Established 1914

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

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Speedy completion of Manipura Multipurpose Dam Project urged
The dam will benefit Kalay, Kalaywa, Gangaw Regions
Senior General Than Shwe inspects irrigation projects in Chin State and Magway Division

YANGON, 21 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, member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint, 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 North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye, Brig-Gen Khin Maung Aye of Kalay Station, No 33 LID Commander Brig-Gen Tin Tun Aung, Brig-Gen Nyi Tun of Kyigon Station and senior military officers and departmental heads. They were welcomed at Kalay Airport by Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye and officials, Senior General Than Shwe and party arrived at Manipura Multipurpose Dam Project to be implemented by the Irrigation Department in Falam Township, Chin State by helicopter. They were welcomed there by Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Ohn Myint and officials. At the briefing hall, Senior General Than Shwe heard a report presented by Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Ohn Myint and officials. At the briefing hall, Senior General Than Shwe heard a report presented by Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Ohn Myint and officials.

Annual average flow of water in Manipura River is 7 million acre-feet and feasibility study for construction of Manipura Dam is being conducted; the dam will not only benefit about 100,000 acres of farmland but also prevent annual floods in the lower part of Kalay. Moreover, the dam will be able to generate 540 megawatt.
Strive for speedy completion of river water pumping stations

Sufficient water supply for the agriculture is the key to our efforts to build an agro-based industrialized nation. Therefore, the government implements huge water supply projects with the intention of ensuring regional development, greening dry and arid regions and raising the living standard of the people.

For the development of agriculture, dams and river water pumping stations are being built with the use of huge sums of money and manpower. A total of 168 dams and 271 river water pumping stations have been built so far and 21 million acres of farmland can now be irrigated. In Mandalay Division, Lawkananda, Kyaukka, Ngathayauk and Thakaukngu river water pumping stations are under construction.

In his meeting with responsible officials at the project site of the Lawkananda river water pumping station in NyaungU Township, Mandalay Division, on 13 November, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe said that, in the areas that rely on rain and river water for agricultural purposes, it should be a must for farmers to grow rice in the rainy season and other crops such as cotton and edible oil crops in the other seasons. Only in this way, can self-sufficiency in rice and generation of income be ensured, the Head of State added.

Soil for farmers, though living along the Ayeyawaddy river, find it very hard to get enough water. River water pumping stations are the only way to solve this problem. Therefore, all those responsible should strictly follow the guidance given by the Head of State and try their level best to complete river water pumping stations under construction according to the schedule.

The Water Resources Utilization Department under the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation is constructing the Lawkananda river water pumping station so that farmers in the region west of NyaungU Township can engage in agriculture all the year round. The Kyaukku river water pumping station is to be finished in October 2005 and, on completion, it will be able to irrigate 3,000 acres of farmland all the year round. Moreover, river water pumping stations are being built in Myingyan Township, Taungtha Township and Ngazun Township.

We would like to call on all those responsible to try their best to ensure the speedy success of the projects they are in charge of so that local people will be able to enjoy the benefits sooner.

Traditional Medicines and Medical Equipment Exhibition continues

YANGON, 21 Dec—The Fifth Traditional Medicines and Medical Equipment Exhibition continued for the sixth day today at the Tatmadaw Convention Hall here.

A variety of traditional medicines are displayed at 134 booths by private medical houses, Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners’ Association-MTMPA and Medical Research Department (Lower Myanmar) participated in the exhibition. The exhibition will be kept open till 25 December.

Commander inspects construction of bridges in Myaungmya District

YANGON, 21 Dec—Chairman of Ayeyawaddy Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing on 19 December inspected construction of Pammawady River crossing bridge (Myinkaseik) on Patheto-Myaungmya Road in Myaungmya Township and attended to the needs.

Now, local people have been traveling 68 miles from Patheto to Myaungmya via Patheto-Emme Road. However, on completion of the bridge, the distance of the route between Patheto and Myaungmya will be 34 miles.

On completion, the bridge will be 1,260 ft long.

Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing also inspected Emme Creek Bridge construction site near Kwinkalay Village and the 240 ft long and 24 ft wide reinforced bridge is on Myaungmya-Emme Road in Emme Township.

Information Minister receives guests

YANGON, 21 Dec—Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan received Mr Larvy C L Ng, Sale Director of Coates Brothers Malaysia SDN BHD, Malaysia, and party at his office this afternoon.

Also present during the call were Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein, Managing Director of News and Periodicals is Enterprise Col Soe Win, General Manager of Printing and Publishing Enterprise U Thet Soe and officials.

Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan received Sales Director of Coates Brothers (Malaysia) SDN BHD Mr Larvy C. L Ng — MNA

Myeik Open Golf Championship concludes

YANGON, 21 Dec—The Myeik Open Golf Championsh ip- on, organized by the Coastal Region Command, Myanmar PGA and Myanmar Golf Federation, mainly sponsored by Rothsman of Pall Myanmar Pte Ltd, concluded and its prize presentation ceremony was held at Myeik Golf Club yesterday evening.

After the 18-hole event, in amateur level, Joint-Secretary of MGFU Ye Htet Doe presented a prize of Longest Drive to Aung Myint Soe and a prize of Nearest Pin to Kyaw Kyaw Win and Executive of the MGF U Ko Ko Lay, a prize of Most Par to U Myo Nyunt, a prize of Birdies to Kyaw Kyaw Win and a prize of Eagle to Aung Myint Soe. In professional level, resident representative of Myanmar U Aung Hla Han presented consolation prizes to Soe Kyaw Naing (Srixon), Aung Win and Min Naung.

Next, Manager U Kyaw Soe Lwin of Rothsman of Pall Myanmar Pte Ltd presented prizes to Daily Best winners in amateur level and Col Than Nge of the Coastal Region Command, to Daily Best winners in professional level.

Afterwards, Brig-Gen Zin Yaw of Myeik Golf Club presented prizes to Tun Myat Oo, Aung Myint Soe and Kyaw Kyaw Win, Yan Lin and Myo Nyunt in the handicap 13-24 amateur level and the Deputy Commander of Coastal Region Command, to Bo Bo, Nay Lin Tun and Zaw Zin Win in the handicap 0-12 amateur level.

Next, Manager U Kyaw Soe Lwin presented souvenirs to Brig-Gen Zin Yaw of Myeik Golf Club. The Commander extended greetings on the occasion and a dinner was hosted to those present.

Co-sponsors of the championship are Air Manlay, Myanmar Brewery Ltd, Alpine Purified Drinking Water, KM Golf Centre, Maruman, Tour Stage, Wilson, Srixon, Grand Slam (Muning Wear), Accel International Co Ltd (Canon), Sun Far Travels and Tours (Hole-In-One Sponsor) and Myeik Golf Club and main sponsor, Han Event Management.
Vietnam focuses on all-people national defence

HANOI, 21 Dec—Vietnam will continue to attach special importance to building up the all-people national defence more strongly to meet the demand for the country’s protection in the new period, Vietnamese President Tran Duc Luong has stressed.

“Building up the all-people national defence, the people’s Armed Forces and the people’s Army towards professionalism and modernization to act as a core for all people to well fulfill national defence tasks is an objective requirement of the national construction and protection,” the President said when addressing the ceremony of the 60th founding anniversary of the Vietnam People’s Army held here on Monday.

The country will develop the national defence industry, gradually meeting demand for weapons and equipment of its Armed Forces.

To do this, it is necessary to “mobilize civil industries to serve national defence... and pay attention to researching on war types and applying advanced military technologies and techniques flexibly,” he said.

At the ceremony, Vietnamese Defence Minister Pham Van Tra said the people’s Armed Forces attach great importance to reinforcing ties with people, helping them in all fronts, including poverty reduction, illiteracy removal and disaster prevention.

“The Armed Forces continue to reinforce and develop economic and national defense zones in strategic localities, and help local residents deal with social issues,” he said.

CPC willing to promote development of China-Venezuela relations

BEIJING, 21 Dec—The Communist Party of China (CPC) will actively develop good party-to-party relations with the Movement Fifth Republic (MFR) of Venezuela in a bid to promote constant and stable development of the China-Venezuela relations, said a senior official here on Monday.

Wang Jiarui, head of the International Department of the CPC Central Committee, made the remark when meeting with a delegation of the MFR led by Nicolas Maduro.

Wang spoke highly of the current progress of the China-Venezuela relations and said the CPC is willing to develop good relations with the MFR in the spirit of enhancing understanding, learning from each other, developing friendship and promoting cooperation.

Nicolas Maduro said the success of Prime Minister Mahmond Singh and his visiting Malaysian counterpart Abdul Badawi after the two leaders held wide-ranging discussions on a host of bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual concern.

In addition, 12 business-to-business agreements were signed at a luncheon meeting. Badawi had with CII and FICCI, two major amalgams of Indian industries.

S Korea’s Kia Motors to buy stake in Malaysia auto assembler

KUALA LUMPUR, 21 Dec—South Korean automaker Kia Motors is buying a stake of at least 15 per cent in Malaysia auto assembler Naza Automotive Manufacturing in a bid to develop a regional auto hub in Malaysia, a news report said Monday.

The planned purchase probe finalized next year, Kia Motors Corp.’s Kuala Lumpur-based Asia-Pacific managing director, Young S Koh, told the Business Times daily.

Naza Automotive, a unit of privately owned conglomerate Naza Group, operates a 300-million-ringgit (80-million-US-dollar) auto assembly plant in Malaysia’s northern Kedah State.

“The factory will eventually be used as a regional hub for Kia,” Koh was quoted as saying. “Kia has big plans with Naza for Malaysia and the region.”

Iraq bombers ‘are having an effect’, says Bush

WASHINGTON, 21 Dec—In a sobering assessment of the Iraqi war, President Bush acknowledged Monday that Americans’ resolve has been shaken by grisly scenes of death and destruction and he pointedly criticized the performance of US-trained Iraqi troops: “No question about it,” he said. “The bombers are having an effect.”

At a year-end news conference, the president also refused to say whether his strategy for overhaul- ing Social Security would entail cutting benefits, raising the retirement age or limiting benefits for wealthier workers. “Don’t bother to ask me,” Bush said, adding that he would not tip his hand until he starts negotiating with Congress next year.

For 53 minutes, Bush fielded questions on international and domestic affairs. It was his 17th formal news conference, held one day before he flies to the presidential retreat at Camp David for a vacation that will stretch into early next year and include a stay at his Texas ranch.

India, Malaysia sign three agreements

NEW DELHI, 21 Dec—Giving a major boost to their ties, India and Malaysia on Monday signed three agreements on cooperation in satellite sector and for development of 13.85 billion rupees Hyderabad International Airport project.

The accord on pooling their satellite capacities was inked by the Antirix Corporation Limited, the commercial arm of the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) and MEASAT Global Bhd.

The joint venture company, proposed to be formed under the agreement, is seen as a major move to develop a satellite neighbourhood for millions of broad-casting and telecommunica- tions customers across the wider Asia-Pacific Region.

It will be equally owned by the two companies and represents a significant break-through and a major step in the ongoing cooperation between the Indian and Malaysian satellite sectors.

It will leverage capacity from both the high-powered Indian INSAT and Malaysian MEASAT satellite fleet to provide commercial satellite service across the wider Asia-Pacific Region.

As a result, the two satellite companies will be able to leapfrog satellite services to across the Asia-Pacific region.

The joint venture company, proposed to be formed under the agreement, is seen as a major move to develop a satellite neighbourhood for millions of broadcasting and telecommunications customers across the wider Asia-Pacific Region.

Turkish criticism of US military action in Iraq

ANKARA, 20 Dec—The Turkish Foreign Min- istry condemned on Sunday the day attack in which five Turkish security offi- cers were killed in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul.

The ministry said that the Turkish convoy carry- ing eight security officers who would take over the mission in the Turkish Embassy in Baghdad was attacked by gunmen last Friday.

Five Turkish security officers and two Iraqi drivers were killed in the attack, the minis- try said.

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Malaysia puts importance to widening ties with India

NEW DELHI, 21 Dec — Seeking deepening of his country’s relations with India, visiting Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said here Monday he expected his visit to help widen the area of bilateral ties between the two countries.

“We want to deepen and expand our relations with India covering all areas,” the Press Trust of India quoted Badawi as saying after being presented ceremonial reception at the Presidential Palace.

Badawi said he hoped his visit would help widen ties between the two nations and make them more comprehensive.

The Malaysian Premier arrived here Sunday on a five-day state visit that is expected to give a boost to bilateral economic cooperation in diversified areas.

Badawi, who is on his first visit to India after assuming office in October last year, will hold wide ranging talks with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on a host of important bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual concern.

Threats posed by terrorism, UN reform and Iraq situation are among the issues expected to figure during the parleys.

Badawi will call on President A P J Abdul Kalam, Vice-President Bhairon Singh Shekhawat and hold meetings with Cabinet ministers during his stay here.

Badawi is accompanied by a high-level delegation, including Foreign Minister Syed Hamid Albar, Works Minister S. Samy Vellu, and Energy and Minister of Higher Education Shafie Mohd Salleh.

Malaysia is India’s largest trading partner among ASEAN (Association of South East Asian Nations) countries.


Obscure Russian bidder buys YUKOS subsidiary

MOSCOW, 20 Dec— An obscure Russian bidder — Baikal Finance Group — on Sunday won an auction for a 76.79 per cent stake in oil giant YUKOS’ core production subsidiary Yuganskneftegaz with 260.75 billion roubles (9.35 billion US dollars).

The auction kicked off at 3:59 pm Moscow Time (1259 GMT) Sunday, the Interfax news agency reported.

A five-member auction commission conducted the auction, in which two bidders were allowed to take part, Interfax said.

Another bidder, the state-controlled Gazprom, had widely been expected to be the winner of the Yuganskneftegaz.

Yuganskneftegaz, which produces 60 per cent of YUKOS’ oil output, was auctioned at a starting price of 246.75 billion roubles (about 8.63 billion dollars), less than half the company’s true estimated value.


Thai PM reiterates commitment against drugs

BANGKOK, 21 Dec— Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra has reiterated his commitment to removing all drugs from Thailand, saying that the government would continue to seize the assets of narcotics dealers, the Thai News Agency reported on Monday.

Statistics from the Anti Money Laundering Office (AMLO) show that during the government’s “war on drugs” campaign from 26 February, 2001 to 30 November, 2004, the government has seized assets worth 2.634 billion baht (66.68 million US dollars) in 320 drug-related cases.

Warning that there would be no let-up in assets seizures, Thaksin said Sunday on that drug traffickers had to learn that their trade was ultimately not worthwhile in terms of financial gains.

At the same time, drug dealers could face the death penalty, making them both poor and dead, he said.


Hu Jintao urges Macao to beef up education

MACAO, 21 Dec— Chinese President Hu Jintao said here Monday the Macao Special Administrative Region (SAR) government should take a long-term view and step up personnel training for Macao’s future development.

Hu made the remarks while attending a celebration gathering marking the 5th anniversary of Macao’s return to the Motherland and the inauguration of the second-term government of the Macao SAR.

“Competition in the world today boils down to competition in talent,” Hu told the gathering. “Investment in education should, therefore, be increased to raise the overall level of education in Macao.”

He also advised that policies should be geared to developing various on-the-job training programmes catering to the genuine needs of Macao’s economic and social development.

“Attention should be given to training more personnel for political participation to ensure that the patriotic forces in Macao will have more successors and enjoy lasting vigour and vitality,” he said. — MNA/Xinhua


Last Hungarian soldiers leave Iraq

BUDAPEST, 20 Dec—The last of Hungary’s 300 soldiers serving in a transportation unit south of Baghdad left Iraq on Monday and will be home in a few days, a Defence Ministry spokesman said.

“The soldiers are now in Kuwait and will return home by Christmas,” ministry spokesman Istvan Bocskai said.

Hungary’s parliament last year voted to extend the mission by three months — until 31 March, 2005 — was voted down in parliament last month by the centre-right opposition.

Prime Minister Ferenc Gyurcsany had backed the extension, saying it was important for Hungary to be present in Iraq during the elections set to be held there at the end of January.

One Hungarian soldier died in Iraq, killed in June when a roadside bomb exploded by the convoy he was guarding.


Earth tremor felt in Sri Lanka’s western province

COLOMBO, 20 Dec — A minor earth tremor was felt in part of Sri Lanka’s western province, local residents said Sunday.

Residents living in rural areas north of the capital Colombo such as Mirigama, Minuwangoda, and Seeduwa said that they experienced the tremor around 11:45 am local time (0545 GMT).

Udeni Bandara Aluthgama, a geologist at the University of Peradeniya in the central province of Kandy, described the tremor as a micro earthquake which is not capable of making a heavy impact.
One SEAL acquitted, second put on probation in Abu Graib abuse cases

SAN DIEG— 21 Dec — A Navy SEAL has been acquitted of charges that he beat a handcuffed and hooded terror suspect who later died, while a second commando received probation for assaulting another prisoner, attorneys for the men said.

The first SEAL, a first-class petty officer, was found not guilty of assault and dereliction of duty Thursday in a nonjudicial proceeding known as a captain’s mast, his attorney, Jeremiah Silverman, said Monday.

The other commando, a second-class petty officer, was convicted Friday of assault and received six months probation, said his attorney, Mitt Silverman.

Both hearings, closed to the public, were held before SEAL Captain James O’Connell at Naval Special Warfare Command in Coronado, outside San Diego.

The Navy has not released the names of the accused SEALs and a Navy spokesman said privacy laws prevented him from commenting. The two were members of SEAL Team Seven, based in Coronado, and were involved in joint CIA-special forces missions.

The first SEAL was accused of punching and kicking prisoner Manadel al-Jamadi and appearing in a photo in which the hooded and handcuffed detainee was allegedly humiliated.

Al-Jamadi, a suspect in the bombing of a Red Cross facility, was captured during a CIA-special forces mission in November 2003 and died a short time later in Abu Ghraib Prison outside Baghdad.

The second SEAL was accused of trying to subdue a detainee during a CIA interrogation by putting him in a headlock. The detainee was suspected of supplying explosives and weapons to guerrillas attacking US troops in Iraq.

The SEAL was cleared of charges of appearing in a photo taken in December 2003 in which another hooded and handcuffed terror suspect was allegedly humiliated.

Silverman said his client was satisfied to get probation on the assault charge, but the attorney objected to the Navy’s prosecution of the commandos in the first place. — MNA/AP

Warm winter brings Beijing’s ski fields “cold” business

BEIJING, 21 Dec— The warm winter in China’s capital Beijing this year has resulted in the postponed opening of its many ski fields, which experts said will cut almost 20 per cent income for these ski fields.

As the lowest temperature in Beijing dropped to under zero due to recent freezing air, many ski fields located in suburban Beijing opened business around this week, but the opening came almost two weeks later than last year.

China’s weather forecast centre said the country is experiencing the 19th warm winter this year, with the average temperature in the north about 2-4 Centigrade higher than that of the same period last year. “We opened our ski field last week, already 15 days later than last year, but the machines’ speed in making snow is even lower than the snow’s thaw speed in case of the warm weather...” said Wang Wengin, general manager of Yunfu Mount Ski Field in Miyun county of Beijing.

“I hope the temperature at night may keep lower than two Centigrade under zero,” said Wang Shitong, general manager of Junfu Mount Ski Field. According to Wang, if the night temperature is higher than two Centigrade under zero, the snow-making machine will fail to work.

Experts said every year there are only three-month period proper for the running of ski fields in Beijing. The two-week delay for opening means a reduction of one-sixth of the ski fields, amounting to 20 per cent of their total income in a year.

To reduce the losses, many ski fields in Beijing have raised the prices for skiing this winter, while still four ski fields had to close down recently for high costs of running. — MNA/Xinhua

People flash victory signs as they stand around what is left of a car bomb that targeted a US military convoy in the northern Iraqi town of Mosul, on 19 Dec, 2004. — Internet

Tourism in Thailand expected to expand next year

BANGKOK, 21 Dec — The local tourism industry in Thailand is expected to expand next year, according to the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) which said that the increase would be around 5 per cent over the 2003 figure.

This was due to the increase in number of foreign tourists visiting the country this year, TAT said.

The TAT, which promotes Thailand as a tourist destination, said the number of foreign tourists is expected to increase to 14.7 million this year, compared with 14.4 million last year.

The TAT also said the number of domestic tourists is expected to increase to 15.3 million this year, compared with 15.1 million last year.

The TAT said the increase in number of foreign tourists is expected to continue next year, with the number of foreign tourists expected to increase to 15.1 million in 2005.

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Annan urges closer development cooperation among poor states

UNITED NATIONS, 21 Dec— UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan on Sunday called for closer cooperation among developing countries to ensure millennium development goals, including halving extreme poverty by 2015, to be reached on time.

Without a partnership between the industrialized and developing countries, also known as the North and the South, the development goals will not be reached, “but deeper South-South cooperation is also vital,” Annan said in a message marking the first Day of South-South Cooperation on Sunday.

“Political solidarity within the developing world over the past several decades has helped put development at the heart of the global agenda,” he said.

“Today we need policies and other steps that will give more practical expression to that solidarity, so that people in all countries can benefit from globalization and improve their standards of living.”

In developing countries, which form the majority of the UN membership, “some of the leading challenges of our time — such as poverty, environmental degradation and the spread of infectious diseases — are most acute,” he said.

In preparing next September’s UN summit to review global progress towards meeting the millennium development goals, he called for recognition that “the role of South-South cooperation has never been more critical”.

“And let us all pledge to do our utmost to harness that great power in our shared battle against poverty and insecurity,” he added. — MNA/Xinhua

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S-W China city sees growth in motorcycle exports

CHONGQING, 21 Dec— Southwestern China’s Chongqing Municipality registered a rapid growth in its motorcycle exports during the first ten months of this year, according to local Customs.

Customs officials said the city’s motorcycle exports to the United States totalled 22.84 million US dollars, an increase of 240 per cent over the same period last year. Exports to Britain, Germany and Sweden were valued at 5.13 million, 1.39 million and 1.28 million dollars, respectively.

According to Customs, the price of motorcycles from January to October this year rose to 342.9 US dollars, up from 309.2 dollars in 2002.

Customs said the export price of motorcycle’s cylinder capacity is mainly below 50 CC mini-power or above 150 CC high-power, and the price ranges between 313.4—966.4 US dollars. — MNA/Xinhua

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APR conf on cultures, civilizations opens in Vietnam

HANOI, 21 Dec — Representatives from the Asia-Pacific Region have gathered here to explore ways of using dialogues on cultures and civilizations to bolster peace and security and advance sustainable development.

“We must strengthen our efforts to promote among nations and peoples a better knowledge and appreciation of their different cultures. Education remains a key tool,” said Koichiro Matsuura, director general of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). The speech was made on his behalf by Hans d’Orville, director of the organization’s Bureau of Strategic Planning, at a conference here.

In an era of growing regional, ethnic and religious tension, education is needed more than ever to promote a dialogue that advances mutual understanding, tolerance, said Koichiro Matsuura in his speech.

At the two-day conference entitled “Dialogue Among Cultures and Civilizations for Peace and Sustainable Development” which opened on Monday, some 200 politicians, scientists, educators, researchers and social activities from such countries as India, the Philippines, Japan and Australia, are to share experience and views on the potential of the dialogue in the region, the role of culture and inter-cultural education as vector for dialogue, and the role of networking in the promotion of dialogue at all levels.

The conference, jointly organized by UNESCO and Vietnam, is expected to raise awareness among broader sections of society of the importance of dialogue among cultures and civilizations, prepare preliminary input for a future collection of regional and inter-regional good practices of the dialogue, identify key activities for education and culture, and formulate forward-looking strategies which will enable countries in the region to boost their active participation in promoting the dialogue.

HK universities enhance high-tech cooperation with Mainland

HONG KONG, 21 Dec — In the past year, Hong Kong tertiary institutes have played an active role in enhancing ties with the Chinese Mainland in the research and development of high technology.

Hong Kong universities have collaborated with tertiary education, business and government sectors of the Mainland to run training programmes and research centres to promote research commercialization and technology transfer.

In June, Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU) took the lead in joining National University Science and Technology Park of the Virtual University Park in Shenzhen and became the first local tertiary institution to set up research centres and training facilities there.

President of PolyU Poon Chung-kwong said both public and private sectors in Hong Kong today are strengthening their ties with the Mainland in various areas. Poon believed cooperation between Hong Kong and the Mainland will facilitate universities to more effectively promote industry and human resources development in the Mainland, so as to create a win-win situation for both Hong Kong and the Mainland.

City University of Hong Kong (CityU) and the University of Science and Technology of China (USTC) in Anhui Province, a university established by the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), signed an agreement in June to jointly establish a high level joint research centre in Suzhou.

The agreement is based on the principle of mutually beneficial cooperation with which both universities complement each other’s strengths, to work together on joint research projects, supervision and teaching of research students, and to furnish professional training opportunities.

President Hu tours Macao’s historical sites

MACAO, 20 Dec — President Hu Jintao on Sunday toured several sites of historical interest during his first trip to Macao.

Hu, who arrived here Sunday morning, is here on a two-day visit to attend a celebration gathering to mark the 5th anniversary of Macao’s return to the Motherland and the inauguration of the second-term government of the Macao Special Administrative Region (SAR).

Hu, also general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and chairman of the CPC Central Military Commission, first stopped over at the Ruins of St Paul Church, a landmark architecture in Macao which has a history dating back to the Year 1637.

New Zealand signs emissions deal with Austria

WELLINGTON, 21 Dec — The governments of New Zealand and Austria have signed a cooperation arrangement on the implementation of emission reduction projects and for the trading of Kyoto Protocol emissions units.

According to a government statement released here on Monday, the arrangement was signed by senior government officials from both countries on Saturday during the 10th meeting of the Conference to the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change that is being held in Buenos Aires.

The Austrian Government recently called for expressions of interest in the second tender round of its programme to encourage tradable emissions reduction units. The signing of this arrangement signals the New Zealand and Austrian governments’ commitment to encouraging Kiwi business to get involved in Joint Implementation projects with Austria.

“This agreement demonstrates the determination of both governments to tackle climate change,” New Zealand Convenor of Ministerial Group on Climate Change, Pete Hodgson, who signed the deal, said.

“New Zealand’s pro-active, pro-business approach to climate change is good news for the economy and the environment.

Participation in the Projects to Reduce Emissions programme and this arrangement are innovative examples of how businesses can gain a real competitive advantage from tackling climate change,” Hodgson said.

The governments of New Zealand and the Netherlands signed an emissions trading co-operation arrangement in August. — MNA/Xinhua

Head of Kazakhstan’s second largest bank dies in hunting accident

ALMATY, 20 Dec — The head of Kazakhstan’s second largest bank, TuranAlem, Yerzhan Tatishev, died on Sunday in a shooting accident while hunting wolves, the government spokesman said.

Government spokesman Murat Buldebayev said Tatishev had died on a hunting expedition in the Central Asian state’s southern region near the border with Kyrgyzstan.

Night view of the Eiffel tower in Paris on 19 Dec, 2004. — INTERNET

In this photo provided by the Zoological Society of San Diego, Kalluk, a 780-pound polar bear, frolics with a snowman toy on 18 Dec, 2004, at the San Diego Zoo in San Diego, Calif. — INTERNET

President Hu admires the exquisite relief sculpture on the ruins and listened intensively to the briefing on its past.

Seeing many tourists and local residents around, Hu reached out and waved greetings to them, who responded with warm applause.

The President then went to the Macao Museum and had a close look at its rich displays.

He also stepped onto the top of the museum, where another historical site, Monte Fort, is seated. The fortifications were built in the 17th Century and once protected Macao from Dutch invasions. — MNA/Xinhua
The implementation of the project to add modern facilities and gardens to Yangon in creating an international level city is in progress at present, and the all-round development of Kandawgyi Garden and its environment including the Zoological Gardens in the city is also gaining ground on its aims.

The world-class garden covering a large lake and a large stretch of land will be a nice place attracting local as well as foreign visitors as a park where they can refresh their mind and body, watch various species of animals and birds living safely in their compounds and their children playing happily and sit under the shade of a tree enjoying a perfect picnic.

When King Alaungpaya founded Yangon in 1755, Kandawgyi was just a small lake lying in an isolated place in the middle of a number of low-lying hills. Only after 1812, when Boudawphaya ruled the nation, it had become a garden with a large lake for recreation.

At present, work is under way to develop Kandawgyi in four sectors — the Relaxation Zone, the Central Forest Zone, the Education Zone, and the Recreation Zone — being built by the Yangon City Development Committee, the Ministry of Forestry, the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, and Zay Kaba Company, a local-owned enterprise, respectively.

The Recreation Zone or the Karaweik-Kandawgyi Natural Park includes a man-made waterfall, where a stream flowing from Tank Hillock is falling from a cliff of rocks. Artistic creation of the falls together with beds of flowers and a small rock garden lying on an unlevelled land covered by large trees is a marvellous view for any visitor.

As soon as a visitor enters the zone, he will be welcomed by the View Deck, which is a stage-like platform from which tourists can enjoy a cool breeze from the lake and watching and taking photos or taping videos of the park named “Picture with Animals”, a visitor may freely and closely watch bears, peacocks, deers, tortoises and ostriches or stay together with birds. For souvenir photos, get a photo of him together with tigers arrive here under the arrangement of Tha-Myanmar Friendship Association”, explained Managing Director Daw May Zin Latt of Zay Kaba company.

“As I am responsible for the whole project, I have added some separate programmes for youths. There will be open-air stage performances of vocalists and music bands every evening. Every weekend, the place will be more lively with a market festival, where youths can freely stroll and enjoy a buying spree. At the play ground, children may find games that will help enhance their intellectual power”, she added.

“In addition to the market festival, there will also be magic shows, circus, anyent shows, stage shows, variety dance shows of nationalities and traditional festivals in the evenings on every weekend. The aim of our Recreation Zone is to attract tourists visiting Karaweik Palace for Myanmar food and traditional dances every evening”, she said.

The total investment in the zone is over K 900 million, and the objective is to build a world-class park that will exist as a pride for Myanmars. There are souvenirs shops selling handicraft of the national races, restaurants serving traditional foods, and other shops where traditional toys, snacks and costumes are available.

The zone is a perfect place for Yangonites to escape from their daily lives of living in a big city and where they can breath fresh air and refresh their mind and body. In addition to the existing trees, many new creations including a rock garden built with stones from Myitkyina in Kachin State and Madaya in Mandalay Division, have been added to beautify the zone.

Moreover, as the zone is built in accord with the Myanmar designs and also the place where traditional dance shows and traditional festivals are presented.

As soon as a visitor enters the zone, he will be welcomed by the View Deck, which is a stage-like platform from which tourists can enjoy a cool breeze from the lake and watching and taking photos or taping videos of the Shwedagon Pagoda and the Karaweik Palace.

Shwedagon Pagoda and the Karaweik Palace, a local-owned enterprise, is located at the place where regatta festivals were held. From there, he will find a beautiful pond to the shop run by Lwin Moe, a celebrity who has won two Motion Picture Academy Awards.

“Picture with Animals”, a visitor may freely and closely watch bears, peacocks, deers, tortoises and ostriches or stay together with birds. For souvenir photos, get to the shop run by Lwin Moe, a celebrity who has won two Motion Picture Academy Awards.

*If a tourist wants to take a photo of him together with tigers, it will be possible when two tamed tigers arrive here under the arrangement of Tha-Myanmar Friendship Association*.
Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo said that the annual average flow of water in Manipura River is 7 million acre-feet and feasibility study for construction of Manipura Dam is being conducted; that the dam will not only benefit about 100,000 acres of farmland but also prevent annual floods in the lower part of Kalay. Moreover, the dam will be able to generate 540 megawatt, he added.

Next, Deputy Minister U Ohn Myint reported to Senior General Than Shwe on conducting feasibility study and prospects to irrigate 100,000 acres of farmland on completion of the dam.

Later, Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun reported on matters related to the project area and Manipura Bridge (Bar Bridge) to Senior General Than Shwe and party.

Afterwards, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi reported on supply of fuel for the project.

Next, Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut reported on arrangements for power plant and installation of power lines in the project.

After hearing the reports, Senior General Than Shwe attended to the needs and urged officials concerned to complete the project as soon as possible for it will be beneficial to Kalay, Kalewa and Gangaw regions.

Next, Senior General Than Shwe inspected charts of the project, current of Manipura river and the site for implementing the project.

Myittha Dam project will be implemented by the Construction Group-8 of Irrigation Department. On completion, it will benefit to not only 12,000 acres of farmland but also generate 40 megawatt.

Next, Deputy Minister U Ohn Myint reported to Senior General Than Shwe on conducting feasibility study and prospects to irrigate 100,000 acres of farmland on completion of the dam.

Afterwards, Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun reported on matters related to the project area and Manipura Bridge (Bar Bridge) to Senior General Than Shwe and party.

Senior General Than Shwe and party arrived in Gangaw, Magway Division, where they were welcomed by Tactical Operations Commander Col Hla Ngwe, Chairman of Gangaw District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Hla Swe and departmental officials, local people and students.

Next, Senior General Than Shwe and party inspected Gangaw Township People’s Hospital, Myittha suspension bridge and development of Gangaw.

At 4.15 pm, Senior General Than Shwe and party project left Gawgaw by car and arrived at the site of Myittha Dam to be implemented near Pyintha Village in Gangaw township.

At the briefing hall, Senior General Than Shwe and party heard a report presented by Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo on the salient points of the dam.

Next, Deputy Director-General of Irrigation Department U Khin Zaw reported on other salient points of the project.

Later, Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi reported on arrangements for supply of fuel to the project.

In response to the reports, Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance, calling on officials concerned to fulfill the needs including fuel since Manipura Multipurpose Dam project and Myittha Dam project are the huge ones, and the Irrigation Department, on its part, is to complete the tasks as soon as possible.

Afterwards, Senior General Than Shwe and party inspected the site chosen for construction of the main embankment.

Myittha Dam project will be implemented by the Construction Group-8 of Irrigation Department. On completion, it will benefit to not only 12,000 acres of farmland but also generate 40 megawatt.
Objectives of 57th Anniversary Independence Day

— All the national people to collectively safeguard the national independence and sovereignty of the State and ensure non-disintegra-
tion of the Union and national unity
— All the national people to unitedly strive with might and main for emer-
gence 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

Promotion of efficiency of USDA ...

State’s social and eco-
nomic development, guar-
ing against the danger of internal and external destructive ele-
ments through the might of the unity of the peo-
ple, promotion of the ef-
ficiency of members and 
extension of organisa-
tional measures across 
the nation and cement-
ing the constitution of 
the association — and the nine future tasks of 
the association. Next, Kayah State USDA Exec-
utive U Kyaw Myint 
tabled a motion calling for successful imple-
mentation of the seven 
objectives.

Executive U Tin 
Oo also tabled a motion calling for successful im-
plementation of the nine future tasks laid down 
by the USDA AGM pro-
grames of the associa-
tion. Daw Ku Myar, Executive of Loikaw USDA, supported the task to implement the work programmes of the state.

Executive of Kayah State USDA U Lu Rai, Maj Tin Win (Retd) of Kayah State War Veterans Organization and Patron of Kayah State Committee for Women’s Affairs Daw Than pre-
sented gifts to outstanding 
youths.

Joint Secretary of 
Kayah State USDA U Bo Lurai Bo Lu presented K 1 million to Loikaw District USDA Secretary U Myint Thein.

Secretary of Bawlake District USDA U Bo Rai accepted K 1 million for schools in Bawlake District. The meeting laid down a resolution to materialize the seven objectives and nine future work programmes, and come to a close with chanting of slogans.

Kayah State USDA Joint-Secretary U Lurai Bo Lu presents K 1 million to Loikaw District USDA Secretary U Bo Rai. — MNA

Kayah State USDA Joint-Secretary U Lurai Bo Lu presents K 1 million to Bawlake District USDA Secretary U Bo Rai. — MNA

Kayah State Organization for Women’s Affairs Patron Daw Than presents prize to an outstanding youth. — MNA

Kayah State USDA Executive U Bo Rai. — MNA

Kayah State USDA Executive Daw Ku Myar. — MNA

Kayah State USDA Executive U Kyaw Myint. — MNA

Kayah State USDA Executive Daw Aye Aye Myaing. — MNA

Lokaw Township USDA Executive U Soe Rai. — MNA

Loikaw District USDA Executive Daw Ku Myar. — MNA

Joint Secretary of Kayah State USDA U Bo Lurai Bo Lu presented a work pro-
grame of the state. Daw Aye Aye Myaing, Executive of Loikaw Township USDA, discussed salient points in support of the seven objectives of the association.

U Soe Rai, Execu-
tive of Bawlake District USDA, presented a dis-
cussion supporting the nine future work pro-
grames.
Minister inspects printing presses

YANGON, 21 Dec—Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, together with Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Thein and officials, inspected printing presses under the Ministry this afternoon. The minister first inspected the power control room of the Central Printing Press on Thainbu Road in Botataung Township. Officials concerned conducted the minister round the room. He gave instructions on preventive measures against electricity-related dangers in conformity with the directives, educating the staff how to use fire extinguishers and replacing old fire extinguishers with new ones if needed.

Next, the minister inspected the administration division, computer section, risograph section and print shop, and gave instructions on constant maintenance of the machines, innovative measures for production of spare parts, systematic storage of accessories and constantly conducting training courses. The minister also inspected the store room and binding room and left instructions on fire preventive measures. On arrival at Photolitho Printing Press on Ngahetkyi Pagoda Road in Bahan Township, the minister heard a report by Head of the press U Han Sein on printing of school textbooks and publications, strengths of the staff and condition of the printing machines. The minister gave instructions on timely completion of printing work, replacement of old spare parts with locally-made ones and fire preventive measures.

Next, the minister inspected binding machines, printing of textbooks for 2005-2006 academic year and precautionary steps against fire.—MNA

ASEAN Open Optimist C’ships concludes

YANGON, 21 Dec—The prize presentation for the 2004 ASEAN Open Optimist Championship took place at the MAX Hotel on Chaungtha Beach in Ayeyawady Division yesterday.

Present on the occasion were Chairman of Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing, Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, officials, President of the Myanmar Yachting Federation U Thein Tun, MOC Member MYF General Secretary U Moe Myint, wellwishers and guests.

The minister gave a speech. The commander presented first prize (individual) to Ms Griselda Khng (Singapore), second prize to Mr Alvin Yeow Jian Shing (Malaysia) and third prize to Ms Su Sandar Wai (Myanmar), fourth prize to Mr Ku Anas Bin Ku Zamal (Malaysia), fifth prize to Mr Sherman Cheng Yue Fang (Singapore), sixth prize to Ms Rufina Tan Hong Hui (Malaysia), seventh prize to Mr Sherman Cheng Feng Shing (Myanmar), first prize (team-wise) to Malaysia, second prize to Singapore and the third to Myanmar. Officials and the Alpine Purified Drinking Water Co also added gifts to the winners.

In the evening, the commander and the minister hosted a dinner to the athletes. —MNA

YANGON Mayor receives Chinese guests

YANGON, 21 Dec—Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin received a four-member Chinese goodwill delegation led by President of Chinese People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries Mr Chen Haosu and accompanied by Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Li Jinjun, at his office at 10 am today.

Also present on the occasion were Vice-Chairman of YCDC Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa, Joint Secretary U Aung Soe, committee member Col Tin Soe and heads of the departments concerned.

In the evening, the Mayor hosted a dinner in honour of the Chinese guests at the Grand Plaza Park royal Hotel.

The Chinese goodwill delegation arrived here yesterday evening, and they were welcomed at Yangon International Airport by Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa and committee members, heads of departments concerned, Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Li Jinjun and officials.—MNA

Myanmar-China Border Trade Fair-2004 opens

YANGON, 21 Dec—Myanmar-China Border Trade Fair-2004 was opened on 18 December in Muse. Deputy Minister for Commerce U Soe Aung Tun and a Chinese official formally opened the fair. It was held with the aim of boosting bilateral trade, encouragement of economic cooperation, creating economic opportunities and strengthening existing friendship.

Agricultural produce, finished wood products, handicrafts, jewels, medicines and medical equipment, autos and motor cycles are on display at the fair. After the opening ceremony, officials of the two sides viewed the booths around the fair. Moreover, the two sides also discussed matters related to economy, trade and transportation between the two countries.—MNA

Explosion in restaurant

YANGON, 21 Dec—An explosion occurred at Zawgyi House restaurant on Bogyoke Aung San Street in Pabedan Township at 2 pm today, wounding a worker of the restaurant. There were no other casualties.

At about 11 am, two men—one in his fifties and the other aged about 35—came to the restaurant and ordered foods. They left a paper box there and it exploded. The case is under investigation in order to expose unscrupulous persons who committed the destructive act.—MNA

USDA CEC Member tours Kayah State

YANGON, 21 Dec — CEC Member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Brig-Gen Thein Aung, accompanied by Chairman of Kayah State Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Kyaw Swa Min, inspected the primary school in Phayani village, Dawpawkale village-tract, Loikaw Township, and provided assistance for repairing of the facility on 19 December.

At the meeting with the villagers at the village monastery, the CEC member briefed them on the achievement in carrying out the five rural development tasks. The CEC member and party attended the inauguration of Dawnoku-Dawtama Bilu Creek Bridge in Loikaw. Officials reported on facts about the bridge. The CEC member held discussions on the government’s drive for balanced progress of all parts of the nation.

Executive of Township Development Affairs Committee U Tin Win, Secretary of Kayah State USDA U Kyaw Swe and senior citizen U Hla Pe formally opened the facility. The CEC member and the chairman of the Kayah State PDC and officials viewed the 220-foot-long and 15-foot-wide all-weather bridge, taking a walk on it. On 20 December, the CEC member and the Kayah State SPDC met townswellers and USDA members at Sasana Beikman in the town. The CEC member discussed stage-wise implementation of tasks for development of Kayah State and provided assistance for regional progress. They also viewed the condition of the road under repair by the members in Kontha village.

Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Then Aung inspected the model teak plantation in the village. —MNA

Chinese delegation arrives

YANGON, 21 Dec — Chinese goodwill delegation led by Mr Liang Zhaoming, Senior Procurator at Level II of Law Office in Guang Dong Province, China, arrived here yesterday.

Deputy Attorney-General Dr Tun Shin, Direc- tor-General of the Attorney-General’s Office U Mya Nyinyi and officials welcomed them at Yagon Interna- tional Airport. —MNA

Appointment of Ambassador agreed on

YANGON, 22 Dec — The Government of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the proposed appointment of Mr Lars Backstrom as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Finland to the Union of Myanmar, in succession to Mr Heikki Tuunanen.

Mr Lars Backstrom was born in 1955. He obtained a Master’s degree in social sciences in 1980. He joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1982 and served in various capacities at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the Finnish diplomatic missions in Mexico City, Ankara, Lagos, New York and Brussels from 1982 to 1997. He has been the director of the Unit for Humanitarian Assistance at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs since 1997. Mr Lars Backstrom will be con- currently accredited as the ambassador of Finland to the Union of Myanmar, with residence in Bangkok. He is married. —MNA

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Deputy Attorney-General Dr Tun Shin, Direc- tor-General of the Attorney-General’s Office U Mya Nyinyi and officials welcomed them at Yagon Interna- tional Airport. —MNA

CONFERENCE HELD: The 11th conference of the ASEAN new generation youths federation of engineering organization took place at the Sedona Hotel on 21-12-2004, attended by representatives from ASEAN nations, Japan and China (Hong Kong). U Ye Myat Htoo of Myanmar presides over the conference. — MNA

Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Then Aung inspected the Central Printing Press under the Printing and Publishing Enterprise. — MNA
YMCA hosts X’mas dinner

YANGON, 21 Dec — The Yangon YMCA hosted a Thanksgiving dinner at M3 Food Centre here this evening to mark the Christmas, with an address delivered by Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung.

Also present were Managing Director of News and Periodicals Enterprise Col Soe Win, heads of department of the Ministry of Religious Affairs, the chairman of Myanmar Christian Council of Churches and members, YMCA President and members, YMCA General Secretary U Tha Nyin, officials and invited guests.

YMCA President Archbishop Dr Andrea U Mya Han extended greetings.

Next, a dinner was hosted. — MNA

Workshop on Development of National Chemical Profile held

YANGON, 21 Dec— The Workshop on Development of National Chemical Profile jointly organized by Health Department and WHO was held at Grand Plaza Parkroyal Hotel this morning. Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo delivered an address. He said chemicals are widely used in social, industrial and agricultural sectors in the nations of the world including Myanmar. They are also used in medical treatment and boosting production in industry and agriculture for raising the standard of living. Improper use of chemicals can be harmful to public health and pollution of environment. Therefore, it is necessary to know detailed facts regarding chemicals used in the country, he said. He said the workshop was held with the aims of collecting data on chemicals used in the country and formulating arrangements to prevent danger among the people. The Ministry of Health, related ministries and social organizations will compile National Chemical Profile with the help of scholars, he added.

Next, WHO Resident Representative Dr Ago-stino Borra reported on WHO’s measures taken on chemicals. Participants from the Ministry of Health, related ministries and social organizations, Yangon City Development Committee, the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Myanmar Chemical Engineers Association, USDA, Myanmar Materials and Child Welfare Association and Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation took part in compilation of National Chemical Profile. — MNA

School buildings handed over

YANGON, 21 Dec — Newly-built school buildings for No 3 Post-Primary School and No 14 Basic Education Primary School in MingalaTaungnyunt Township and No 2 BEPS in Tamwe Township were inaugurated and handed over this morning in the presence of Minister for Education U Than Aung, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min and Deputy Minister for Construction Brig-Gen Myint Thein. Minister U Than Aung and the deputy ministers also unveiled the signboards of the buildings and inspected the buildings. Director General of the Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development Col Aung Win handed over the documents relating to the buildings to Director General of the No 3 Basic Education Department at a ceremony to hand over the buildings held at No 14 BEPS. At the ceremony, wellwishers also contributed cash and teaching aids to the schools through the minister and deputy ministers. — MNA

District News

Station hospital privately funded

GYAING, 5 Dec — With the aim of raising the funds of the station hospital in Kyaw Village, Gagaw Township, a well-wisher on 10 November contributed K 1 million to the funds of the hospital.

An official concerned accepted the donation. Thanks to the valuable contribution, the hospital can be able to provide better medical care. — MYANMA ALIN

Water supply tasks launched in Pyapon

PYAPON, 8 Dec — As part of implementing the drinking water supply project, Pyapon Township Development Affairs Department has laid the waterpipes and launched the construction of lakes recently.

On 5 December, officials of the township DAD closely supervised the tasks.

According to the township DAD, it is learnt that 11,660-ft-long water pipes will be laid and 20 lakes will be constructed during 2004-2005 fiscal year. Moreover, water treatment station also includes in the project. — MYANMA ALIN

Article competition marking World AIDS Day held

NYINNMA, 6 Dec — Pyinmana Township Writers and Journalists Association and Pyinmana Township Association for Propagation of Theravada Buddhism has organized the article competition marking the World AIDS Day recently.

Prize winners of the competition were awarded on 1 December. At the prize presentation ceremony, officials presented cash awards to the winners. — MYANMA ALIN

Wellwisher provide cash and publications for libraries in rural area

NWATHOYI, 15 Dec — With the assistance of the State and contribution of wellwishers, the Information and Public Relations Department under the Ministry of Information has established 10,791 libraries in rural area up to 14 December.

On 24 November, a self-reliant library was opened in Yaungyi Model Village in Natogyi Township. The building of the library was built at a cost of K 600,000 provided by wellwishers U Myint Thein and Daw Ohn Mar of Yadana Myint MoCo. Besides, they also provided books on general knowledge including novels, journals and magazines worth K 900,000 and furniture for the library. Moreover, locals also contributed cash to the funds of the library.

Similarly, a self-reliant library was inaugurated in BoneTaLoK Model Village in Thazi Township on 18 November. Wellwishers provided cash and books on general knowledge for the library. — MYANMA ALIN

Donate blood

NIKON MICROSCOPE INTRODUCED: Myanmar Yutani Co Ltd and Nikon Singapore Pte Ltd demonstrated the use of Nikon microscope for infectious disease control at the Traders Hotel on 21-12-2004. Mr Yoshinori Komaru, Managing Director of Myanmar Yutani Co Ltd extends greetings and Mr Masuhiro Tsuji, Regional Manager, Nikon Singapore Pte Ltd gives presentation on the device. — NLM
Three Britons were killed and four children seriously injured when their car collided with a truck in Florida, the Foreign Office said on Sunday.

"Two adults died at the scene and a third adult died later in hospital, his wife at his side," said a spokesman from the Foreign Office.

Local Florida media said the driver Ayodeji Babson, 40, of London, and his wife, Dawn Babson, 41, died at the scene of the accident in rural Davenport on early Saturday, while passenger Simeon Cole, 41, died later at the Orlando Regional Medical Centre.

The spokesman said the four children, all understood to be under 10, were taken to hospital where at least three were placed in intensive care.

The families arrived in Orlando on Friday for a holiday and were driving on highway US27 when the accident occurred.

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**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV SEA BRIGHT VOY NO (679)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SEA BRIGHT Voy No (679) are hereby notified that the vessel arrives on 22.12.04 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the rules and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11.20 am and 12 Noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT**

**MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

**AGENT FOR: MS ADVANCE CONTAINER**

Phone No: 2569083/378316/376797

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EUROPEAN AIRCRAFT MAKER EYES PLANT IN UAE

ABU DHABI, 20 Dec — London-based Avcen Limited, a European aircraft maker, is likely to set up a manufacturing plant in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to cater to the potential markets of the Middle East and the Gulf, local newspaper Times of Zambia daily reported Sunday.

Managing Director of Avcen Limited Mike Dacre revealed on Saturday that his company is interested in having the aircraft manufactured in a low-cost Gulf country, especially the UAE.

There is potential in lowering the cost of production in the UAE and creating some 400 aerospace jobs for local youth, Dacre said.

The company is looking for strategic investors to execute the project and the company has already initiated the talk with a number of potential investors, he said. — MNA/Xinhua

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**Six killed, 14 injured in Zambia’s road accident**

LUSAKA, 21 Dec — A total of six people have been killed and 14 others injured in Zambia’s road accident, local newspaper Times of Zambia reported on Monday.

The accident happened around 14:30 (1230 GMT) on Sunday when a minibus rammed into a truck in Lusaka, the capital of Zambia.

Lusaka Province Commanding Officer Chedenda of Musonda confirmed the accident, saying the deceased were two men, two women and two children.

He said the 14 surviving victims were admitted to hospital. Musonda said the minibus travelling at a high speed hit into the truck when it was trying to turn. — MNA/Xinhua

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**Drive with care**

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US spraying of Agent Orange causes deadly cancers to veterans

WASHINGTON, 21 Dec — The United States sprayed more than 19 million gallons (72 million litres) of defoliant over the jungles of Vietnam, a tactic designed to kill the forests and deny cover to American troops’ enemies.

The chemical worked. Miles of vegetation withered and died. It also exposed an estimated 3 million US troops and millions more Vietnamese to dioxin. Mark A. Brown, a toxicologist who heads the environmental agents service of the Veterans Affairs Department, said it is uncertain just how much dioxin that US troops absorbed from their exposure to dioxin-contaminated Agent Orange in Vietnam.

A study years after the war ended showed that US ground forces probably had blood levels of dioxin in the range of five to 10 parts per trillion.

Five years of spraying the herbicide — named Agent Orange for the colour of a stripe on 55-gallon (208-litre) shipping drums — may have developed blood levels of about 20 parts per trillion. It was enough, according to some studies, to cause cancer, diabetes, nerve damage and other diseases in susceptible individuals. Studies also linked the toxin to a birth defect, spina bifida, in children of troops who served in Vietnam.

Based on these studies, Congress instructed the department to assume that anyone among the millions of US veterans who developed Agent Orange could be considered asacutely afflicted. In effect, the government decided that the diseases were at least as likely to have been caused by dioxin in Agent Orange as they were to have been caused by anything else. Therefore, veterans were entitled to compensation and medical care without having to prove their exposure to Agent Orange.

At first, the diseases were relatively rare cancers, Brown said. Over time, new disorders were added. Today, the list includes 23 types of soft tissue cancer, four respiratory cancers, multiple myeloma, Hodgkin’s disease, prostate cancer and a nerve disorder.

Children with spina bifida were also born to Vietnam veterans and some veterans have been disabled because of their contact with Agent Orange.

520 pounds of cocaine found in west Virginia plane wreckage

HEELING (West Virginia), 21 Dec — Authorities called to the scene of a weekend plane crash found no people — dead or alive — but they did find 520 pounds of cocaine in the wreckage.

Authorities were searching for a man believed to be Cobbs who was believed to be Cobbs who was driving the Piper Aerostar twin-engine plane crashed in a wooded area around midnight Saturday near the Wheeling-Ohio County Airport, said James Peters, a spokesman for the Federal Aviation Administration.

Peters said authorities searching for a man believed to be Cobbs who was picked up by a motorist near the airport’s front entrance. His forehead was cut and he asked for a ride to a hotel.

Suez Canal oil spill under control

CAIRO, 21 Dec — Egypt’s Suez Canal authorities on Monday brought under control the oil spill from a damaged Kuwaiti tanker in the waterway and stopped it from moving toward the Mediterranean city of Port Said, the official MENA news agency reported.

The slick, which now stretches some five kilometres, was contained around five kilometres from Port Said, MENA said, adding that the Suez Canal’s clean-up teams have started pumping out polluted water.

Suez Canal authorities said Wednesday that a Kuwaiti oil tanker had spilled 10,000 cubic metres of oil in the canal after it collided with a dredger.

The spill from the damaged 161,000-ton tanker named Al-Sumaidonia, which was bound for Europe, polluted a 16-kilometre stretch of the Suez Canal, north-east of Cairo, the canal authorities said.

The Suez Canal, which connects the Mediterranean and the Red Sea, is one of the busiest waterways in the world. It receives an average of 50 ships a day, bringing Egypt some three billion US dollars in revenues this year.

The African Union Peace and Security Council, with South Africa as one of five three-year-term members, has been fully operational since it was launched in May and regularly holds deliberations on ways to resolve ongoing conflict.

The establishment of the ASF is considered necessary in intervening in African conflicts in a timely manner. Each of the five regions of the continent was supposed to contribute a brigade to the standby force.

South Africa is actively participating in the establishment of an SADC Brigade, according to the country’s defence ministry.

The ministry said South Africa has also been asked to assist the African Union Commission and SADC in developing the continental Early Warning System that is expected to be operational in two years.

SADC meeting to discuss African Standby Force

JOHANNESBURG, 20 Dec — Foreign affairs and defence officials from southern African countries will discuss the establishment of a troubleshooting African Standby Force (ASF) at a meeting in Pretoria on Tuesday, a South African official said on Sunday.

The meeting of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation will discuss the establishment of the African Standby Force “with particular reference to the SADC Regional Brigade.”

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SANA

Turkish PM to visit Syria

DAMASCUS, 20 Dec — Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan is scheduled to visit Syria on December 22 at an invitation from his Syrian counterpart Mohammed Naji Otri, the state-run SANA news agency reported Sunday.

Erdogan, on his two-day official visit, is going to discuss ways to boost bilateral cooperation and the latest developments in the region with Syrian officials.

An association agreement was expected to be signed during the visit, which is to complement the recently intimated Syr-

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SANA

A suspected meteor falls into Indonesia

JAKARTA, 21 Dec — Two powerful blasts were heard in Western district of Jakarta and West Java Province early Sunday, suspected from a object that fell from the sky, local media reported.

Witnesses said that the object might have been a meteor seen flashing across the sky above the capital.

Local TV station reported that the blasts took place at Jakarta satellite town of Tangerang and also in Serang District of West Java Province.

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Ronaldinho named FIFA World Player of the Year

ZURICH, 21 Dec — Barcelona’s Brazilian playmaker Ronaldinho was named FIFA World Player of the Year on Monday.

Ronaldinho, 24, totalled 620 points followed by Thierry Henry of Arsenal on 552. Newly-crowned European Footballer of the Year Andriy Shevchenko of AC Milan and Ukraine was third on 253.

"For me just to be selected and to be here was already an honour," Ronaldinho told the FIFA gala awards ceremony. "Of course I have to thank my Barcelona colleagues because I could not have won it without them."

"I am very happy at Barcelona, I want to be part of a new winning era at the club and I have no plans to go anywhere else," he added, dismissing suggestions he might be interested in a move to Chelsea.

It was the second successive year that Henry has finished as runner-up in the poll based on the verdict of 157 international coaches and, for the first time this year, 145 national team captains.

Five points were awarded for a first place nomination, three for second and one for third. Ronaldinho gained 89 first place votes, Henry 79 and Shevchenko 34.

Last year’s winner Zinedine Zidane was also named who announced his international retirement from the France team after Euro 2004, came fourth. Last year’s European Footballer of the Year Pavel Nedved of the Czech Republic was fifth.

Ronaldinho has transformed Barcelona since arriving from Paris St Germain in 2003 and they lead the Primera Liga by nine points. Unlike his rivals for the award, organized by world soccer’s governing body FIFA, Ronaldinho did not win a major club trophy this year.— MNA/Reuters

Charlton beat Fulham 2-1

LONDON, 21 Dec — Charlton Athletic beat London rivals Fulham 2-1 to move up to seventh in the Premier League standings on Monday.

Goals by winger Jerome Thomas and defender Talal El Karkouri sealed victory for Alan Curbishley’s side. Fulham remained 15th in the 20-team standings.

Thomas put the hosts ahead in the 27th minute when he controlled a cross and lashed the ball into the net.

El Karkouri headed the second in the 66th minute, rising to nod in a Danny Murphy free kick.

Fulham striker Tomasz Radzinski pulled one back with eight minutes remaining but it was not enough for the visitors. — MNA/Reuters

IOC’s president says 2004 was positive year in fight against drugs

PARIS, 21 Dec — International Olympic Committee (IOC) president Jacques Rogge believes 2004 marked a breakthrough in the fight to rid sport of drug cheats despite the doping scandal which derailed the Athens Olympics.

"It’s a positive year. I dare say, for the fight against doping," he told French sports daily L’Equipe in an interview published on Monday.

Rogge said the increasing influence of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) and the World Anti-Doping authorities had been the main improvements.

This changing position has led to its first results," Rogge said. The Athens Olympics, Rogge’s first summer Games as IOC president, were rocked by a doping saga involving Greek sprinters Katerina Thanou and Costas Kenteris who have been charged over missed drugs tests on the eve of the Games. Both deny any wrongdoing.

"I considered it as a breakthrough," said Rogge, who added he had also been pleased in 1988 in Seoul when he was a substitute after 76 minutes. An X-ray showed he had a broken foot.

"It was the first reaction was ‘Great but meet me at it was a victory,’ he said.

"We are tracking down cheaters wherever they are, regardless of political implications that we should keep a blind eye on the host country," he said. MNA/Xinhua

Chelsea’s Parker suffers broken foot

LONDON, 21 Dec — Chelsea midfielder Scott Parker has been sidelined into the New Year after he broke his foot, the Premiership leaders said on its official web site on Monday.

Parker sustained his injury after coming on as a substitute after 76 minutes. An X-ray showed he had a broken metatarsal bone in his foot.

"The midfielder was examined straight after Saturday’s win over Norwich in which he came on as a substitute after 76 minutes. An X-ray showed he had suffered a broken metatarsal bone in his foot.

"Parker was unable to train and has been ruled out for the rest of the season. He is not expected to return before the end of January." Parker was named in January from Charlton for 10 million pounds.

MNA/Xinhua

Man United receive new bid approach from Glazer

LONDON, 21 Dec — Manchester United has received a new bid approach from Malcolm Glazer, boosting its shares, but the world’s richest soccer club said on Monday it would only talk to the US financier if he made a firm offer.

A source familiar with the situation told Reuters on Sunday that Glazer, owner of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers American football team, was planning an 800 million pound (1.56 billion US dollars) takeover offer for the English Premier League team.

"The board of Manchester United confirms that at a shareholder meeting Glazer has indicated, on a very preliminary basis, potential revisions to its previous proposal," the 15 times English soccer champions said in a statement. "The board will need to open discussions on this matter unless it receives a definitive proposal from Glazer."

At 1430 GMT, Manchester United shares were 3.4 per cent higher at 275 pence, having touched 282 3/4p earlier.

Glazer, who has had two previous approaches for the club rebuffed, met with Manchester United Chief Executive David Gill last week in Tampa, Florida.

Bayern warns players that salaries may fall

FRANKFURT, 21 Dec — Bayern Munich are warning their players that salaries are more likely to fall than rise, even as they cut costs by reducing the market.

"One thing is clear: the market has changed, and not in the players’ favour," Bayern president Karl-Heinz Rummennigge told Bayern’s web site.

"The days of permanently increasing salaries are over. It’s much more likely that wages will go down."

Bayern plan to reduce their squad from 26 to 22 before the start of next season.

"We currently have a squad of 26, but we reckon 22 is the right size, because we want to make room for the best players from our youth section," Rummennigge said.

"I don’t believe we need many new players... We will have to make some cuttings and signings every year. Sometimes we’ll only need one or two. However, it all depends on whether we’ve got our targets, and we won’t know that until April and May," — MNA/Reuters

Man Utd rules out holding new talks over possible bid

LONDON, 21 Dec — English soccer club Manchester United has ruled out holding new talks over a possible bid for the club by US tycoon Malcolm Glazer, the Financial Times reported on Monday.

Citing a source close to the club, the paper said Manchester United would issue an official stock exchange statement that will demand Glazer “put up or shut up”.

"We are not going to enter into any negotiations (with Mr. Glazer),” the unnamed source was quoted as saying. “If there is a formal offer, we will look at it."

Glazer has told the club’s board he plans a new 800-million-pound (1.56 billion US dollars) takeover offer, a source familiar with the matter said on Sunday.

The source said representatives of the billionaire owner of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers American football team had said the new offer would consist of more cash and less borrowing than his previous proposal. His last offer was rejected by Manchester United because it would have left the football club deeply in debt.

No one at Manchester United was immediately available to comment. — MNA/Xinhua
DOD interrogators impersonate FBI agents at Guantanamo prison
WASHINGTON, 21 Dec — US Defence Department interrogators impersonated FBI agents at the Guantanamo Bay prison to avoid being held accountable when they used “torture techniques” on a prisoner held there in the US war on terrorism, according to FBI e-mails made public on Monday.

Another FBI e-mail made available in the same package said that President George W. Bush had issued an executive order authorizing a series of harsh methods for interrogations. The White House said no such directive existed in the Justice Department and FBI officials echoed the denial.

The documents were made public by the American Civil Liberties Union which obtained them under the Freedom of Information Act.

FBI e-mails dating from December 2003 and January 2004 complained of “DOD (Department of Defence) interrogators impersonating Supervisory Special Agents of the FBI” at Guantanamo.

A December 5, 2003, e-mail said that “these tactics have produced no intelligence of a threat neutralization nature” and that the “techniques have destroyed any chance of prosecuting this detainee.”

“If this detainee is ever released or his story made public in any way, DOD interrogators will not be held accountable because these torture techniques were done (by) the FBI interrogators. The FBI will (be) left holding the bag before the public,” the e-mail said.

The impersonation “was approved by the Dep Sec Def,” a January 21, 2004, e-mail stated, referring to Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz, the Pentagon’s No. 2 official.

Pentagon spokesman Bryan Whitman said Wolfowitz “did not approve interrogation techiques.” Whitman added, “It is difficult to determine from the second-hand description whether the technique in this e-mail (impersonating the FBI) was permissible or not.”

A May 22, 2004, e-mail, sent by an FBI agent in Iraq to senior FBI officials, referred repeatedly to what it said was an executive order signed by Bush, listing some of the methods the order authorized.

MNA/Reuters

Australia signs refuelling aircraft deal with Spanish com
CANBERRA, 21 Dec — The Australian Government signed on Monday a contract with a Spanish company to provide the Royal Australian Air Force with five new air-to-air refuelling aircraft.

The Australian Department of Defence’s 1.4 billion-dollar (1.06 billion US dollars) contract was signed with Spanish company European Aeronautic Defence and Space Constructions Aeronauticas S.A. (EADS-CASA). Announcing the contract, Australian Defence Minister Robert Hill said on Monday “The new aircraft, to be known as Multi Role Tanker Transports (MRTT), will be capable of refuelling F/A-18, F-111, Airborne Early Warning and Control, and Joint Strike Fighter aircraft as well as having a significant strategic airlift capability.”

The new aircraft, which will be fitted with electronic warfare self protection equipment, will replace the Royal Australian Air Force’s ageing Boeing 707 aircraft. The new refuelling aircraft will be based on the Airbus commercial A330 aircraft.

Hill said, adding the basic A330 aircraft will be produced in Europe with four of the five being modified and converted into MRTT aircraft in Australia.

The new aircraft are scheduled to enter service in 2009. EADS-CASA is the military aircraft division of EADS, the largest aerospace company in Europe and the second largest in the world.

MNA/Xinhua

Kidnapped Filipino in Iraq to be released soon
MANILA, 21 Dec — The kidnaped Filipino accountant Robert Tarongoy may be freed by his Iraqi captors this month, the Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said on Monday.

The Iraqi Government is still in talks with the militant group that seized Tarongoy on November 1. DFA spokesman Gilbert Asuque told reporters.

Asuque added that he remained confident Tarongoy will return to the country before the end of the month.

— MNA/Xinhua

WEATHER

Tuesday, 21 December, 2004
Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours

MST; During the past 24 hours, except for the isolated light rain in Kakhin State, weather has been generally fair in the whole country. The noteworthy amount of rainfall was Putao (0.08) inch. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Shan, Rakhine, Kayin and Mon States, Bago and Tanintharyi Divisions, (5°C) below normal in Chin State and Yangon Division (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Kakhin State, Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions and about normal in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant night temperatures were Heho and Pinlong (3°C) each, Namsham (5°C) and Mindat (5°C).

Maximum temperature on 20-12-2004 was 91°F. Minimum temperature on 21-12-2004 was 55°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 21-12-2004 was 82%. Total sunshine hours on 20-12-2004 was (8.5) hours approx. Rainfalls on 21-12-2004 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.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 22-12-2004: Weather will be partly cloudy in Tanintharyi Division and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions.

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

Outlook for subsequent days: Likelihood of slight decrease of night temperatures in the whole country.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 22-12-2004: Fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 22-12-2004: Fair weather.

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PM receives Chinese guests

YANGON, 21 Dec—Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar Lt-Gen Soe Win this afternoon received the President of the Chinese People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries Mr Chen Haosu and party here. Also present during the call were Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Mayor of Yangon Brig-Gen Aung Thein Linn, Director-General of the Prime Minister’s Office U Soe Tint, Director-General of the Protocol Department Thura U Aung Htet and Member of the Yangon City Development Committee Col Tin Soe, Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Li Jinjun and embassy staff. — MNA

Promotion of efficiency of USDA members and cementing the constitution of the association discussed in Kayah State

YANGON, 21 Dec—The Kayah State Union Solidarity and Development Association held a meeting at the city hall of Loikaw in Kayah State, on yesterday morning on the implementation of the seven objectives and nine future tasks laid down by the USDA Annual General Meeting (2004), and for Kayah State USDA to carry out the plans in Kayah State.

Present on the occasion were executives of Kayah State, district and township USdas, members of the township USdas of the state, members of Myanmar War Veterans Organization, Women’s Affairs Organizations, Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Red Cross Society, Auxiliary Fire Brigade, nurses, students and outstanding youths.

First, those present saluted the Flag of the Union of Myanmar, and USDA youths sang songs to hail the meeting. Kayah State USDA Secretary U Kyaw Swe chaired the meeting together with Executives U Aung Myo Swe and U Aung San.

First, the master of ceremonies read out the agenda and announced the start of the meeting. Next, U Kyaw Swe, the meeting chairman, delivered a speech. He discussed the successful implementation of the seven objectives of the USDA Annual General Meeting—upholding of the national policy ‘Our Three Main National Causes’, successful implementation of the State’s political, economic and social objectives, successful implementation of the State’s seven-point Road Map. (See page 9)

At a small natural park named “Picture with Animals”, a visitor may freely and closely watch bears, peacocks, deers, tortoises and ostrich or stay together with birds.

Kayah State Union Solidarity and Development Association holds meeting to implement seven objectives and nine future work programmes adopted by USDA Annual General Meeting (2004) and to carry out plans by itself. — MNA

11th Waxing of Nadaw 1366 ME Wednesday, 22 December, 2004

Four political objectives
- Stability of the State, community peace and tranquility, 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