferers of the joint disease, patients who wore a standard-strength magnetic bracelet reported having less pain than those who wore weaker or non-magnetic bracelets for 12 weeks.

“We found evidence of a beneficial effect of magnetic wrist bracelets on the pain of osteoarthritis of the hip and knee,” Professor Edzard Ernst, of the Peninsula Medical School in Plymouth, southern England, said in a report in the British Medical Journal.

Although the results are consistent with previous studies that analysed magnetic therapy, the scientists said they did not know whether the reported improvement was due to the bracelet, the placebo effect, a believed benefit from a treatment that has no effect, or both.

Whatever the mechanism, the benefit from magnetic bracelets seems clinically useful,” Ernst and his colleagues added. The patients wearing the higher-strength magnetic bracelets reported the biggest improvement, which the scientists said suggested the magnetic strength is important. The benefits were in addition to improvements from standard treatments for the illness.

MNA/Reuters

2006 Oscar date selected for 5 March

LOS ANGELES, 18 Dec — US Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences has selected March 5 as the date for the 78th Academy Awards in 2006, Academy President Frank Pierson announced Thursday.

The Academy’s Board of Governors decided that the 2006 Oscar show will fall a week later in the calendar than in 2004 and 2005, before returning to late February in 2007.

The step back into March in 2006 was designed as a one-year expedient to avoid a conflict with the closing ceremonies of the 2006 Winter Olympics scheduled to fall on the Academy’s natural date of Sunday, February 26. — MNA/Xinhua

France launches inquiry into Germain railway’s train fire

STRASBOURG (France), 19 Dec — A French judge has launched a judicial inquiry into the responsibility of Germany’s Deutsche Bahn railway in a train fire that killed 12 people in 2002, a judicial source said on Saturday.

The state-owned railway is being probed for involuntary homicide, injuries and damages to victims of the flash fire on board an overnight Paris-Vienna express as it passed through Nancy in eastern France, the source said.

Five Americans, three Germans and two Russians were killed in the blaze. The US victims included an eight-year-old boy and a 12-year-old girl. A Greek and a Hungarian also died.

The German conductor of the Deutsche Bahn sleeper car hit by the fire, which also injured nine people, was put under judicial investigation in March.

Investigators said safety measures were lax in the train.

MNA/Reuters

Baby girl cut from mother’s womb

MARYVILLE (Missouri), 19 Dec — A baby who was cut from her mother’s womb during a grisly slaying has been found in good health, bringing relief to authorities who had spent a day frantically searching for the little girl.

Two people were taken into custody, and the baby was taken to a hospital in Topeka, Kansas, authorities said. Nodaway County Sheriff Ben Espey said during a news conference in Maryville Friday he was confident the little girl taken from Skidmore had been found, noting that the Amber Alert issued for the baby had been cancelled.

FBI agent Rick Thornton said the father has been reunited with his child.

The discovery of the baby and possible arrests came a day after authorities arrived at 23-year-old Bobbi Jo Stinnett’s home and found her nearly dead. Paramedics tried to revive her, but she was pronounced dead at a hospital. — MNA/AP

AMA concerned over teen use of sweet alcohol drinks

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Juventus stays clear after holding AC Milan 0-0

TURIN (Italy), December 19 — Juventus and champions AC Milan drew 0-0 at the Delle Alpi Stadium on Saturday, leaving Juve four points clear at the top of Serie A after a game dominated by the visitors.

The champions were the sharpest out of the blocks and went close in the fourth minute when Brazilian Kaka fed Shevchenko on the right and the Ukrainian fired in a low cross which Hernan Crespo was just unable to connect with.

Shevchenko then beat Buffon, but not the post, with a firmly struck low drive from around 20 metres out as Juve struggled to cope with the visitor’s speed and movement.

Argentine Crespo and Dutchman Clarence Seedorf both tested Juventus keeper Gianluigi Buffon while Juve’s first effort on goal did not come until close to halftime when Gianluca Zambrotta’s drive from the left was well dealt with by Dida. — MNA/Reuters

Juventus’ Mauro German Camoranesi, left, and AC Milan’s Andrea Pirlo challenge for the ball during the Italian first division soccer league match between Juventus and Milan at Turin’s Delle Alpi Stadium, northern Italy, on 18 Dec. 2004. — INTERNET

Porto remain top at Portuguese Premier League

LISBON, 19 Dec — Boavista squandered a chance to take a two-point lead at the top of the Portuguese Premier League when they lost 3-0 at Braga while Benfica closed the gap with a 1-0 home win over Penafiel on Saturday.

Brazilian defender Angel, unmarked inside the box, headed home a free kick by Armando Petit after 22 minutes to secure Benfica’s win. Braga, who climbed to fourth on 26, one point behind Boavista, opened the scoring in the third minute, with a goal by defender Luis Lourenco following a corner. Boavista defender Tiago put Braga 2-0 up with an own-goal before halftime and French substitute Bahia completed the rout seven minutes from time. — MNA/Reuters

English Premier League standings

LONDON, 19 Dec — Following are the standings of English Premier League after matches played on Saturday (tabulated under games played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, against and points):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Games</th>
<th>Wins</th>
<th>Draws</th>
<th>Losses</th>
<th>Goals For</th>
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Birmingham City crush West Bromwich Albion 4-0

LONDON, 19 Dec — Birmingham City cruised to their second Premier League derby win in six years, crushing bottom side West Bromwich Albion 4-0 on Saturday to leave manager Bryan Robson still seeking his first win. Albion have picked up just one point in six games since Robson took over as manager and face an uphill struggle to escape relegation in the second half of the season.

Birmingham, who won 2-1 at city rivals Aston Villa on Sunday, went three goals up in the first half hour at St. Andrews.

Wales midfielder Robbie Savage converted a third-minute penalty after Clinton Morrison had been bundled over and Irish striker Morrison added a second when he was left unmarked to fire home Darren Carter’s cutback. — MNA/Reuters

Manchester United’s John O’Shea, right, scores his team’s fifth goal against Crystal Palace during their English Premier League soccer match at Old Trafford Stadium, Manchester, England, on 18 Dec, 2004. — INTERNET

Chelsea outclass Norwich 4-0

LONDON, 19 Dec — Chelsea showed no mercy in extending their Premier League lead to six points on Saturday, brushing aside promoted Norwich City 4-0 while second-placed Everton were held to a 0-0 draw at Blackburn Rovers.

First-half goals from DLCuff, Frank Lampard and Arjen Robben and a super Dider Drogba header late on handed Jose Mourinho a side a comfortable win at Stamford Bridge.

Chelsea, who have now hit four goals in six of their last nine league games, hold an eight-point comfortable win at Stamford Bridge.

Costacurta replaced him in the centre of defence and in the skipper’s role.

Third goal against Norwich during the Premiership match at Stamford Bridge in London. Chelsea won their second Premier League derby win in six days, completing a satisfactory week by following a difficult situation for (goalkeeper) Peter Cech but to be

but Brett Emerton’s deflected shot struck the woodwork.

Mourinho told Sky Sports. “I cannot remember a

and never really recovered. But you can’t take this
difficult for but our front players are very dangerous —
on the counter-attack they are very difficult to stop.

“The second half was different, we had full control of the game.”

A defeat was never in doubt once Duff was gifted his seventh goal of the season on 10 minutes from a

wayward pass.

More slack defending led to Dutch winger Robben squaring for Lampard to crash an unstoppable shot into the roof of the net for his 50th Premier League goal and Robben hit the third just before halftime. Substitute Drogba added the gloss with a free header from Duff’s corner seven minutes from time.

Everton remained in an automatic Champions League place but missed the chance to notch their 12th victory against a resilient Blackburn side who edged out of the relegation zone by taking a point at Ewood Park.

Blackburn, without a home league win since September, could have taken all three in stoppage time but Brett Emerton’s deflected shot struck the woodwork.

Everton boss David Moyes said his side were not at their best. “We were slow coming out of the blocks and never really recovered. But you can’t take this point (from the draw) in isolation. We’ve taken seven points out of nine in our last three games.”

Middlesbrough leapfrogged Manchester United into fourth, completing a satisfactory week by following up Wednesday’s UEFA Cup win over Partizan Belgrade by seeing off Aston Villa 3-0 at the Riverside.

Answers to yesterday’s

Crossword Puzzle

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MNA/Reuters

14 THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Monday, 20 December, 2004
Annan indicates difficult to meet G-4 demand on UNSC

WASHINGTON, 19 Dec — United Nations Secre-
tary-General Kofi Annan has indicated that it
would be difficult to meet the demand of the group
of four countries for permanent membership of the
Security Council with the right of veto.

“I don’t think anyone disagrees with the need
for better representation in the Council. So the ques-
tion is which option are they going to adopt at the
end of the day,” Annan said referring to the bid by
India, Japan, Brazil and Germany to become perma-
nent member of the UN Security Council.

He said it should be possible for the member
nations to agree on one or the other options sug-
gested by the High Level Panel for UN Reform.

The panel has suggested having six new perma-
nent members to the UNSC who will not have the
right to veto.

Another recommendation of the panel was to
create a new category of eight four-year renewable
term seats and one new two-year non-permanent
and non-renewable seat, divided among the major regional
areas of the world.

“Obviously there are a group of countries de-
termined to get permanent seats and are campaign-
ing very much for that and there are others in the
organization which are determined to prevent them
from getting permanent seats,” Annan said.

The expansion of the Council is, however, op-
posed by some who say it will slow down decisions.
But Annan said it (expansion) is a tradeoff. It is
better to have a democratic and representative body
even if it takes a bit longer to arrive at decisions.
He said tomorrow’s UN must have reformed and revi-
talized institutions. The Security Council must re-
fect the 21st Century world and not the world of
1945 as it is now.

Earlier, Annan met outgoing US Secretary of
State Colin Powell and held discussions on a wide
range of issues. — MNA/PITI

Nissan launches new products in Mideast

ABU DHABI, 19 Dec — Japan’s Nissan Motor
Company announced its Infiniti brand would
launch latest luxury vehicle lineup in the Middle
East, Times of Oman daily reported Saturday.

The new range of Infiniti vehicles would make
the Middle East its second regional market
outside of North America, said Carlos Ghosn, president and
CEO of Nissan Motor Co. Ltd.

“We are convinced that Infiniti, following its
success in the fiercely competitive US market,
will strongly appeal to Middle East luxury vehi-
cle customers,” said the president, adding the company would sell a
complete range of Infiniti vehicles, sup-
ported by eight dealers across the region.

In early 2005, a new range of Infiniti cars and
luxury sport utility vehicles (SUV) will be avail-
able to customers in the Middle East, which
includes the FX crossover and G35 sports sedan and coupe QX56 full-
size SUV.

WEATHER

Sunday, 19 December, 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)
above normal in lower Sagaing Division, (8°C) below
normal in eastern Shan State, (3°C) below normal in
Yangon Division, (7°C) to (4°C) below normal in the
northern Shan, Chin, Kayah and Kayin States. Magway,
Bago and Taninthayi Divisions and normal in the
remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were
Hima (“C”), Kengtung and Namsam (“C”) each and
Pulong (“3°C”).

Maximum temperature on 18-12-2004 was 91°F.
Minimum temperature on 19-12-2004 was 54°F. Rela-
tive humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 18-12-2004 was 77%.
Total sunshine hours on 18-12-2004 was (8.4) hours.

Rainfalls on 19-12-2004 were nil at Yangon Airport,
Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfall since
1-1-2004 were 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 5 mph
from West at (21:30) hours MST on 18-12-2004.
Bay inference: According to the observation at
(09:30) hours MST today, yesterday’s low pressure area
over southwest Bay still persist. Weather is partly cloudy
to cloudy in the South Bay and South Andaman Sea and
generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 20-12-2004: Possi-
ble of isolated light rain in Taninthayi Division and
weather will be partly cloudy in Rakhibye State, Ayeyawady
and Yangon Divisions and generally fair in the
remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (40%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of
isolated light rain in extreme Southern Myanmar areas.
Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for
20-12-2004: Partly cloudy.
Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for
20-12-2004: Fair 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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**Yangon, 19 Dec** — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe this afternoon inspected supply of irrigation water to the field and installation of 160 KVA transformer near Malit Village in Hlegu Township.

Moreover, the commander also oversaw the cultivation of summer paddy in the special model field. Officials concerned reported to him on arrangement for supply of irrigation water to cultivate summer paddy. Next, the commander attended to the needs.

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe and party also inspected tarring of the 12-mile long and 18-ft-wide circular road linking No 1 and No 2 highways and progress of the construction of Balar No-2 Bridge on the circular road. Later, they arrived at the paddy field between Hlegu and Mingaladon townships where Yangon Command has been growing paddy. The commander inspected the water pumping project aimed at irrigating 83 acres of paddy field in summer, digging of irrigation canals, construction of the pump house and arrangements for installation of 40 hp motor and 315 KVA transformer.

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**Yangon, 17 Dec** — The gold foils donation for Shwemawdaw Pagoda and second cash donation ceremony were held at Kyaukpadaung Dhammayon in the precinct of the pagoda in Bago on 17 October. Present on the occasion were Dhamma lankara Monastery Sayadaw Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Bhaddanta Visuddha and members of the Sangha, Chairman of Bago Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Southern Command Maj-Gen Ko Ko and wife Daw Sao Noon Khun Hsam, USDA Central Executive Committee member Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min, Col Than Shwe of Indaing Station, officials and wellwishers.

The commander and wife and the minister offered gold foils for the pagoda to Ovadaçariya Sayadaws. Next, the commander, the minister and officials accepted cash donated towards the funds for offering gold foils to the pagoda. The cash donation amounted to over K 62.33 million.

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**INSIDE**

Irrigation Department under the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation has been constructing dams and diversion weirs on the tributaries of the major rivers to develop the agricultural sector and to supply water.

**Page (7)**

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**Senior General Than Shwe hears reports on Yeywa Hydel Power Plant Project by Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut. (News on page 1) — MNA**

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**Agriculture and regional development tasks inspected in Hlegu, Mingaladon**

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**Commander Rail Transportation Ministry attend cash donation for Shwemawdaw Pagoda, opening of bio-gas plant**