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

YANGON, 23 Dec — Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council General Min Aung Hlaing, Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe inspected the different stages of the Mone Creek Dam Project in Sedoktara and Pwintphyu townships in Magway Division, on 21 December.

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, Lt-Gen Thida Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo 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, ministers, senior officers of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Magway Division Peace and Development Council Col Phone Maw Shwe, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and heads of department, Senior General Than Shwe flew to Buywa Dam Project on Mone Creek 13 miles upstream the Mone Creek Dam near Buywa village, in Sedoktara Township, by helicopter from Magway in the morning.

At the briefing hall of the project, the Senior General and party heard a report on the aims, staff strength and heavy machinery at work presented by Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo, and progress in implementing the project and requirements by Director-General of Irrigation Department U Kyaw San Win. Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi reported to them on fuel supply, and Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut on the mechanical sector.

In response to their presentations, Senior General Than Shwe gave some guidlines, saying that the electricity and energy sectors are important for national development. Since its assumption of the State duties, the Government has been giving priority to building infrastructures in the transport, communications, health and education sectors. Now, it is giving extra impetus to the development of electricity and energy sectors. Thus, all will have to strive with goodwill in carrying out hydroelectric power projects. As the projects are of vital importance for the nation, all necessary assistance including fuel should be provided for them constantly.

All will have to strive with goodwill in implementing the hydroelectric power projects of the State. Myanmar engineers have gained a lot of experience in carrying out hydroelectric power projects. As the projects are of vital importance for the nation, all necessary assistance including fuel should be provided for them constantly.

(See page 8)
Preserve cultural heritage for posterity

The Union of Myanmar is a country with strong national prestige and integrity and culture and literature of her own and we Myanmar are a people who have lived under their own rule for thousands of years. Arts and architecture of Bagan, the capital of the first Myanmar Empire and the cultural heart of the present-day Myanmar, reflects the high standard of age-old Myanmar culture. The civilization of Myanmar reached its peak in the Bagan period. The second and third Myanmar Empires were also founded on the civilization of Bagan.

When Myanmar people had to live under the colonial British rule, their cultural heritage was on the brink of extinction. However, they constantly tried to preserve their cultural heritage and national character whatever condition they were in. Now, the golden palace of King Anawrahta in Bagan is being rebuilt, according to sound historical evidence and research. Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe visited the construction project site of the Nanyint tower hotel on 20 December. In his meeting with responsible personnel of the project, Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance on the compilation of a record book featuring complete facts about the construction of the golden palace of Bagan based on the historical evidence and research. Only then will posterity be able to gain sound knowledge regarding the reconstruction of the palace, he said. The construction of the palace is well under way and the Nanyint tower hotel will be completed in February, 2005. The tower hotel will have 46 bungalows and 72 rooms. The number of tourists visiting Bagan has been on the increase and it attracted a total of 36,678 foreign visitors and 25,307 local visitors up to November this year.

We would like to urge all those responsible to make a good record of all the construction work in accordance with the guidance given by the Head of State so that generations to come will be able to study it.
China to lower import tariff to 9.9%

BEIJING, 22 Dec—The Tariff Policy Commission of the State Council has announced that China will further cut import tariffs on more than 900 products beginning 1 January of 2005. This will lower the general level of import tariffs to 9.9 per cent from the current level of 10.4 per cent.

Meanwhile, China will resume the collection of export tariffs on resource-related products from 1 January, 2005, which analysts say is a move to meet strong domestic demand.

China will also start collecting specific export tariffs on six kinds of textile products, resume collection of export tariffs on high-energy consumption products and impose a three-month interim export tariff on urea, a synthetic fertilizer, from 1 January, 2005.

After the adjustment, the average import tariff for farm produce will drop from 15.6 per cent to 15.3 per cent; machinery 8.0 per cent and electronic products 9.1 per cent.

From 1 January, 2005, China will levy specific export tariffs on six kinds of textile products, including coats and skirts. The tariff will help encourage the export of high value-added products and optimize the mix of Chinese textile exports, Chong, an official with the Ministry of Commerce said. The tariff rate “will be set by considering the conditions of textile manufacturers”.

“It is also a self-regulation act to avoid anti-dumping actions of other countries,” said an official with the General Administration of Customs of China.

Among them, the import tariff for textiles and clothing will be 11.4 per cent; chemical products 6.9 per cent; vehicles 13.3 per cent; machinery 8.0 per cent and electronic products 9.1 per cent.

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A polar bear stands up as a zoo keeper dressed like a Santa Claus displays a salmon at the Ueno Zoo in Tokyo on 23 Dec, 2004. —INTERNET

Turkey, US, Iraq to hold security talks after deadly ambush

ANKARA, 22 Dec—Turkey, the United States and Iraq will discuss enhanced security measures for Turkish nationals in Iraq at a three-way meeting in January, following the killing of five Turkish Embassy guards in the war-torn country, officials said.

“The meeting will be probably held in the first month of next year,” Turkish foreign ministry spokesman Namik Tan told reporters.

Five Turkish officers and two Iraqi drivers were killed Friday when a four-car convoy carrying a group of policemen assigned to guard the Turkish Embassy in Iraq was ambushed near the northern city of Mosul on its way to Baghdad.

Two officers who survived the attack reached the Iraqi capital, while a third returned to the Habur border post between the two neighbouring countries.

Internet

Attack on US base in Iraq kills 24

BAGHDAD, 22 Dec—A mortar attack on a tented dining hall at a US military base killed 24 people and wounded more than 60 in the Iraqi city of Mosul yesterday in one of the deadliest attacks on US forces since they invaded.

Among the dead were 14 US soldiers and seven employees of US contracting firm KBR. The attack came as US war ally Tony Blair made a surprise visit to Baghdad and French officials confirmed that two journalists seized by militants on 20 August had been released.

The British Prime Minister vowed the war on insurgents would be won and elections would go ahead on 30 January. As he left, mortars fell on Baghdad’s Green Zone compound, as they do almost daily. There appeared to be no casualties.

The Mosul strike came at noon (0900 GMT) when many soldiers at Forward Operating Base Marez, a huge camp built around the northern city’s airfield, would have been eating lunch. The tented dining hall can seat hundreds of soldiers at a time, Reuters correspondents who have stayed at the base said.

Major General Carter Ham, the commander of the 8,000 US troops based in Mosul, said the dead included US soldiers, US and foreign contractors and members of the Iraqi army. “More than 20 have been killed and more than 60 people have been wounded,” he said, adding there was a single explosion. Mosul has seen a surge in violence over the past six weeks, since US forces launched an offensive against guerrillas holed up in Fallujah, an assault designed to break the back of the guerrilla movement before next month’s election.—INTERNET

Asian’s biggest photo imaging tech fair to launch in China

BEIJING, 23 Dec—The eighth China International Photographic and Electrical Imaging Machinery and Technology Fair, the biggest of its kind in Asia, will be held here next April.

The four-day fair will display the newest digital cameras, imaging products and related equipment. Sony, Fujifilm, Casio and other world name brands will take part in the fair.

The fair will offer a chance for photographers and cameramen to get to know the latest developments in the industry. Technological exchanges, seminar and photo exhibition will be held during the fair.

Internet
**ADB approves loans to assist Indian state**

**MANILA, 22 Dec—** The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a package of loans totalling 150 million US dollars to help the state government of Assam in northeastern India manage its fiscal and revenue deficits.

The Assam Government and Public Resource Management Sector Development Programme will support the Assam State Government (ASG) in strengthening public finances, fiscal governance, and core governance through a series of policy, legal, regulatory, and institutional reforms through two back-to-back subprogrammes to be carried out over five years, the Manila-based ADB said Monday in a statement.

The first 125-million-US-dollar subprogramme loan over the next two and a half years will reform state finances by enhancing fiscal responsibility, broadening the tax base and increasing tax collection; improving non-tax revenues; restructuring state debt; and containing state pension liabilities.

Also included in the subprogramme was to undertake fiscal governance reforms through improving state budgeting procedures and directing poverty-focused and growth-oriented expenditures.

Likewise, it will reorient the role of the state by reforming public sector enterprises, strengthening public-private partnerships, and reviewing public administration.

An accompanying project loan of 25 million US dollars will be used to build capacity, and undertake institutional strengthening and training of government officials in public finances.

Based on progress of the first subprogramme, a second 100-million-US-dollar subprogramme will be presented for consideration to the ADB Board. If approved, it will pursue deeper fiscal consolidation and governance reforms over two years starting December 2007.

Assam is the largest state in northeastern India with a population of almost 27 million and a poverty rate of 36 percent. The state is a gateway for interstate trade and integrated infrastructure in northeastern India. It produces 54 per cent of India's tea output and more than five million tons of crude oil a year, making it India's leading crude oil producer.

**Malaysian police seize 36 kilos of heroin in north state**

**KUALA LUMPUR, 22 Dec—** Malaysian police seized 36.31 kilos of heroin in a raid on an apartment used as a heroin-processing laboratory in Paya Terubong, north state of Penang, a local police chief said on Tuesday.

Deputy Chief Police Officer of Penang State Mohd Ali Mohd Yusuf told reporters there that they detained five men, aged between 26 and 41, suspected of being members of a drug-processing syndicate in the evening raid last Friday.

One of them was an ex-detained rehabilitation centre in Simpang Renggam, Johore State, according to the chief.

Mohd Ali said the police were hard on the heels of other suspected members of the syndicate.

The police have also seized assets of the suspected syndicate, which included four cars, six handphones, three gold rings and a locket. In another development, the police in south states of Malacca and Johore seized 1.124 litres of codeine in raids during last week. On November 22, the police also crippled the biggest codeine processing and distribution syndicate in the Klang Valley and the east coast with the detention of four men and a woman, aged between 31 and 38, at a bungalow in suburbs of Kuala Lumpur.

In the raid, the police seized 420 jerry cans, 1,680 litres of liquid codeine, 175 kilos of sodium benzoin, 100 kilos of anhydrous citric acid, 1,450 kilos of glucose syrup, 75 kilos of caramel and cocaine mixing equipment.

**First US contractor leaves Iraq due to skyrocketing security costs**

**NEW YORK, 22 Dec—** The first major US contractor has dropped out of the multibillion-dollar effort to rebuild Iraq, a newspaper reported Wednesday, raising new worries about how increasing violence in the country will affect reconstruction.

Contrack International Inc said it was terminating work in Iraq due to skyrocketing security costs, the Los Angeles Times said.

"We reached a point where our costs were getting to be prohibitive," Karim Camel-Toueg, president of Arlington, VA-based Contrack, told the paper. "We felt we were not serving the government, and that the dollars were not being spent smartly."

The company held one of 12 major reconstruction contracts awarded this year — a $325-million award to rebuild Iraq's shattered transportation system, according to the Times.

First of a number of US military bases attacked last month by Iraqi guerillas, the command called "indirect fire" — have been Commonwealth place at US bases in the Mosul area as well as other insurgent hot spots in Iraq. Dining halls are a prime target because they offer a readily identifiable place where lots of troops congregate at predictable times.

For example, a mortar round hit near the mess hall of a US base in Tikrit during dinner one night in March.

**Defence accord to make Mediterranean “safe sea”**

**PARIS, 22 Dec—** Defence ministers from 10 Mediterranean rim countries decided here Tuesday to set up a permanent structure contributing to the security of the Mediterranean. The representatives of the 10 countries “5+5” (five north African Maghreb countries of Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia, and five south European countries of France, Italy, Malta, Portugal and Spain) signed a “declaration of intention” and approved an action plan for 2005 over the security and defence in the region. “The meeting is to reinforce our bilateral relationship and the initiatives that can be taken in the European Union with the Barcelone process, or in NATO,” French Defence Minister Michele Alliot-Marie told journalists.

The Tuesday’s accord stipulates cooperation at three levels: annual meeting between defence ministers to approve an annual plan, a director committee in charge of surveillance of this plan and other committees for specific need.

**Central China market fire injures 60 people**

**CHANGSHA, 22 Dec—** More than 60 people injured in a fire occurred Tuesday morning at a market in Changle City of central China’s Hunan Province were being hospitalized, the rescue headquarters said here on Tuesday.

At least one fireman was encircled by raging flames, which is still ablaze due to strong wind and lack of adequate water supply. Some shops at the Qianan wholesale and retail market in Changde City have collapsed. The Wuling Township, where the market was located, was enveloped by heavy smoke.

Upon hearing of the accident, Yang Zhengwu, secretary of the Hunan Provincial Committee of the Chinese Communist Party, and provincial governor Zhou Bohua entrusted vice-governor Xu Yunzhao to organize rescue operation, urging rescuers to spare no efforts in extinguishing the fire and reduce the casualties to the minimum extent.

**US was replacing Iraq tent with bunker**

**WASHINGTON, 22 Dec—** Worried about recent artillery attacks on American mess halls in Iraq, the US military was just days away from completing a reinforced dining area at the camp where a rocket attack killed more than 20 people in a tent the bunker was meant to replace.

Iraqi guerillas have attacked several US military dining halls tents with mortars or rockets over the past few months.

On Tuesday, before the hardened dining hall at Forward Operating Base Marez could be completed, a 122mm rocket slammed into a tent where hundreds of troops were sitting down to lunch. An attack from a locket on 21 Dec, 2004.—INTERNET

Chinese workers set up a metal structure for a giant Christmas tree in Beijing, China, on 21 Dec, 2004.—INTERNET

**Networks**

A combo shows pictures released by the US Marines of a US soldier being hit by enemy fire while trying to pull a fainted wounded Marine to safety during battles in the restive city of Fallujah, west of Baghdad on 20 Dec. 2004. — INTERNET

Notices to the readers:

**When articles are written by foreign correspondents, they should only record the facts.**
Malaysia to give Indian businessmen multiple entry visas

New Delhi, 22 Dec— Malaysia on Tuesday announced that Indian businessmen would be given multiple entry visas as it evinced keen interest in giving a major boost to bilateral economic cooperation and increasing the volume of trade.

Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said his country viewed India as a “strategic partner” and a committee of representatives from both nations would go into the details of evolving a mechanism for comprehensive cooperation.

Addressing a Press conference here, he supported India’s claim for permanent membership in the expanded UN Security Council, saying it was “certainly a very eligible candidate”.

Badawi, who held wide-ranging talks with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, said Malaysia wanted to increase in volume of trade and identified education, human capital development, IT, Information and Communication Technology, research, tourism, biotechnology, pharmaceuticals and herbal medicine as the priority areas of cooperation.

In an effort to make issuance of visas easier, Malaysia has set up outlets in different Indian states and has decided to issue multiple entry visas to businessmen.

— MNA/PTI

Turkey to investigate killings of five security guards in Iraq

Ankara, 22 Dec— Turkish Foreign Ministry Spokesman Namik Tan said Tuesday that Turkey has launched a high-level initiative to investigate the deaths of five security guards in Baghdad.

“We undertook initiatives in Baghdad and Washington DC to investigate the guerilla attack on Turkish security guards, and will bring those who are responsible to justice,” Tan said in a statement.

Tan also expressed gratitude to US military for its help in this matter. Five Turkish security guards were killed in an ambush near the northern Iraqi city of Mosul on 17 December. — MNA/Xinhua

First Chinese graduate of Yale honoured

New Haven (Connecticut), 22 Dec— A ceremony to honour Yung Wing, the first Chinese student to graduate from Yale University 150 years ago, was held here Tuesday.

A bronze statue of Yung, donated by China’s southern city of Zhuhai, the hometown of Yung, was unveiled at the ceremony.

“This is a magnificent day for Yale as we celebrate the 150th anniversary of graduation of Yung Wing. He is a role model for all our students and all of us today,” Linda Lorimer, vice-president of the Yale University, told Xinhua.

The statue will be a permanent part of our campus so that all of our students and faculty will always remember the legacy of Yung Wing,” she said.

Huang Xiaodong, chairman of the Zhuhai International Culture Exchange Association, said Yung, as the first Chinese national to obtain an American university degree, embarked on a long journey to the betterment of China after his graduation.

Yung was the initiator to the plan of sending 120 young Chinese students to study in the United States. He was also involved in efforts to overthrow the Qing Dynasty and establish a republic in China, Huang noted.

Yung came to the United States in 1847 and went to the Yale University three years later and graduated in 1854. Last August, Yale held a symposium in Beijing to commemorate the 150th anniversary of Yung’s graduation. — MNA/Xinhua

Netherlands plans to withdraw 1,350 troops from Iraq in March

Amsterdam, 22 Dec— The Netherlands is sticking to its plan to withdraw its 1,350 troops from Iraq in March despite pressure from the United States, Britain and Japan to extend their mission, Dutch news agency ANP reported on Tuesday.

Defence Minister Henk Kamp told the Dutch Parliament that the British, Japanese, Iraqi and US governments would all like the Dutch troops to stay, but he and Foreign Minister Bernhard Bot agreed that they would leave as the Cabinet had planned.

“After the middle of March, the situation is no longer unsustainable,” Bot said, according to the ANP.

“My colleague Bot and I have seen this from the beginning. This is how we worked it out,” ANP quoted Kamp as saying.

Bot said the Dutch Government would consider asking parliament to extend the mission only if the Iraqi election set for 30 January had to be delayed, because of the US Marine election set for 30 January had to be delayed.

The Dutch Cabinet decided in November to bring home the bulk of its troops from Iraq in March but continue to keep a few soldiers on the ground to contribute to a NATO training mission.

The Dutch contingent—under British command—has been based in the Muthanna Province, in southern Iraq, since August 2003. Two Dutch soldiers have been killed in the relatively peaceful part of the country, where Japan also has 550 troops stationed to carry out humanitarian work. — MNA/Reuters

Seven Halliburton workers die in Iraq attack

Houston, 22 Dec— Halliburton Co says it lost four employees and three subcontractors in the attack at a military base in Iraq, a strike that could be the deadliest for the Houston-based contractor since its involvement there.

Thirteen other workers were injured, some seriously, when explosions rocked a mess tent during lunchtime Tuesday at the base in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul, company officials said.

Names of the victims were not immediately released.

“Family notification has not been completed,” said Halliburton spokeswoman Wendy Hall. “To protect their privacy, we will not release any additional information at this time.”

The contractor’s previous worst day was 9 April, when at least five Halliburton truck drivers died as their convoy was ambushed near Abu Ghraib, west of Baghdad.—INTERNET

Report says 32 US Marines commit suicide in 2004

Los Angeles, 22 Dec— The number of confirmed or probable suicides in the US Marines reached 32 this year, more than at any time since the Corps started monitoring such deaths, a local newspaper reported Tuesday.

San Diego Union-Tribune, a newspaper published in a coastal city near one of the largest Marine bases in the US, said the previous record was 28 suicides in 2001, when the US invaded Afghanistan. At least six of the 32 suicides this year involved Marines in Camp Pendleton, a Marine base near San Diego, California. Of them, three killed themselves in Kuwait or Iraq and three in San Diego. Thomas Gaskin, a Navy commander told the newspaper.

Historically, the Marine Corps leads all US services in the rate of suicides, averaging nearly 25 a year since 1999. The Marines are the smallest service, with 178,000 active-duty troops.

By comparison, the US Army has some 500,000 troops. It reported 54 suicides in 2002. — MNA/Xinhua

US Marines search a former agricultural building in the devastated city of Fallujah, west of Baghdad, on 21 Dec, 2004. — INTERNET
More overseas Vietnamese to return home for Tet festival

HANOI, 23 Dec—About 380,000 overseas Vietnamese will visit their home country on the occasion of the coming Tet, the traditional lunar new year festival in Vietnam on February 9, Vietnam News Agency reported on Monday.

The number is an increase of 10-15 per cent over the last Tet, the report quoted Vietnam’s Committee of Overseas Vietnamese Affairs as saying.

More overseas Vietnamese, including senior officials have registered to visit the homeland over recent years, Pham The Duyet, president of the Vietnam Fatherland Front Central Committee (VFF CC) said. He said that their return is an encouragement to their relatives at home and help themselves better understand the country’s changes.

Many overseas Vietnamese combine their Tet visits with investment and business promotion work, Duyet said, stressing that the government has issued policies and guidelines to encourage overseas Vietnamese to contribute to the national construction.

—MNA/Xinhua

48 big Chinese state companies recruit overseas talents

BEIJING, 22 Dec—A total of 48 large-sized state companies, including four among the world’s top 500, are recruiting talents from overseas in China’s capital of Beijing.

More than 500 people who studied abroad were attending the joint recruitment meeting on Tuesday in Diaoyutai State Guesthouse.

Li Yizhong, who heads the State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission (SASAC) which organizes the recruitment, said the big state companies are vitally important to China’s national economy and security.

The state-owned enterprises need to recruit excellent professionals from both domestic and overseas in order to improve their own competitiveness, Li said.

—MNA/Xinhua

Water diversion planned to combat salt tide in south China

GUANGZHOU, 22 Dec—The Pearl River Water Resources Committee is considering diverting water from other parts of the country to help fight the severe drought and salt tide currently plaguing the Pearl River Delta in south China.

Wang Qiusheng, deputy director of the committee, said that an emergency plan regarding water diversion had been completed and was waiting for approval from the State Flood Control and Drought Relief Headquarters.

According to the plan, if salt tide occurs extensively, water will be discharged from reservoirs such as Tiangshengjiao Reservoir in southwest China’s Guizhou Province, Yanatan Reservoir in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region and Felixia Reservoir on the upper reaches of Beijiang River, a tributary of Pearl River, to dilute the salt tide in the Pearl River Delta.

Drought in the Pearl River valley, mostly in Guangdong Province, has been worsening since autumn, and as a result, this year’s salt tide began 15 days earlier than last year, said Wang. “The worst dry season in half a century appears on Xijiang, Beijiang and Dongjiang rivers, three tributaries of the Pearl River. I’m afraid the worst salt tide in the Pearl River valley since 1963 might occur too,” he said.

Wang warned if the current drought spell in the Pearl River valley continues, the salt tide in the Pearl River estuary would go further upstream, which will in turn affect water supply to more than 15 million people in the economically developed Pearl River Delta, and Hong Kong and Macao special administrative regions.

—MNA/Xinhua

Chinese linguists to complete largest database of spoken Chinese

BEIJING, 22 Dec—Chinese linguists are going to complete China’s largest database of spoken Chinese, on the basis of which they will compile the country’s first modern spoken Chinese dictionary and grammar book.

Shen Jiaxuan, director of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) Institute of Linguistics, said the database include three sub bases such as a live Chinese conversation base whose data were collected in Beijing, a base consisting of six dialects of Shanghai, Xi’an, Guangzhou, Beijing, Chongqing and Xiamen, and a base of phonetic symbols of modern spoken Chinese.

The live conversation base now has 650 hours of live conversations recorded in Beijing, which were transferred to 8.9 million words in transcript.

Shen led the key research project of the CASS in the past four years. Linguists always establish databases of written languages in the first place. They, however, realize that databases of spoken languages are in the same importance to linguistic research. Information technology and multi-media technologies help make the research feasible.

“Developing countries have already made a lot of research in building databases of spoken languages, including Chinese,” Shen said.

Some multi-national companies in information technology are eager to recruit local talents in developing spoken Chinese databases.

“If we do not speed up to build our own spoken language database,” Shen said, “we might lose an advantage in studying spoken Chinese and developing applied technologies”.

Shen and his research team are now developing management and search software for the spoken Chinese database as well as a spoken Chinese database of children, which is expected for research on language acquisition mechanisms among Chinese children.

—MNA/Xinhua

Vietnamese sales women wait for customers at a car show-room in Hanoi on 19 Dec, 2004. —MNA/Xinhua

India successfully tests “BrahMos” cruise missile

NEW DELHI, 22 Dec—The land version of the “BrahMos” cruise missile, jointly developed by India and Russia, was successfully tested for the first time at a range in western Indian state of Rajasthan Tuesday, the Indo-Asian News Service (IANS) reported.

The test firing of the supersonic missile, which takes its name from the Brahmaputra and Moskva rivers, at the Western Test Range was witnessed by Indian Army Chief-Designate Lieutenant-General J J Singh and Defence Research and Development Organization chief M Natarajan.

“From among a group of identified targets, the mission team chose a target and the missile came dead on the built up target, destroying it,” IANS quoted a Defence Ministry spokesman as saying.

“Senior Army and Navy officers flew over the destroyed target immediately after the test, signalling the total success of the BrahMos in its capacity of taking on land targets from a land platform.”

The naval version of the BrahMos has been successfully tested several times over the past few years from a coastal range in Orissa State in east India. It destroyed targets out at sea, including a decommissioned warship.

—MNA/Xinhua

An elephant strolls on a foggy morning in New Delhi on 21 Dec, 2004. In the last few days thick fog has hung over the city, disrupting air, rail and road traffic.—INTERNET

Vietnam to lure stronger foreign investment next year

HANOI, 23 Dec—Vietnam targets some five billion US dollars’ worth of foreign direct investment (FDI) in 2005, up from the expected amount of over four billion US dollars in 2004.

The country will attract more than four billion US dollars’ worth of FDI this year if it licenses a property project with registered capital of 114.5 million US dollars in the next few days, the Foreign Investment Department under the Ministry of Planning and Investment said on Wednesday, noting that its initial target was 3.3 billion dollars, up 6.5 per cent against last year.

Vietnam licensed 630 FDI projects totalling nearly two billion US dollars between January and late-November, seeing respective year-on-year rises of 7.8 per cent and 37.5 per cent. Countries with biggest numbers of projects licensed in the country in the period were South Korea and China.

To receive more FDI, Vietnam plans to allow stronger foreign participation in several fields such as cement, electricity, education and vocational training, and permit localities to license bigger projects (big cities can license projects worth up to 40 million US dollars).

—MNA/Xinhua

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The naval version of the BrahMos has been successfully tested several times over the past few years from a coastal range in Orissa State in east India. It destroyed targets out at sea, including a decommissioned warship.

—MNA/Xinhua

An elephant strolls on a foggy morning in New Delhi on 21 Dec, 2004. In the last few days thick fog has hung over the city, disrupting air, rail and road traffic.—INTERNET

Vietnamese sales women wait for customers at a car show-room in Hanoi on 19 Dec, 2004. —MNA/Xinhua
Stability of the State, booming economy of State and people and uplift of national education standard discussed in Kayin State USDA Meeting

YANGON, 23 Dec — Kayin State Union Solidarity and Development Association held a meeting to implement seven objectives and nine future tasks adopted at the USDA Annual General Meeting (2004) and to carry out the plans in Kayin State by the Kayin State USDA, at Zwegabin Hall in Hpa-an on 22 December morning.

Present on the occasion were USDA members in Kayin State, town elders, members of Myanmar War Veterans Organization, Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation, Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Red Cross and Auxiliary Fire Brigades, nurses, students and outstanding youths.

First, they saluted the State Flag. Next, USDA members sang the song titled ‘Eternal Union’ to hail the meeting. Secretary of Kayin State USDA U Saw Htar Lon, acting as meeting chairman, gave a speech, saying that today’s meeting is to coordinate implementation of the objectives laid down by the USDA Annual General Meeting (2004). He added that the meeting will be held with the aims of how to achieve success in implementing the seven objectives adopted at the USDA Annual General Meeting (2004) in Kayin State and nine future tasks as well. He asserted that the USDA members are new generation youths who will discharge their national duties. The association, formed with new generation youths, upholding the national policy — Our Three Main National Causes and 12 Objectives of the State, is nurturing its youth members through moral uplift and enhancement of three capabilities so as to hand down the duties of the State to the generations to come. Nowadays, the Union of Myanmar is being built for emergence of a modern, developed and discipline-flourishing nation and its seven-point Road Map has been laid down and is being implemented, he said. He noted that government is cementing the national unity based on the Union Spirit, which plays the most important role in building a democratic nation for its perpetual existence. Similarly, the government is striving for the stability of the State, the economic development of the State and the people, and the uplift of national education standard.

Kayin State USDA holds meeting to implement seven objectives and nine future tasks and future tasks of Kayin State at Zwegabin Hall in Hpa-an. — MNA
Implement dam projects...

Implementing the hydroelectric power projects of the State. Myanmar engineers have gained a lot of experience in carrying out hydroelectric power projects. As the projects are of vital importance for the nation, all necessary assistance including fuel should be provided for them constantly.

The blue and white collar workers have gained much experiences in the projects, and they should implement dam projects, linked to one another, simultaneously, instead of starting a project upon completion of the previous one.

The Senior General and party inspected the blue print, maps and heavy machinery at work.

The Buywa Dam project covers building of three dams — the 3,200-foot long main dam, the 500-foot dam 1 and the 5,000-foot dam 2. The height of the dams will be 240 feet. Maximum storage capacity of the reservoir will be 740,000 acre-feet. It will generate 60 megawatt and control the waters of the Mone to supply more water for Mone Creek Multipurpose Dam Project.

The Senior General presented a basket of fruits to Director of Construction (3) U Tun Aung Lwin, on progress of work; and Col Phone Maw Shwe, on prospects for extended cultivation of crops in the township with water from Mone Dam.

The Senior General provided assistance and urged to make efforts for timely completion of the project.

The Senior General and party viewed construction tasks. On completion, the project will be able to benefit 96,777 acres of monsoon paddy and 74,000 acres of summer paddy and generate 75 megawatts of electricity.

In the afternoon, the Senior General and party proceeded to the Kyeeohn-Kyeewa Multipurpose Dam Project, five miles from Mezali Diversion Weir on Mone Creek in Pwintbyu Township. Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo presented salient points about the project; Director-General U Kyaw San Win and Director of Construction (3) U Tun Aung Lwin, on progress of work; and Col Phone Maw Shwe, on prospects for extended cultivation of crops in the township with water from Mone Dam.

The Senior General and party viewed construction site of the Kyeeohn-Kyeewa Multipurpose Dam Project and then arrived back in Magway.

The Senior General Than Shwe views the site chosen for implementing Buywa Dam Project in Sedoktara Township. — MNA

The Senior General Than Shwe inspects construction site of Kyeeohn-Kyeewa Dam Project. — MNA

The Mone Creek Multipurpose Dam Project will be opened soon. — MNA
Magway Division will enjoy…
(from page 16)

and Magway Bridge in addition to Institute of Medicine, University of Primary Health and colleges. The government placed emphasis on development of Magway and Pakokku after designating them as development regions since the regions lagged behind development in the time of the previous governments.

As a result, like Magway, Pakokku region has seen progress with roadways, roads, factories and mills and the airport, he said.

In the past, Magway was a region where water was scarce and local farmers had to struggle with agricultural tasks with great difficulties. So the government poured a huge sum of money into dam projects and water pumping projects for agricultural purposes, he added.

With significantly increasing sown acreage of paddy, the region’s paddy output contributes more than 90 per cent food security towards local people, compared to 50 per cent in the past. And the region will enjoy cent per cent food sufficiency in next few years, he said.

Magway Division’s development momentum will be in full swing in several years due to the fine basic infrastructures built by the government, he said.

The government has been implementing a variety of projects in other states and divisions and border areas in addition to Magway Division for rapid progress and reducing the development gap among them as soon as possible. So, other states and divisions are making progress remarkably.

In the process, the government has to overcome great difficulties and has been making efforts for the development of the nation and the people, he said. Such development is indeed due to the collective and united efforts of the State and the people.

National development has stood witness to the fact that unity is key to the country. In discharging national duties in discharging national duties, Tatmadawmen and families of those present.

After the meeting, the Senior General and party inspected the Ayeyawady Bridge (Magway) and progress of Minbu.

Prior to the arrival of the Senior General in Magway City Hall, General Thura Shwe Mann, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Li-Gen Ye Myint and minister held a meeting with local authorities, service personnel, members of social organizations and town elders. On the occasion, Magway Division PDC Chairman Col Phone Maw Shwe reported on area, organization and the bright prospects for economic and social development.

The State has been making efforts for the equitable development of the states and divisions simultaneously.

Moreover, priority is given to the interest of the State and people. Efforts are being made for the emergence of peaceful, modern and developed nation. That past, due to the harmonious efforts among the Tatmadawmen, the people and the Government in building the new nation.

As the seven-point Road Map has been laid down and is being implemented for bringing about disciplined-flourishing democracy, Tatmadawmen should make concerted efforts in cooperation with the people for achieving success of the Road Map. Tatmadawmen and families, on their part, are to strive with might and main for carrying out agricultural and livestock breeding tasks so as to contribute towards basic needs of the local people.

Later, the General cordially greeted the officers, other ranks and their families.— MNA

General Thura Shwe Mann meets Tatmadawmen...
(from page 16)

Ceremonial command Maj-Gen Ye Myint and senior military officers.

At the meeting, Secretary-1 Adjutant-General Thura Shwe Mann delivered an opening speech. Next, General Thura Shwe Mann delivered an address, saying that the country is being built by upholding Our Three Main National Causes for emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation.

Tatmadawmen are discharging their duties as the State conscientiously as well as building the State. It is obvious that today’s development of the State is more than that in the past, due to the harmonious efforts among the Tatmadawmen, the people and the Government in building the new nation. As the seven-point Road Map has been laid down and is being implemented for bringing about disciplined-flourishing democracy, Tatmadawmen should make concerted efforts in cooperation with the people for achieving success of the Road Map. Tatmadawmen and families, on their part, are to strive with might and main for carrying out agricultural and livestock breeding tasks so as to contribute towards basic needs of the local people.

Later, the General cordially greeted the officers, other ranks and their families.— MNA

Senior General Thaw Shwe Mann cordially greets authorities, departmental officials, USDA and social organization members and town elders in city hall of Magway.— MNA

General Thura Shwe Mann meets with authorities, departmental officials, USDA and social organization members and town elders in city hall of Magway.

— MNA

Secretary-1 Li-Gen Thein Sein meets departmental staff and town elders at city hall in Magway. — MNA

According to statistics, economic growth is increased. He said peace and tranquillity prevail in Magway Division and economic growth is increased. According to statistics, there are also bright prospects for economic growth in the region. There are a total of 28,000 students including students of the University of Distance Education in the Division. Therefore, Magway Division proceeded.
Magway Division will enjoy…  

Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint briefed on medical achievement after 1988 and health care services provided in the division.

Next, Minister for Cooperatives Col Zaw Min briefed on the arrangements for the development of the region by the ministry.

Afterwards, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein briefed on the political, economic and social progress of the State. He also urged the departmental staff to strive for the emergence of peaceful, modern and developed nation in accordance with the objectives of the State.

The seven-point future political programme has been declared for the emergence of the new constitution and to build the modern, developed, disciplined and flourishing democratic nation in accordance with the new constitution. The seven-point future political programme of the State is not the policy of an individual person but the State policy laid down by the State Peace and Development Council. Therefore, the government will continue to implement the seven-point future political programme for the emergence of democratic nation. The National Convention, the first step of the seven-point political programme, will resume in February 2005. Efforts are to be made for success of the National Convention and realization of the seven-point Road Map in cooperation with departmental staff, he added. Senior General Than Shwe and party the next day arrived at PyinOolwin, Mandalay Division, where they were welcomed by Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Kyaw Win, Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung and senior military officers. — MNA

Lt-Gen Aung Htwe hosts dinner in honour of Vice-Chief of General Political Department of Vietnamese Army Lt-Gen Phung Khac Dang and party. — MNA

Lt-Gen Aung Htwe receives Vice-Chief of General Political Department of Vietnamese People’s Army

Yangon, 23 Dec — Member of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar Lt-Gen Aung Htwe of the Ministry of Defence received Vice-Chief of General Political Department of the People’s Army of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Lieutenant-General Phung Khac Dang and delegation members at Zeyarthi Beikman Hall on Konyinytha, here, at 5.30 pm today.

Also present at the call were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Maj-Gen Aung Hlaing and Maj-Gen Khin Maung Tun of the Ministry of Defence, Commandant of National Defence College Maj-Gen Moe Hein and senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, Vietnamese Ambassador Mr Pham Quang Khanh and Military Attaché Senior Colonel Le Van Thanh and officials.

Before and during the dinner, artistes of the hotel entertained songs, dances and music.

After the dinner, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and Lt-Gen Phung Khac Dang exchanged souvenirs. Later, Lt-Gen Phung Khac Dang together with the artistes had a group photo taken. — MNA

Commandant of National Defence College Maj-Gen Moe Hein welcomes Vice-Chief of General Political Department of Vietnamese Army Lt-Gen Phung Khac Dang at the airport. — MNA

Centennial ceremony of Mahasi Sayadaw held

Yangon, 23 Dec — The centennial ceremony of the late Mahasi Sayadaw was held at Phayin Dhammyayon of Mahasi Sasana Yeiktha in Bahan Township this morning.

Vice-Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Kesara administered the Eight Precepts. Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung supplicated on religious affairs. Vice-Chairman of Buddha Sasana Naggaha Organization Dr U Tin Soe Lin made a supplication on the purpose of holding the ceremony.

Next, Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung accepted donations for all-round tasks of the centennial ceremony. Today’s donations for the bronze statue of the Mahasi Sayadaw and construction of other religious buildings at the Yeiktha amounted to K 78.2 million and foreign currencies.

Rector of International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta Silandabloavansa delivered a sermon. — MNA

Lt-Gen Maung Bo presents championship trophy to Yangon Command team in Defence Services of C-in-C’s Trophy Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) soccer tournament

Yangon, 23 Dec — Final match of the 43rd Defence Services Commander-in-Chief’s Trophy soccer tournament took place this afternoon at Youth Training Centre (Thuwunna) and Yangon Command team defeated the Camp Commandent’s Office team by 2-0.

After the match, on behalf of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo of the Ministry of Defence presented a championship trophy to Yangon Command team.

Vice-Adjudant-General Maj-Gen Hla Shwe and Chief-of-Staff (Navy) Capt Nyan Tun awarded the players of Camp Commandent’s Office team and Southern Command team who stood second and third places respectively.

Vietnamese goodwill delegation arrives

Yangon, 23 Dec — A 10-member goodwill delegation led by Vice-Chief of General Political Department of the People’s Army of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Lieutenant-General Phung Khac Dang arrived here by air this afternoon to pay a goodwill visit in Myanmar.

The Vietnamese goodwill delegation was welcomed at Yangon International Airport by Commander of National Defence College Maj-Gen Moe Hein and senior military officers of the Ministry of defence, Vietnamese Military Attaché Senior Colonel Le Van Thanh and officials. — MNA
Traffic Rules Enforcement Supervisory Committee meets

YANGON, 23 Dec — The Supervisory Committee for Traffic Rules Enforcement held its 110th meeting in conjunction with the second prize-presentation ceremony at the Road Administration Department (Head Office) on Thanthamar Street in Thingangyun Township here this afternoon.

Present on the occasion were Patron of the Leading Committee for Organizing the traffic-enforcement exhibition and contests Patron of the Supervisory Committee Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Chairman of the Leading Committee and the Supervisory Committee Vice-Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Hla Shwe, officials, members of the panel of judges and guests.

Maj-Gen Myint Swe in his speech said that traffic accidents that occurred over the world leave more than 1 million people dead and around 50 million people, disabled, and a great deal of private-owned and state-owned property, got damaged annually. The purpose of literary, cartoon and photo contests was to effectively reduce the rate of road accidents with the heightened public awareness of traffic rules and accidents, he said.

In conclusion, he called on departments, entrepreneurs and the people to contribute towards measures for reduction of traffic accidents and loss of human resources, private and state-owned property. Maj-Gen Hla Shwe also delivered a speech.

Maj-Gen Myint Swe presented gifts and certificates of honour to the judges and scholars who provided their services for the contests.

Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Maj-Gen Hla Shwe, the YCDC Joint-Secretary and members of Kayin State and all the national people, with genuine goodwill and not for individual gain.

Kayin State USDA Executive U Saw Hto Ka Paw tabled a motion calling for the implementation of the seven objectives and nine future tasks of USDA Annual General Meeting 2004 and future tasks of Kayin State. — MNA

Stability of the State...

(from page 7)

Seven objectives and nine future tasks are being undertaken all over the country serving the interest of the State and all the national people, with genuine goodwill and not for individual gain. Kayin State USDA Executive U Saw Hto Ka Paw tabled a motion calling for the implementation of the seven objectives laid down by the USDA Annual General Meeting (2004) with might and main and Kayin State USDA Executive U Tin Ko Latt seconded the motion. Next, Kayin State USDA Executive Naw Cho Cho San Wai reported on matters concerning future tasks to be carried out in Kayin State.

Hpa-an District USDA Executive Naw Cho Cho Nyunt discussed the seven objectives of the association and Kawkareik District USDA Executive Saw Htar Lon, the nine future tasks of the association. Myawady District USDA Executive U Maung Maung also discussed the future tasks to be carried out in Kayin State. Member of Kayin State WVO Captain Thaung Min Aung also delivered a speech.

Later, the meeting laid down a resolution to materialize the seven objectives and nine future tasks adopted at the USDA Annual General Meeting (2004) and future tasks to be carried out in Kayin State. The meeting came to a close with the chanting of slogans at 10.30 am. — MNA

Chinese delegation returns home

YANGON, 23 Dec — The visiting Chinese delegation led by Mr Liang Zhaoming, Senior Procurator at Level II of Guang Dong Province Legislative Office at the Attorney-General’s Office of the People’s Republic of China, visited the Shwedagon Pagoda on 21 December. The Chinese delegation also called on Dr Tun Shin and U Myint Naing, Deputy Attorneys-General at the Attorney-General’s Office. The Chinese delegation met with officials, and they discussed the role of the attorney-general’s office and legislative matters. Later, the Chinese delegation visited the National Museum. Yesterday, the Chinese delegation visited Myanna Gems Mart and other places of interest. The Chinese delegation left here for home by air this evening. They were seen off at Yangon International Airport by Deputy Attorney-General Dr Tun Shin, Director-General of the Attorney-General’s Office U Mya Nyin, Chinese Attaché to Myanmar Mr Wang Ruqiu, and officials. — MNA

Kayin State USDA Joint-Secretary Saw Han Aye presents K 15 million to Hpa-an District USDA Secretary Saw Aye Lwin. — MNA

Kayin State MCWA Chairperson Daw Mar Mar Lu presents prize to an outstanding youth. — MNA

Kayin State USDA Executive U Tin Ko Latt. — MNA

Myawady District USDA Executive U Maung Maung. — MNA

Kayin State USDA Executive Naw Cho Cho Nyunt. — MNA

Kayin State USDA Executive Saw Hto Ka Paw. — MNA

Hpa-an District USDA Executive Saw Hto Ka Paw. — MNA

Kawkareik District USDA Executive Saw Hla Shwe. — MNA

Kawkareik District USDA Executive Saw Htaung Lwin. — MNA

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR  Friday, 24 December, 2004 11
STIMOROL
Reg. No: 7986/1992
in respect of “non-medicated confectonery, especially chewing gum”.
Fractant imitation or unauthorised use of the said Trade Mark will be dealt with according to law.
Win Mu Tin
for DANDY &S
P.O. Box 60, Yangon

TRADE MARK CAUTION NOTICE
ALTICO CHEMICAL PTE LTD, carrying on business in industries, and merchants, having its principal office at No.19, Thun Avenue H., Singapore-639894, is the owner and sole proprietor of the following Trade Marks Registered in Myanmar -

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TRADE MARK CAUTION
LOS ANGELES, 22 Dec — A world-wide semiconductor
ductor revenue is on track
to reach 218 billion US
dollars in 2004, despite
a significant market
downturn in the first half of the year, a high-
tech research firm reported
Tuesday.
Gartner, an influential
market research firm of the high-tech industry,
said the semiconductor
market will still score a
23-per cent increase in 2004.
“The sudden down-
turn in the semiconductor market in the first
half of 2004 has been caused by vendor sensitivity to an
incremental buildup of channel inventory,” said Gerald Van Hoy, an ana-
lyst with Gartner.

On a regional basis, the Asia and Pacific market
showed the strongest growth rate with a 34.6
per cent increase in semiconductor revenue in 2004.
Europe, Middle East
and Africa had a growth of 19.8 per cent, the Ameri-
"called it a 16-per cent in-
crease, and Japan rose 14.6
per cent, Gartner said.
According to prelimi-
inary year-end figures from
Gartner, Intel remained
the world’s No. 1 semi-
ciconductor vendor based
on revenue for the 13th consecutive year.
Samsung Electronics increased revenue by 49 per
cent and vowed that the company ben-
efited from success in the
dynamic random-access memory (DRAM) and NAND flash memory mar-
ket.

Texas Instruments moved into the No 3 posi-
tion with another strong
performance in wireless
communications chips and
application-specific products, Gartner said.

Infineon Technologies benefited from a strong
DRAM market. For only
the second time, Infineon
was Europe’s largest chip-
maker, moving ahead of
STMicroelectronics, ac-
garding to Gartner.

Global semiconductor revenue predicted to reach $218 billion

MINISTRY OF RAIL TRANSPORT
ROAD TRANSPORT
INVITATION FOR TENDER
NO. 004/RT/ 2004-2005
Sealed Tenders from eligible Suppliers are Inv-
ited for the supply of 1650 Tyre Sets with Tube and
Flap Size 9.00 x 20 x 1.14 P.Rating— Lug Type, prices
to be quoted in Myanmar kyats Yangon.
(a) Tender Documents are available at the office
of Procurement & Stores Department, Head
Office, Road Transport, No. 375 Bogyoke
Aung San Road, Yangon, starting from the 23rd,
December, 2004. (b) Tender will be closed on 7th,
January, 2005 at (16:00) hours. (c) The Road Transport reserves the right to reject
any or all Tenders. (d) Detai1ed information will be available at the office of the Procurement & Stores Depart-
ment, Phone Nos. (01-2252574) or (01-
376549).

Road Transport

Zimbabwe’s coffee production declines sharply

HARARE, 22 Dec—Zimbabwe’s coffee pro-
duction declined from
about 9,000 tons in 1999
to 5,000 tons last year due
to a glut on the interna-
tional market and the re-
sultant low prices, the
Zimbabwe Commercial
Farmers Union said Tues-
day.
“The coffee produc-
tion is currently very de-
pressed because of the
international prices which have dropped drastically owing to overproduction world-
wide,” the union’s presi-
dent Davison Mugabe was quoted by Zimba-
debian new agency News
Ziana as saying.

The decline has also been compounded by the fact that new farmers are still inexperienced in
the production of the crop. Countries like Brazil and
Vietnam have sub-
stantially increased produc-
tion of the crop and con-
tributed to the over-supply on the international mar-
ket, Mugabe said.
MNA/Xinhua

FAA plans to hire 12,500 air traffic controllers

WASHINGTON, 22 Dec — The Federal Aviation
Administration announced a plan to hire
12,500 air traffic control-
ors and let some existing
workers stay on the job
longer than their manda-
tory retirement age to off-
set a tidal wave of loom-
ing retirements.
The plan outlined by

Don’t smoke

FAA Administrator Marion Blakey also calls for
speeding up training to get controllers on the
job faster and reducing the work force at airports
with less air traffic.
The genesis for the moves can be traced to
1981, when President
Ronald Reagan fired more
than 10,000 controllers and
hired replacements.
Nearly three-quarters of
those workers will be eligi-
ble to retire in the next 10 years. — MNA/

Washington— The
world’s not out of
space yet. NASA
seeks a company
to build and
launch a spacecraft
to detect dozens of
galaxies in Earth’s past.

“We didn’t know whether these
newborn galaxies were present
at all in the universe
today or whether this phase of cosmic
creation might be over,” Heckman
said at a telephone brief-
in.

NASA spacecraft detects dozens of newborn galaxies in Earth

WASHINGTON, 22 Dec — Billions of years after a
galactic “baby boom,” a
NASA spacecraft has de-
tected dozens of newborn galaxies in Earth’s past of
the universe.

These unexpected cos-
ic infants were discov-
ered by the Galax-
y Evolution Explorer,
which managed to spy them be-
cause of the massive amounts of ultraviolet light
they emit as they rapid-
ly form stars out of gas,
aviators said on Tues-
day.

The closest of them may be a mere billion-light-
years from Earth, about
eight billion-light-years
closer than the baby galax-
ies scientists had observed
previously, said Tim
Heckman, an astronomer at Johns Hopkins Univer-
sity in Baltimore.

A light-year is about six
trillion miles, the dis-
tance light travels in a year.

Astronomers believe the
real boom time for gal-
axy formation was just a
few billion years after the
theoretical Big Bang ex-
plosion thought to have
given birth to the universe.

NASA announced the
findings Monday. — MNA/Reuters

South African firm wins $1b Dubai Airport contract

ABU DHABI, 22 Dec — A South African con-
faction firm which
won a one-billion-
dollar contract as part of
the 4.1-billion-dollar
Dubai International Air-
port expansion project
has won a terminal con-
struction job.

The construction
work which M&R won
for Terminal 3, concourse 1
and car park at Dubai In-
ternational Airport are
scheduled for completion by
2006.

The main features of
Terminal 3 building are a
multi-level underground
structure, first-class lounges and dedicated
counters, restaurants, 180
check-in counters and 2,600 underground park-
ings, the Dubai De-
partment of Civil Avia-
tion (DCA) introduced.

By 2006, Dubai Inter-
national Airport will have
18 million passengers a
year whereas its present
capacity is 22 million, the
statement said.

Built up in 1959, Dubai Inter-
national Airport is consid-
ed to be the Middle East’s premier
and busiest airport. In
2003, a total of 18 million
passengers passed through the
airport registering a
13 per cent growth over the
previous year.

Dubai, one of the
seven emirates of the
United Arab Emirates (UAE), developed into a
significant centre for busi-
ness interests in the Mid-
dle East.
Disney settles case with US securities regulators

Los Angeles, 22 Dec — Entertainment giant Walt Disney settled a case on Monday with securities regulators who alleged the firm failed to disclose its hiring of relatives of board members.

The US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) found that Disney failed to disclose its hiring of three children of members of its board of directors.

The three children received annual compensation of 60,000 to 150,000 US dollars.

In addition, the SEC said, the company failed to disclose that the spouse of a director was employed by a subsidiary that is 50 per cent owned by Disney.

The spouse received more than one million dollars a year, the commission alleged.

It also charged that Disney did no disclose that it provided office space, secretarial services, a leased car and a driver to another director.

Without admitting the SEC’s findings, Disney consented to an order barring the company from committing any future violations of the applicable securities regulations.

MNA/Xinhua

Unexplained cleaning have kept “Opportunity” in great shape

London, 22 Dec — An unexplained phenomenon akin to a space-borne car wash has boosted the performance of one of the two US rovers probing the surface of Mars, New Scientist magazine said on Tuesday.

It said something — or someone — had regularly cleaned layers of dust from the solar panels of the Mars Opportunity vehicle while it was closed down during the Martian night. The cleaning had boosted the panels’ power output close to their maximum — 900 watt-hours per day after it started dropping to 500 watt-hours because of the heavy Martian dirt.

By contrast, the power output of the solar panels of Mars Spirit — a different part of the Red Planet — had dropped to just 400 watt-hours a day, clogged by the heavy dust.

“These exciting and unexplained cleaning events have kept Opportunity in really great shape,” the magazine quoted NASA rover team leader Jim Erickson as saying.

MNA/Reuters

Americans drink more wine as price falls

Los Angeles, 22 Dec — Americans are drinking more wine than before, consuming upward of 22 billion US dollars of wine annually, Los Angeles Times reported Tuesday.

Citing figures from the Wine Institute, the trade association for California’s vintners, the paper said the average American of drinking age consumed about 3 gallons, roughly 15 standard bottles, of wine last year.

Last year, US wine consumption rose 5.2 per cent — its biggest surge since 1996. At the same time, beer drinking fell 0.3 per cent. Tiziana Mohorovic, an analyst at Adams Beverage Group, told the paper.

When the numbers are in for this year, Mohorovic expects wine to post at least a 4-per-cent gain, once again outpacing other alcoholic beverages. Industrial experts attributed the increased consumption of wine to falling prices.

The advent of wines such as the 1.99 dollar Charles Shaw label and the ubiquitous 6.99 dollar Yellowtail brand from Australia has contributed to lower wine prices and is reorientating the industry’s marketing efforts, the paper said.

MNA/Xinhua

WHO says iodine-deficiency nations drop by half

Geneva, 22 Dec — The number of nations affected worst by iodine deficiency has reduced by half in the world over the last decade, but iodine deficiency remains a major health threat in some countries, the UN health organization said Tuesday.

The World Health Organization (WHO) said in its report Iodine Status Worldwide that thanks to efforts to encourage the use of iodized salt in food, the number of nations where iodine deficiency is a public health problem fell to 54 in 2003 from 110 a decade earlier.

However, iodine deficiency still threatens the health of people, particularly pre-school children and pregnant women, in some developing countries.

The deficiency occurs when soil is poor in iodine, causing a low concentration of iodine in food.

Lack of iodine can impair human metabolism, affecting people’s intelligence quotient.

WHO experts urged people to eat iodized salt, but avoid consuming too much salt, which can lead to hypertension.

Their suggested consumption of iodine per person is five grammes per day.

— MNA/Xinhua

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MNA/Xinhua

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London, 22 Dec — An unexplained phenomenon akin to a space-borne car wash has boosted the performance of one of the two US rovers probing the surface of Mars, New Scientist magazine said on Tuesday.

It said something — or someone — had regularly cleaned layers of dust from the solar panels of the Mars Opportunity vehicle while it was closed down during the Martian night. The cleaning had boosted the panels’ power output close to their maximum — 900 watt-hours per day after it started dropping to 500 watt-hours because of the heavy Martian dirt.

By contrast, the power output of the solar panels of Mars Spirit — a different part of the Red Planet — had dropped to just 400 watt-hours a day, clogged by the heavy dust.

“These exciting and unexplained cleaning events have kept Opportunity in really great shape,” the magazine quoted NASA rover team leader Jim Erickson as saying.

MNA/Reuters

Americans drink more wine as price falls

Los Angeles, 22 Dec — Americans are drinking more wine than before, consuming upward of 22 billion US dollars of wine annually, Los Angeles Times reported Tuesday.

Citing figures from the Wine Institute, the trade association for California’s vintners, the paper said the average American of drinking age consumed about 3 gallons, roughly 15 standard bottles, of wine last year.

Last year, US wine consumption rose 5.2 per cent — its biggest surge since 1996. At the same time, beer drinking fell 0.3 per cent. Tiziana Mohorovic, an analyst at Adams Beverage Group, told the paper.

When the numbers are in for this year, Mohorovic expects wine to post at least a 4-per-cent gain, once again outpacing other alcoholic beverages. Industrial experts attributed the increased consumption of wine to falling prices.

The advent of wines such as the 1.99 dollar Charles Shaw label and the ubiquitous 6.99 dollar Yellowtail brand from Australia has contributed to lower wine prices and is reorientating the industry’s marketing efforts, the paper said.

MNA/Xinhua

Jewel thief caught running off with $100,000 diamond

Los Angeles, 22 Dec — A Los Angeles man was arrested at a jewelry store after he tried to run off with a diamond worth more than $100,000 US dollars, authorities said Tuesday.

Branden Andrew Dotson, 21, was grabbed by an employee and a customer of the Prince of Jewellers store about 1:00 pm Monday, said Tom Bryski of the sheriff’s Santa Clarita Valley Station.

Dotson entered the store and told the jeweler he wanted to purchase some diamond earrings.

He was looking at one pair when he noticed a 3.85-carat diamond worth more than $100,000, Bryski said.

Another employee and a customer felt that some-
**Sports**

Sevilla defeat Real 1-0 in Primera Liga

**Madrid, 23 Dec.** — Real Madrid ended a miserable year on a low note when they lost 1-0 at home to high-flying Sevilla in the Primera Liga on Wednesday.

Brazilian striker Julio Baptista produced a cool finish after 19 minutes, clipping the ball over the head of keeper Iker Casillas to inflict a second home defeat of the season on Real.

It was Sevilla’s first league victory at the Bernabeu in 20 years and had it not been for some superb last-ditch saves from Casillas and some wasteful finishing by Sevilla’s forwards the margin would have been much greater.

Real, who ended last season a disappointing fourth, struggled to create any chances, although Ronaldo, who started the game on the bench, had a goal disallowed after coming on.

The result left Real, who substituted David Beckham at halftime to give the hosts a lucky win.

Scoring for the visitors after 21 minutes before winning the shootout 4-3.

**Sports**

Defenders resolutely for 90 minutes of a penalty shootout.

Caen in Wednesday’s second round after champions Sochaux were eliminated by ARIS on December 12.

Sochaux eliminated by Caen in penalty shootout

**Paris, 23 Dec.** — French League Cup champions Sochaux were eliminated by Caen in Wednesday’s second round after a penalty shootout.

Caen, 16th in the Ligue 1 standings, defended resolutely for 90 minutes of the match and 30 minutes extra time before winning the shootout 4-3.

In Wednesday’s other match, Benjani scored a late goal to hand AJ Auxerre a quarterfinal berth with a 2-1 home win over Nantes.

Striker Hassan Ahamada opened the scoring for the visitors after 21 minutes before substitute forward Luigi Pieroni scored the equalizer in the 79th minute.

Three minutes from the final whistle, Benjani deflected a Bruno Cheyrou shot to give the hosts a lucky win.

**Sports**

Primera Liga match reports

**Madrid, 23 Dec.** — Brief reports of Primera Liga matches played on Wednesday:

Albacete 2 — Villarreal 2

Uruguayan striker Antonio Pacheco put Albacete ahead when he guided in from five metres after 16 minutes but Villarreal hit back with two quick-fire goals near the end of the half.

Former Manchester United striker Diego Forlan notched the first when he lobbed the ball over keeper Ronald Gasperic and then provided a perfect cross for fellow forward Antonio Goury to head in from close range.

But the visitors threw away their advantage when defender Rodolfo Arruabarrena was dismissed seven minutes from time and Pacheco cashed in to grab his second with a deflected shot.

Athletic Bilbao 4 — Real Mallorca 0

Athletic followed up their 7-1 thrashing of Standard Liege in the UEFA Cup and their first away win of the season with a comprehensive victory over Hector Cuper’s strugglers.

Midfielder Fran Yeste opened the scoring with a rare headed goal and then provided the assist for the in-form Santi Ezquerro to clip in his sixth goal in the space of the week five minutes later.

Carlos Gurpegui made it 3-0 after Joseba Etxeberria had sprung the offside trap with a neat chipped pass and Yeste completed the rout with an injury-time penalty.

Deportivo Coruna 2 — Real Zaragoza 3

Zaragoza claimed their first win in eight games after they fought their way back from 2-1 down against an out-of sorts Deportivo who were reduced to 10 men with the sending off of midfielder Lionel Scaloni three minutes from time.

Midfielder Cuna put the visitors ahead with a delightful lob, but a well-taken header from defender Pablo Amo and a neat left-foot finish from Albert Luque allowed Depor to take the tables early in the second half.

Depor spurned several chances to extend their lead and Zaragoza took advantage to secure the win, defender Gabriel Milito netting with a clever header on 56 minutes and striker David Villa nodding in another after a great pass from Cani.

**Sports**

Cuba advances to next phase for Gold Cup

**Havana, 23 Dec.** — Cuba advanced to the third round of the Caribbean qualifying round for the Gold Cup in the United States in 2005, after defeating Martinique 2-0 in away match.

According to reports from Fort de France, capital of Martinique, some 13,000 fans gathered in Dillon Stadium applauded the performance of the Cubans coached by Armelio Luis.

Alain Cervantes and Lester More scored for Cuba in nine and 62 minutes respectively. Cuba also won the first leg 2-0 in Havana’s Pedro Marrero Stadium on December 12.

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**Sports**

Porto salvage 1-1 draw with Maritimo

**Lisbon, 23 Dec.** — Portuguese champions Porto salvaged a 1-1 draw with Maritimo after falling behind through an early goal from Brazilian striker Pena on Wednesday.

Maritimo, without a win in their last seven matches, took the lead when Pena capitalized on a blunder by Porto’s veteran goalkeeper Vitor Baia to score against his former club.

Porto’s Brazilian striker Luis Fabiano equalized for Porto after 32 minutes when he tapped the ball in after a headed pass from the right by midfielder Jose Bosingwa. Porto top the Premier League standings with 29 points, one point ahead of Sporting. — MNA/Reuters

**Sports**

Porto soccer player Benny McCarthy (L) is challenged by Maritimo’s Antonio Tonel (R) during their Portuguese Premier League match held at Barreiros Stadium on the Portuguese Madeira island on 22 Dec, 2004.—INTERNET

**Sports**

Getafe 2 — Racing Santander 0

The Primera Liga newcomers claimed their first win in six outings thanks to a neat double from striker Riki.

The former Real Madrid youth team player got his side off to a flying start when he peaked in from close range on five minutes after some great work by Romanian forward Gica Craioveanu.

He grabbed his second just after the half hour when he threaded the ball past keeper Dudu Aouate on pouncing on the rebound from a Gabi shot.

**Sports**

Malaga 1 — Real Sociedad 5

Sociedad continued their impressive revival with this crushing victory over a sorry-looking Malaga, who have now lost seven of their last eight games.

Darko Kovacovic put the Basque side ahead with a trademark header on 12 minutes, but the Andalusians equalized when defender Vicente Valcarce netted just before halftime.

It was one-way traffic in the second half. Kovacovic notched his second with another great header six minutes after the break, defender Mikel Labaka nodded in from a corner soon after and Turkish forward Nihat Kahveci weighed in with two classy strikes before the end.

Malaga’s misery was compounded when midfielder Gerardo was sent off nine minutes from time.

Ousama 2 — Numancia 0

Richard Morales continued his prolific scoring run by taking his tally to seven goals in seven games with a top class double against basement side Numancia who have now lost all nine of their away matches this season.

The Uruguayan striker notched his first with a spectacular overhead kick early in the second half and added another when he cracked in on the turn 20 minutes later.

Valencia 3 — Espanyol 0

Valencia continued their mid-season revival by extending their unbeaten run to seven matches with this emphatic win over high-flying opponents.

Midfielder Ruben Baraja put the home side ahead after 12 minutes with a ferocious 25-metre free kick and Espanyol were dealt a further blow when Raul Tamudo and Oscar Serrano were sent off for apparent dissent in the final minute of the half.

**Sports**

**Primera Liga match reports**

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China speeds up research on fuel cell car

BEIJING, 23 Dec — China invested 880 million yuan (106.4 million US dollars) into a state research and development project on fuel cell and hybrid car technologies, according to media reports.

Xu Jing, vice-director of the Ministry of Science and Technology, said on Wednesday the ministry is overseeing the project of developing fuel cell, hybrid and electric cars.

Wan Gang, president of Tongji University in Shanghai and coordinator of the executive body for the research and development plan, said China’s first fuel cell car ran more than 4,000 kilometres and the first fuel cell bus was tested for 8,000 kilometres.

The first hybrid bus, which was tested in commuter lines in Wuhan in Hubei Province, uses 30 per cent less gas than a regular bus, said Wan, an auto designer who worked for Audi for over a decade.

Electricity-powered bus fleets were experimenting in Beijing, Wuhan, Tianjin and Weihai.

While organizing to produce cars, Wan said, the state project is also aimed to set up national technical standards for concerned auto products. Six tryout centres have already been established in Beijing, Tianjin, Shanghai and Dalian.

The electric car could reach the highest speed of 120 kilometres every hour and use 70kwh in every 100 kilometres, he said. MNA/Xinhua

Howard becomes Australia’s second longest serving PM

CANBERRA, 23 Dec — Australian Prime Minister John Howard on Tuesday paid tribute to Bob Hawke as the former prime minister congratulated Howard as he broke Hawke’s record and became Australia’s second longest serving PM.

Howard has served 63 years as Australia’s PM for 3,207 days, or eight years nine months and eleven days.

His serving period is second only to Robert Menzies, founder of the Liberal Party, who served more than 16 years.

Hawke rang Howard last week to congratulate him. On Tuesday, Hawke said he is not sad that Howard broke his record.

“No, not sad, it’s a fact of life,” Hawke told Australian Broadcasting Corporation radio.

“I recognize it and I congratulate John Howard on his achievement,” he said. He has said he has believed Howard is the best operator of the Liberal Party. Howard said he would like to thank Hawke for his comments.

“Across the political divide of Australia it has always not been plentiful,” the Prime Minister told reporters in Sydney, Australia’s largest city. MNA/Xinhua

Uganda, Britain discuss grant arrangement

KAMPALA, 23 Dec — The Ugandan and British governments Tuesday discussed in Kampala the arrangement of a new British grant of 480 billion shillings (about 276 million US dollars) in the next three years, said the Ugandan State House in a Press release issued here.

Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni held the discussion with British High Commissioner to Uganda Adam Wood and head of the British Department for International Development, Eric Haworth.

The grant will be disbursed through the British Department for International Development over the next three years as a direct financing for the Ugandan Government’s budget in the struggle to eliminate poverty. MNA/Xinhua

Weather

WEATHER

Thrusday, 23 December, 2004 Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, except for isolated light showers in Kachin States, weather has been generally fair in the whole country. Night temperature were (6°C) to (4°C) normal in Chi, Kayin and Mon States, Bago and Taninthayi Divisions, to (3°C) to (4°C) normal in Kachin State and upper Sagaing Division and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperature were (1°C) in Hakha, (2°C) to (1°C) in Loinlem, (3°C) to (1°C) in Pintong and Heho.

Maximum temperature on 22-12-2004 was 90°F. Minimum temperature on 23-12-2004 was 54°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 23-12-2004 was 87%. Total sunshine hours on 22-12-2004 was (8.2) hours approx. Rainfalls on 22-12-2004 were nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfalls 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 4 mph from North at (06:30) hours MST on 23-12-2004.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 24-12-2004: Weather will be partly cloudy in Kachin State, Ayeayawady, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. State of the sea: Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Outlook for subsequent two days: Generally fair in the whole country. Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 24-12-2004: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 24-12-2004: Fair weather.
13th Waxing of Nadaw 1366 ME Friday, 24 December, 2004

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

Magway Division will enjoy cent per cent food sufficiency in next few years

YANGON, 23 Dec — Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe, accompanied by SPDC members General Thura Shwe Mann, Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Rear-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, and Mandalay Division PDC Chairman Central Command Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint, visited the Myathalun Pagoda in Magway yesterday.

Senior General Than Shwe put his signature in the visitors’ book and donated cash to the funds of the pagoda through members of the pagoda board of trustees.

The Senior General and party inspected the progress of the region along Strand Road and newly-built Magway Airport.

Upon arrival at Magway Institute of Medicine, the Senior General cordially greeted the deans and faculty members and students of the Government Technological College (Magway).

They viewed Magway bypass and its environs. The Senior General cordially greeted the deans and faculty members and students of the Government Technological College (Magway).

They held a meeting with departmental officials, members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association and social organizations and senior citizens at Magway City Hall.

The Senior General in his speech said that he had made inspection tour of Magway that was gaining development momentum with the newly-built airport (See page 9)

Senior General Than Shwe gives guidance to departmental personnel, USDA and social organization members and townsenders in city hall of Magway, MNA.

General Thura Shwe Mann meets Tatmadawmen and families of Magway Station

YANGON, 23 Dec — Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence met with officers, other ranks and families of Magway Station at the station hall on 21 December morning.

Also present on the occasion were Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Adjudant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Members of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and Lt-Gen Tin Aye of the Ministry of Defence, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Rear-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Commander of (See page 9)

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