Safeguard sovereignty with Union Spirit

For years countable by the thousand, the Union of Myanmar stood as an independent and sovereign nation, with her own civilization. The national brethren have defended and safeguarded the State sovereignty with Union Spirit, while preserving and relaying their high standard of civilization and national pride and national character to the new generation.

Senior General Than Shwe
Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council
Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services
(From message sent to the 56th Anniversary Independence Day)

Senior General Than Shwe inspects construction projects of Ayeyawady bridge (Yadanabon), Myitnge bridge

Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Rear Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Chairman of Mandalay Division PDC Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint, Chairman of Sagaing Division PDC and Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye, the ministers, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, responsible personnel of the SPDC Office, and departmental heads.

At the briefing hall of the construction project on Mandalay bank, Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun reported on the location of the bridge, data concerning the bridge, initial engineering works, construction tasks being carried out simultaneously on both Mandalay and Sagaing banks, and installation of steel frames to the bridge.

Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint presented supplementary reports on supply of cement, iron rods and fuel oil to the project. After viewing the small-scale model of the bridge, Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance on speedy implementation of the project.

YANGON, 26 Dec — Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council and Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe, inspected Ayeyawady bridge (Yadanabon) construction project yesterday.

In his inspection tour of the construction project, Senior General Than Shwe was 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 SPDC Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Lt-Gen Thih \n
Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
**Perspectives**

**Monday, 27 December, 2004**

**Produce potent traditional medicines for providing better health care services**

Myanmars have been living under their own monarch with high culture and national prestige and integrity for years countable by the thousand. Myanmars with high intellect had been able to develop Myanmar traditional medicines in line with own race, cultures and traditions.

Myanmar traditional medical science is a subject complete with a wide array of potent medicines, therapies and subtle medical treatments. Thanks to concerted efforts of Myanmar traditional medicine practitioners and the Government, traditional medicines of high standard are being developed.

Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe and party arrived at the Myanmar Pharmaceutical Factory project (PyinOoLwin) of the Ministry of Industry-1 in PyinOoLwin, Mandalay Division on 23 December and gave guidance to officials.

In his guidance, Senior General Than Shwe said that various kinds of herbal plants which grow in all parts of the nation are to be collected and grown, that research work is to be conducted on potency of the herbal plants; and that efforts are to be made for producing and using traditional medicines on a wider scale after completion of the research work.

In accordance with the guidance of the Head of State, the Government is making all-out efforts to be able to produce Myanmar traditional medicines of high standard to meet the medicine needs of the nation. The Medical Research Department (Upper Myanmar) is now conducting research on Myanmar herbal plants to produce medicines for malaria, tuberculosis, hypertension, diabetes, diarrhoea and dysentery. Altogether 273 kinds of herbal plants have been grown to produce medicines. The first-phase production of medicines of the factory will start in March 2005 and the second-phase production in the mid-2006. On completion of the project, the factory will produce one hundred kinds of medicines in tablet, 17 kinds in capsule, 67 kinds in injection, nine kinds of medicines in powder.

Systematic steps are being taken to produce potent traditional medicines to be used at traditional medicine hospitals to cure six major diseases. Therefore, officials concerned are urged to carry on research to produce potent traditional medicines for providing better health care services in accord with the guidance of the Head of State.

**Sayadaws of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee on pilgrimage to Bodh Gaya**

**Yangon, 26 Dec** — Members of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee led by Joint Secretary Sayadaw of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Abhidhaja Maha Raththa Guru Agga Maha Panditta Bhaddanta Osadha Bhivamsa on 18 December left here for India to visit Bodh Gaya in India and Nepal.

At Gaya Airport in Bihar State, India, Myanmar Ambassador to India U Kyi Thein and officials welcomed them.

Next, accompanied by Sayadaw of Bodh Gaya Myanmar Monastery, they went to Mahabodhi Pagoda.

Sayadaws pay homage at Aparajita Golden Throne and Bo Tree in Bodh Gaya. — MNA

**Yangon, 26 Dec** — Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo, accompanied by Director-General of the Prisons Department U Zaw Win, Director-General of the Social Welfare Department U Sit Myaing and officials, inspected Women Care Centre in Twantay Township this afternoon.

Next, the minister inspected Setsan Police Station and the plot for the new station.

Afterwards, the minister left necessary instructions.

Next, the minister met with townswelders, members of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation. — MNA

**School Family Day 2004-2005**

**Yangon, 26 Dec** — A rehearsal for School Family Day 2004-2005 took place at Diamond Jubilee Hall on Pyay Road in Kamayut Township this morning.

Present on the occasion were Minister for Education U Than Aung, Deputy Ministers U Myo Nyunt and Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min and directors-general.

Next, the minister and party inspected booths of education development and observed booths of reference books and booths to mark 50 years of Myanmar Historical Commission.

ICT Exhibition to be staged in Mandalay

**Yangon, 26 Dec** — With the aim of achieving equitable development of Myanmar Information and Communication Technology, ICT Exhibition organized by Computer Entrepreneurs Association (Mandalay) and Myanmar Computer Scientists Association (Mandalay) will be held at Mandalay City Hall from 7 to 9 January starting from 9 am to 5 pm. — MNA

All this needs to be known

- Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
- Do not be bothered whenever flattered
- Do not be softened whenever appeased

**SCHOOL FAMILY DAY**

Singapore, Thailand, Brunei to sign open-skies deal Monday

SINGAPORE, 25 Dec— Transport ministers from Singapore, Thailand and Brunei will sign on Monday an open-skies pact for airline passenger traffic between the three countries, a newspaper reported Friday.

The deal, to be inked at a ceremony in Bangkok, formalizes rights that airlines from the three already have — allowing them to operate an unlimited number of passenger services on any route between all three countries — the report said.

But officials hope the agreement will spur other Southeast Asian states toward similar deals, the Straits Times newspaper said. “It establishes a useful framework for ASEAN to liberalize its passenger services eventually,” a spokesman for Singapore’s Transport Ministry was quoted as saying.

The 10-country Association of Southeast Asian Nations has said it wants a regionwide open-skies deal for access to capital cities in place by 2008.

Air traffic in the region has been growing strongly, driven in part by the rapid spread of low-cost carriers such as Malaysia’s AirAsia and Thailand’s Nok Air.

Singapore in particular has witnessed a surge in the no-frills sector this year with the launch of three new low-cost players: privately owned Valuair, Singapore Airlines’ unit Tiger Airways; and Jetstar Asia, an offshoot of Australia’s Qantas Airways.

“A large pie for ASEAN would naturally mean more benefits to each individual member, including Singapore,” the spokesman was quoted as saying.

Thailand, Singapore and Brunei sealed a similar open-skies-deal for cargo services last February. Cambodia later joined the agreement.

ASEAN’s members are Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. — MNA/AP

Chinese foreign trade surges 750 times in 55 years

BEIJING, 25 Dec— Chinese foreign trade has increased 750 times since the People’s Republic of China was founded 55 years ago, serving as a major engine for the growth of world trade, a Chinese trade official said here Friday, by 37 per cent to hit 334.6 billion US dollars, more than 20 per cent of Asia’s total imports volume.

Meanwhile, Chinese exports were optimizing their structure, the minister said.

China’s exports of machinery and electronic products and hi-tech products both recorded growths of over 40 per cent and accounted for 54 per cent and 27.7 per cent of China’s total exports, the official said. — MNA/Xinhua

Venezuelan President blasts US imperialism

BEIJING, 25 Dec— Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez on Friday blasted US imperialism, called capitalism, the road to hell and said Mao Zedong and Venezuela’s 19th Century independence hero Simon Bolivar would have become a socialist, “I think if Bolivar had come to China he would have become mates had they met. His thinking was similar,” said Chavez, who quoted the late Chairman Mao several times. “Their inspiration came from the same place. It came from humanitarism...I think if Bolivar had come to China he would have become a socialist,” Chavez said speaking in Spanish through a Chinese translator.

Chavez is visiting China hoping to boost China’s capacity to invest in his country’s oil and gas sector. Venezuela, an OPEC member, is the world’s fifth-largest oil exporter. The US Government is a favourite target and in Beijing he blamed his troubles in 2002-2003 on the United States.

“The thunder and lightening was created by Washington, this I must say,” he said to cheers from a group of student supporters in the audience from Latin America. “This is US imperialism. It wants to become the master of the American continent, but Venezuela’s people are the real masters of Venezuela.”

MNA/Reuters

Largest earthquake hits Australia’s Tasmania state

CANBERRA, 26 Dec — Australia’s southern state of Tasmania was rocked by the world’s largest earthquake in three-and-a-half years when it struck under the sea half way between Australia and Antarctica on Friday, seismologists said.

No injuries or damage were reported. The earthquake measuring 8.1 on the Richter Scale hit near Macquarie Island in the Southern Ocean, more than 500 miles southeast of Tasmania, at about 2 am (1500 GMT), said Geoscience Australia seismologist Cvetan Sinadinovski.

“Usually this kind of earthquake happens every three to four years in the world, it is just a part of the dynamic cycle of the earth,” Sinadinovski told Reuters.

The earthquake could have caused a tsunami, but no noticeable changes in water levels had been reported in Tasmania or New Zealand, Sinadinovski said. An aftershock measuring 6.1 hit at 6.50 am, he said.

“The last earthquake of similar magnitude in the Macquarie Rise region was in 1924.”

MNA/Reuters

US troops stricken by rare pneumonia

WASHINGTON, 23 Dec.— US troops in Iraq have been hit at a higher than normal rate by a rare type of pneumonia that has left two soldiers dead, a study has found.

Acute eosinophilic pneumonia, a rare disease characterized by fever, respiratory failure and an infiltration of the lungs, has been diagnosed in 18 US soldiers in Iraq between March 2003 and March 2004, according to the study in the 22-29 December issue of the Journal of the American Medical Association.

Severe pneumonia was found among 19 US military personnel in March-April 2003, and 10 of them were diagnosed with the disease. Of the 10 patients, two died, according to the study.

MNA/Reuters

US soldiers wounded in Basji, Iraq

BAJI (Iraq), 25 Dec.— A suicide bomber targeted a US military convoy and wounded several US soldiers in Baji, Iraq, Saturday, the Al-Jazeera satellite network said.

Also Saturday, gunmen killed Dr Hasan al-Rubayi, dean of the faculty of dentistry at Baghdad University, as he and his wife were driving in the Iraqi capital. His wife was wounded.

Gov Abdallalah-Jubari of Diyala escaped an as-sassination attempt, but one of his bodyguards was injured, when his convoy was targeted with an explosive charge in Baghdad.

In Mosul, several Iraqi National Guardsmen were wounded after they were targeted by an explosive charge.

Internet
Senior General Than Shwe inspects construction ...

(from page 1)

From the briefing hall, Senior General Than Shwe inspected the progress of construction works and tasks for erecting mid-stream piles.

Next, Senior General Than Shwe and party inspected progress of construction of the approach bridge on Mandalay bank.

The main frame of the bridge is of iron type, and the approach bridges are of concrete-reinforced beams. The bridge is 5,614 feet long in total and can withstand 60 tons of load. It will have four 49-foot-wide motor roads and two five-foot-wide pedestrian lanes.

After inspecting the bridge construction project, Senior General Than Shwe and party inspected the construction of the eight-lane Strand Road, the beautifying tasks being carried out at Mandalay Kandawgyi and Thimgaza Creek.

Senior General Than Shwe and party visited Myitnge bridge construction project No 1/422 on Yangon-Mandalay Highway this morning. At the briefing hall, Senior General Than Shwe heard reports on the location of the bridge, ongoing construction works and tasks to be carried out.

After hearing the reports, Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance on making the bridge be grand and attractive. Myitnge bridge is of reinforced concrete type. With two 120-foot-long approach bridges each on Yangon and Mandalay banks, the bridge is 600 feet long. It will have six 72-foot-wide lanes and two 4-foot-wide pedestrian lanes on both sides. The bridge can withstand 75 tons of load. Now, the construction of the bridge has been completed 70 percent.

After inspecting the Myitnge bridge construction project, Senior General Than Shwe and party inspected the condition of Myitnge-Honbo-PyinOoLwin Road. They also inspected the progress of construction work at the circular road being constructed by Mandalay City Development Committee.

At noon, Senior General Than Shwe and party arrived in Madaya. They were welcomed there by departmental officials, members of social organizations, and residents.

Senior General Than Shwe and party inspected the ring road and arrived back in Mandalay. Mandalay City Development Committee is building 52 miles four furlongs long Mandalay Ring Road.

Senior General Than Shwe and party visited the building of Traditional Medicine University opened this morning in Mandalay.

Senior General Than Shwe delivered speeches at the graduation parade of the 47th Intake of Defence Services Academy in PyinOoLwin on 17 December and the 7th Intake graduation of Defence Services Technological Academy on 24 December.

Senior General Than Shwe and party inspected No 1 Steel Mill in PyinOoLwin and gave guidance on making efforts to increase productivity for national development and production of steel essential for nation-building tasks.

They inspected PyinOoLwin District People’s Hospital, Pharmaceutical Factory Project (PyinOoLwin) and Medical Research Department (Upper Myanmar). Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance on upgrading the existing hospital to 200-bed one and extension of buildings for health resort, conducting research on potent traditional medicines and production of medicines at low price.

Senior General Than Shwe and party inspected Mandalay Kandawgyi Pedestrian Bridge.

Senior General Than Shwe and party inspected the construction site of the hospital, and the Ministry of Health and Sports concluded the building of a new 200-bed hospital and extension of the 250-bed People’s Hospital, Pharmaceutical Factory Project (PyinOoLwin) and Medical Research Department.

Electrical and energy sectors are important ones for national development. Dam projects that can supply water and generate electric power are key projects for the nation.

It is necessary to complete the projects as soon as possible. Implementation of the projects is to be carried out at the same time, not one after another.

Senior General Than Shwe inspected Yeywa Hydel Power Project in Mandalay that can generate 790 Megawatts.

(See page 5)
Senior General Than Shwe inspects construction projects...

(from page 4)

Senior General Than Shwe also inspected Manipur Dam project, Myittha Dam project in Magway, Aye-yawady Bridge (Yadanabon) construction project and Mone Creek Dam project in Sedoktara Township and Kyeeon-Kyewa Dam project in Pyinu Township. In his inspection tour, he said electrical and energy sectors are important ones for national development. Dam projects that can supply water and generate electric power are key projects for the nation. He spoke of the need to complete the projects as soon as possible. He gave guidance on implementation of the projects at the same time, not one after another.

River water pumping projects are being implemented with the aims of turning dry regions into green ones, cultivating monsoon paddy for regional sufficiency and increasing income of local people through cultivation of other crops.

Senior General Than Shwe inspected Lawkananda and Kyaukkku River Water Pumping Projects in NyaungU Township, construction of Bagan Golden Palace, Nanmyint Tower and Nammyint Tower Hotel in Bagan archaeological site. Senior General Than Shwe urged local people to grow monsoon paddy and seasonal crops in irrigated areas without fail.

Senior General Than Shwe visited Yenanyung Industrial Zone. In meeting with officials the Senior General gave guidance that the government would provide necessary assistance for the development of the zones. He said the interests of the industrialists and those of the State and the people should be taken into consideration equally. Despite limits, barriers and obstacles, the government in cooperation with the people made efforts for development of the nation and its people with unity. That is why better achievements have been made in the country.

In meeting with departmental officials in Magway, the Senior General gave guidance on continued efforts for nation-building tasks in cooperation with the government, the Tatmadaw and the people.

Senior General Than Shwe inspected Aye-yawady Bridge (Yadanabon) construction project for ensuring better transport between Sagaing and Mandalay and gave guidance on early completion of the project.

MNA

YANGON, 26 Dec — Dry Day Inspection Teams performed their duties by checking Tatmadaw and departmental automobiles at the main points of Yangon city today.

Functions and duties of the teams were supervised by members of Dry Day Supervisory Committee Deputy Minister for Construction U Tint Swe, Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Hlay, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Phone Swe, Provost Marshal Maj-Gen Saw Hla, Deputy Quartermaster General Col Tin Shwe, Director-General of Myanmar Police Force Brig-Gen Khin Yi and officials.

The inspection teams checked dry day pass of departmental and Tatmadaw vehicles, driver’s licence, wheel tax bill, wearing of respective uniforms. They also inspected breaking of traffic rules.

MNA

"စိတ်ကြိုက်ပြုလုပ်ထားသော ကျရာ"
POEM

Keep hands held forever tight

* Won’t be subservient, will retaliate if hit
  The patriotic blood, of our ancestors.
  Let impediment hit, if it be a tiger let it bite
  With head unbow’d, staying balanced
  Go straight ahead, that’s our morale.

* Hey, Hey, Hey, Hey
  With many heys, awaken your heart
  Our patriotic blood, scarlet as it is
  Our morale serious and firm
  We brought Independence within our hold
  With unanimity of thought, we plucked the flower

* The Tatmadaw and the people
  Hands ever-held, we stood up and fought
  Without fail, we regained it
  This victory of the people and the Tatmadaw
  Hands ever-held, we stood up and fought
  Without fail, we regained it
  The Tatmadaw and the people

* With patriotism, love the land
  Undiminished
  With strong morale, and integrity
  Don’t let hands held for the nation
  Ever break, we vow
  ’Tis cause for Myanmar nation to prosper.

Soe Moe (Pathein) (Trs)

Rakhine State
USDA holds …
(from page 16)
townsenders, departmental staff, member of social organizations, students and outstanding youths. First, those present saluted the State Flag while the students sang a song.

Presiding Chairman Rakhine State USDA Secretary U Oo Kyaw Ym addressed the meeting saying that now is the time when the State is striving to build up a peaceful, modern and developed democratic nation. To shape the future of the country, the seven-point future policy programme has been laid down and is being implemented. USDA Patron State Peace and Development Council Chairman Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance that thanks to national unity which plays the most important role in building a developed nation, there has reigned peace and stability in the country. The government, on its part, is responsible for safeguarding national unity in the interests of the people. Besides, the Patron also gave guidance that the State and the people are to cooperate with Union Spirit in successful implementation of the policy programme. The meeting chairman went on to say that the delegates would discuss today the seven objectives and nine future tasks laid down by the USDA Annual General Meeting (2004). And new general knowledge was immersed.

Next, Rakhine State USDA Executive U Kyaw Maung and Executive Daw Swe Swe Than tabled their motions calling for successful implementation of the seven objectives and nine future tasks to help develop the State, he urged.

Rakhine State USDA Executive U Win Hlaing, Executive U Kyaw Maung and Executive Daw Swe Swe Than tabled their motions calling for successful implementation of the seven objectives and nine future tasks to help develop the State, he urged. Next, Rakhine State USDA Executive U Win Hlaing, Executive U Kyaw Maung and Executive Daw Swe Swe Than tabled their motions calling for successful implementation of the seven objectives and nine future tasks to help develop the State, he urged.

Those present saluted the State Flag at a meeting organized by Rakhine State USDA. — MNA

Those present saluting the State Flag at a meeting organized by Rakhine State USDA.

— MNA

Those present saluting the State Flag at a meeting organized by Rakhine State USDA.

— MNA

USDA Executive U Win Hlaing, Executive U Kyaw Maung and Executive Daw Swe Swe Than tabled their motions calling for successful implementation of the seven objectives and nine future tasks laid down by the USDA Annual General Meeting (2004) and plans in Rakhine State.

Sittway District USDA Secretary U Tun Win, An Township USDA Joint Secretary Daw Tin Maung and Thandwe District USDA Executive U Tin Tun and Buthitaung Township USDA Secretary U Ba Khin Thaung seconded the motions. Later, Rakhine State Organization for women’s affairs Patron Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, State Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee member Daw Moh Moh Nwe, Rakhine State War Veterans Supervisory Committee member Major Ye Naing Aung (Retd) and officials presented cash awards to the outstanding youths.

Rakhine State USDA Executive U Kyaw Maung handed over documents related to 500 desks worth K 2.5 million for village primary schools in the state to State Education Officer U Thaung Sein. The meeting chairman announced the approval that Rakhine State USDA will make continued efforts to implement the seven objectives, nine future tasks and the plans.

The meeting ended at 10 am with chanting of slogans. — MNA
Dams built for development of agriculture sector

Kyauktaga Dam was built by Construction-7 of Irrigation Department under the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation across Kyauktaga Creek near Kyauktaga Village in Natmauk Township, Magway Division and the facility supplies water to 2,000 acres of farmland. — MYANMA ALIN

HAILING THE 57TH ANNIVERSARY INDEPENDENCE DAY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>From 1988 to 2004</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>DAMS COMPLETED</td>
<td>168</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>PROJECTS UNDER IMPLEMENTATION</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>BENEFITED ACRES</td>
<td>2,150,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The canal of Bwetgyi Dam is supplying water to 12,000 acres of farmland in Aunglan Township, Magway Division. — MYANMA ALIN

Mone Creek Multipurpose Dam built by Construction-8 of Irrigation Department under the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation is 6,490 feet long and 200 feet high and is situated to the north of Sedoktara, Mbinba District, Magway Division. — MYANMA ALIN
National patriots who fought against the colonialists

Nickolo di Conti, an Italian merchant, was the first who studied and assessed Myanmar’s rich resources, higher living standard, and righteous moral attitude of ethnic groups.

In order to exploit economic opportunity, Ngazinga (a) Phillip Debrito, a Portuguese, illegally entered Myanmar and settled in the country.

Living in Thanlyin, he took the helm in trade in areas like Dagon (Yangon) and Pathein. It was in 1627 that the Dutch, the English and the French entered the country.

In April of 1753, Mr David Hunter of East India Company seized Hainggyi Island and opened a colonialist base there.

King Alaungminyaya had to draw plans to clear the island of the colonialists. Myanmar forces attacked in the colonialist-controlled areas. Later, the second Anglo-Myanmar war broke out in the time of King Bagan.

During the second war, British troops marching to lower Myanmar to capture the whole area came under attacks launched by Kayin, Gekho and Gebar nationals at the east Yoma mountain ranges.

With the spirit of not allowing to lose even an inch of their land, they unitedly fought the intruders.

Thus, there emerged anti-colonialist patriots like Natshinye Bo, Bo Thapon, Bo Tha Oo, Bo Moe Oo, Bo Kyaw Zan Hla, and Bo Myat Htun in Yangon, Damubyu, Bago, Pathein, Mawlamyine, and Mottama.

Bo Gaunggyi, a patriotic fighter and former village-head of Tapun district in Thayawady, was contemporary with Bo Myat Htun. Hand in hand with his brother Bo Gaunggalay and Kayin nationals, he raided the British-stationed towns and villages. The entire national races shouldered their historical duties unreservedly by trying to drive the British intruders out of the country throughout the course of the second Anglo-Myanmar war.

With an inexhaustible supply, forest covers more than half of the area of the country. In other words, Myanmar is an economic hub. Major seaports can be built in the country for navigational purpose. Myanmar being a land of favourable conditions, the colonialists became covetous and attempted to occupy her.

Nickolo di Conti, an Italian merchant, was the first who studied and assessed Myanmar’s rich resources, higher living standard, and righteous moral attitude of national ethnic groups.

Bo Gaunggyi, a patriotic fighter and former village-head of Tapun district in Thayawady, was contemporary with Bo Myat Htun. Hand in hand with his brother Bo Gaunggalay and Kayin nationals, he raided the British-stationed towns and villages. The entire national races shouldered their historical duties unreservedly by trying to drive the British intruders out of the country throughout the course of the second Anglo-Myanmar war.

The Lower Myanmar fell into the hands of the British at the end of the second war. For the British colonialists bent on finding fault with Myanmar, the rise of the Bombay-Burma Timber Company issue in April 1885 became a soft option to attack and occupy her.

With that excuse, the British waged war on Myanmar for the third time. The British’s ulterior motive for the third Anglo-Myanmar war was but to annex the Upper Myanmar.

(See page 9)
With cold-blooded atrocity, the British killed the national patriots. Even then, Myanmar patriotic fighters showed no fear of the British. Myanmar nationals rose in armed resistance against the British on a scale larger than ever before to extricate themselves from servitude.

The British colonialists occupied Myanmar with the aim of keeping the whole country at the helm and bringing a total end to the existence of dynasty and race. The sight of the plight of women crying in streets of villages and the bullish assault on peasants and workers ignited the anti-colonialist sentiment.

The fangs of the colonialists are as fearful as those of the ogres. For their vested interest, the colonialists used various means of discrimination to destroy the unity in their colonies. Moreover, they set the national races against each other, looted the property of the people, and then took the country. The atrocities committed by the colonialists are unerasable from the pages of Myanma history. The memory of the valour and bravery of Myanmar national patriots who risked their lives in the independence struggle still lives on.

With unaunted spirit, they bravely fought the British, whose strength was grater than them, regarding their lives as a leaf or a flower. The fall of Myanmar national patriots in the fights with the British that had superiority in weaponry was like flowers falling to the ground as a result of strong wind. It is due to unyielding spirit and nationalist fervour that they fought to death. The vicious act of the British colonialists was the division of the hill region and the plains. They never let it enter their head the development and prosperity of the hill regions.

They left that regions unattended. They never took the initiative for economic growth, higher education, and social advancement of the residents. That was the ‘divide-and-rule’ policy exercised in Myanmar by the colonialists.

Thus, there was imbalance in the economic and social phenomena, whereupon the national brethren doubted each other. The colonialists manipulated and enslaved Myanmar in their own interests. Drawing lessons from the ill fates of Myanmar in the international community, the entire national races are to be aware of the danger posed by the neo-colonialists.

How can the threat of the neo-colonialists be deterred? How can independence be safeguarded? The strength of the nation lies within.

It is necessary for the national brethren to realize the tricks of colonialists to ensure the non-disintegration of the Union and the perpetuation of sovereignty. In fact, unity is strength. All in all, independence can be safeguarded with unity.

Translation: KTY
YANGON, 26 Dec — Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe and wife pay homage to Maha Myatmuni Buddha Image in Mandalay today. Next, Senior General Than Shwe signed in the Visitors’ Book and made cash donation.

Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing yesterday paid homage to Razamanisula Kaunghmudaw Pagoda in Sagaing.

Senior General Than Shwe and wife, 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, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy), the Commander-in-Chief (Air), the Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of the Central Command and ministers, arrived at Sagaing yesterday from PyinOoLwin.

When they arrived at Kaunghmudaw Pagoda, Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye and officials welcomed them.

Next, they offered flowers, lights and fruits and paid homage to Buddha Image at the southern prayer hall of the pagoda and presented cash to the Pagoda Board of Trustees for the pagoda.

They also set birds free at the pagoda and circled the pagoda.

Senior General Than Shwe and party paid homage to Maha Myatmuni Buddha Image in Mandalay. — MNA

Senior General Than Shwe and family make cash donation at Razamanisula Kaunghmudaw Pagoda. — MNA

Senior General Than Shwe and party pay homage to Maha Myatmuni Buddha Image in Mandalay. — MNA

Senior General Than Shwe and party visits Razamanisula Kaunghmudaw Pagoda. — MNA
Motion Picture Academy …

(from page 16)

and responsible personnel of the Myanmar Motion Picture Asiayon, the Myanmar Thabin Asiayon and the Myanmar Music Asiayon and other NGOs, artists and technicians, distinguished guests, and film enthusiasts, and then my best wishes to all of you to be in peace of mind and body.

I also would like to express my heartfelt delight at your presence here. Prizes will be presented to outstanding artists and technicians who have shown their great performance and talent in films screened in 2003. Counting from 1952, a golden jubilee has passed since the State honoured such persons with gold academy awards without missing a single year with an eye to the improvement of Myanma movie world. As is known to all, the government is doing everything it can to help improve the movie world. A glance at the endeavours of the film artists industry and developed it from the silent movie to today’s condition.

Furthermore, they with their artistic talent could instil the nationalist sentiment and independence spirit in the people of Myanmar although they were under pressure applied by the colonialists and the fascists throughout the period of independence struggle. The pains they took deserved to be documented.

There is historical evidence that not only did they oppose to the colonialists and the fascists but they themselves also took part in the independence struggle. It is common sense that the people of the movie world have done their bit in the tasks for safeguarding independence as well as in today’s ongoing nation-building tasks.

It is delightful to learn that the history of Myanmar movie has been in its prime, and the film artists have held in high esteem the national duties throughout successive eras. It is my belief that they will continue their efforts and participate in the implementation of the seven-point Road Map that will bring about a discipline-flourishing democratic nation, while carrying out their national duties and preserving the fine tradition of the history of Myanmar movie.

However, there still remain some tasks the film artists have to better the movie world, to improve the movie standard, and to enable Myanmar movies to be on a par with those of the world nations.

Therefore, the onus is on them to preserve the fine traditions of the Myanmar movie world.

(See page 15)
Chinese residents more satisfied with overall quality of life

BEIJING, 25 Dec — Chinese residents are becoming more satisfied with the country’s overall quality of life in 2004, says a recent survey by the Horizon Group. According to the survey, 80.1 per cent of the people interviewed feel positively about China’s overall quality of life, while only 2.6 per cent feel negatively.

Residential areas gave the country the highest marks, residents in small cities and towns lower, and urban citizens the lowest. Just 1.5 per cent of rural population made negative comments, and the percentage is, respectively, 5.6 per cent and 2.6 per cent for urban citizens and small town residents.

Confidence in government management and expectation for harvest from scientific and technological development over by vehicles moving on the road when they were trying to get flowers and five of them were killed. Several vehicles also got smashed and left four others dead. — MNA/Xinhua

At least 9 killed in flower looting in Brazil

RIO DE JANEIRO, 25 Dec — At least nine people were killed and 13 injured when a truck plowed into a crowd looting flowers from another truck on a road near Brazil’s southeastern city of Resende, police said Friday.

The accident occurred Thursday night when local people and people from passing cars were looting a cargo of flowers from the truck that had tipped over, police said.

Some people were run over by vehicles moving on the road when they were trying to get flowers and five of them were killed. Several vehicles also got smashed and left four others dead. — MNA/Xinhua

Police seize 350 kilos of cocaine in Venezuela

CARACAS, 25 Dec — Police seized 350 kilos of pure cocaine in an operation in Venezuela’s northern coastal city of La Guaira and arrested six people, the National Guard authorities said Friday.

The drug was seized Thursday by agents during an operation in a container carrying refrigerated fruit pulp bound for London.

Venezuela has become an important stopover point for drugs such as cocaine, heroin and marijuana being sent to the United States and Europe from Colombia, the world’s top producer of illegal drugs. — MNA/Xinhua

UN official insists critical report on reforms in Arab world

UNITED NATIONS, 25 Dec — A senior UN official insisted on Thursday that a critical report on reforms in the Arab world would be issued next year and denied the Bush Administration had censored it.

Mark Malloch Brown, the head of the UN Development Programme which is issuing the survey, was responding to reports that under pressure from Washington this year’s study would not carry the UN logo as in the past.

“No US official has asked us to suppress the report nor has any US official suggested that their contribution would be eliminated or cut because of this year’s report,” he said.

Malloch Brown said delays in issuing the study were due to revisions of the draft in his office to make sure “it meets UN standards of impartiality and objectivity.”

“I have been looking at drafts and telling them where there need to be changes,” he said. “But the report will be very consistent with earlier reports and call a spade a spade.”

The study, known as Arab Human Development Report, is the work of independent Arab specialists, mostly development experts, social scientists, liberals and reformers. UNDP has financed and sponsored their work. — MNA/Reuters

Russia successfully test-fires “Topol-M” ballistic missile

MOSCOW, 25 Dec — Russia successfully test-fired a mobile version of the intercontinental “Topol-M” ballistic missile on Friday in the last of four tests before its deployment next year. Interfax news agency reported.

Known as Russia’s most sophisticated nuclear missile, it can be fitted with a single or multiple warheads and hit targets more than 6,200 mile away.

The firing was part of President Vladimir Putin’s plan to turn Russia, whose Soviet-era missile arsenal needs serious renewal and modernization, into a major player in the global military and nuclear power.

Defence Minister Sergei Ivanov, who supervised Friday’s firing from a mobile launch pad in Plesetsk in Arctic Russia, said its financing would start early next year.

“At a government meeting on 30 December we are going to approve a new defence plan for 2005, including purchases of Topol-M mobile missiles,” he was quoted as saying by Interfax news agency. “All the tests have been successful and our country is beginning to deploy them.” — MNA/Reuters

China hopes to have effective energy cooperation with Russia

BEIJING, 25 Dec — China appreciates Russia’s attitude towards energy cooperation with China, and hopes to carry out effective energy cooperation with Russia, said Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao here Thursday.

Liu made the remarks at a regular Press conference when asked about a comment made by Russian President Vladimir Putin.

A foreign journalist said that Putin said oil companies in Russia and China may strengthen cooperation during his recent German tour.

— MNA/Xinhua

UN official insists critical report on reforms in Arab world

UNITED NATIONS, 25 Dec — A senior UN official insisted on Thursday that a critical report on reforms in the Arab world would be issued next year and denied the Bush Administration had censored it.

Mark Malloch Brown, the head of the UN Development Programme which is issuing the survey, was responding to reports that under pressure from Washington this year’s study would not carry the UN logo as in the past.

“No US official has asked us to suppress the report nor has any US official suggested that their contribution would be eliminated or cut because of this year’s report,” he said.

Malloch Brown said delays in issuing the study were due to revisions of the draft in his office to make sure “it meets UN standards of impartiality and objectivity.”

“I have been looking at drafts and telling them where there need to be changes,” he said. “But the report will be very consistent with earlier reports and call a spade a spade.”

The study, known as Arab Human Development Report, is the work of independent Arab specialists, mostly development experts, social scientists, liberals and reformers. UNDP has financed and sponsored their work. — MNA/Reuters

Russia successfully test-fires “Topol-M” ballistic missile

MOSCOW, 25 Dec — Russia successfully test-fired a mobile version of the intercontinental “Topol-M” ballistic missile on Friday in the last of four tests before its deployment next year. Interfax news agency reported.

Known as Russia’s most sophisticated nuclear missile, it can be fitted with a single or multiple warheads and hit targets more than 6,200 mile away.

The firing was part of President Vladimir Putin’s plan to turn Russia, whose Soviet-era missile arsenal needs serious renewal and modernization, into a major player in the global military and nuclear power.

Defence Minister Sergei Ivanov, who supervised Friday’s firing from a mobile launch pad in Plesetsk in Arctic Russia, said its financing would start early next year.

“At a government meeting on 30 December we are going to approve a new defence plan for 2005, including purchases of Topol-M mobile missiles,” he was quoted as saying by Interfax news agency. “All the tests have been successful and our country is beginning to deploy them.” — MNA/Reuters

China hopes to have effective energy cooperation with Russia

BEIJING, 25 Dec — China appreciates Russia’s attitude towards energy cooperation with China, and hopes to carry out effective energy cooperation with Russia, said Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao here Thursday.

Liu made the remarks at a regular Press conference when asked about a comment made by Russian President Vladimir Putin.

A foreign journalist said that Putin said oil companies in Russia and China may strengthen cooperation during his recent German tour.

— MNA/Xinhua

At least 9 killed in flower looting in Brazil

RIO DE JANEIRO, 25 Dec — At least nine people were killed and 13 injured when a truck plowed into a crowd looting flowers from another truck on a road near Brazil’s southeastern city of Resende, police said Friday.

The accident occurred Thursday night when local people and people from passing cars were looting a cargo of flowers from the truck that had tipped over, police said.

Some people were run over by vehicles moving on the road when they were trying to get flowers and five of them were killed. Several vehicles also got smashed and left four others dead. — MNA/Xinhua

Police seize 350 kilos of cocaine in Venezuela

CARACAS, 25 Dec — Police seized 350 kilos of pure cocaine in an operation in Venezuela’s northern coastal city of La Guaira and arrested six people, the National Guard authorities said Friday.

The drug was seized Thursday by agents during an operation in a container carrying refrigerated fruit pulp bound for London.

Venezuela has become an important stopover point for drugs such as cocaine, heroin and marijuana being sent to the United States and Europe from Colombia, the world’s top producer of illegal drugs. — MNA/Xinhua

UN official insists critical report on reforms in Arab world

UNITED NATIONS, 25 Dec — A senior UN official insisted on Thursday that a critical report on reforms in the Arab world would be issued next year and denied the Bush Administration had censored it.

Mark Malloch Brown, the head of the UN Development Programme which is issuing the survey, was responding to reports that under pressure from Washington this year’s study would not carry the UN logo as in the past.

“No US official has asked us to suppress the report nor has any US official suggested that their contribution would be eliminated or cut because of this year’s report,” he said.

Malloch Brown said delays in issuing the study were due to revisions of the draft in his office to make sure “it meets UN standards of impartiality and objectivity.”

“I have been looking at drafts and telling them where there need to be changes,” he said. “But the report will be very consistent with earlier reports and call a spade a spade.”

The study, known as Arab Human Development Report, is the work of independent Arab specialists, mostly development experts, social scientists, liberals and reformers. UNDP has financed and sponsored their work. — MNA/Reuters

Russia successfully test-fires “Topol-M” ballistic missile

MOSCOW, 25 Dec — Russia successfully test-fired a mobile version of the intercontinental “Topol-M” ballistic missile on Friday in the last of four tests before its deployment next year. Interfax news agency reported.

Known as Russia’s most sophisticated nuclear missile, it can be fitted with a single or multiple warheads and hit targets more than 6,200 mile away.

The firing was part of President Vladimir Putin’s plan to turn Russia, whose Soviet-era missile arsenal needs serious renewal and modernization, into a major player in the global military and nuclear power.

Defence Minister Sergei Ivanov, who supervised Friday’s firing from a mobile launch pad in Plesetsk in Arctic Russia, said its financing would start early next year.

“At a government meeting on 30 December we are going to approve a new defence plan for 2005, including purchases of Topol-M mobile missiles,” he was quoted as saying by Interfax news agency. “All the tests have been successful and our country is beginning to deploy them.” — MNA/Reuters
Putin defends nationalization of YUKOS’ main assets

MOSCOW, 25 Dec — Russian President Vladimir Putin said Thursday that the state had used an “absolutely legal market mechanism” to acquire the main assets of oil giant YUKOS.

Speaking at an annual Press conference in the Kremlin, Putin said state petroleum company Rosneft bought Baikalfinanzgroup, which won the secretive auction Sunday for YUKOS’ core production unit Yuganskneftegaz, to protect the interests of the state.

“Today the state, using an absolutely legal market mechanism, is protecting its interests. I consider this perfectly normal,” Putin said.

In an auction clouded in secrecy on Sunday, a previously unknown Baikalfinanzgroup bought about 77 per cent of the shares of YUKOS’ Siberian crown jewel after of some 5.2 per cent and 3 per cent respectively in 2004, and energy exports increased during the same period.

Rosneft was Russia’s seventh biggest group in the oil sector before buying Yuganskneftegaz. It produced 19.4 million tonnes of oil in 2003.

The Sunday auction raised concerns in Western countries, which see the sale as a Kremlin manoeuvre to control the national energy industry.

Putin said he believes Russian energy companies are developing dynamically. “They are developing at a high speed and there are basically good dynamics there,” he said.

Rosneft’s oil and gas production grew 5.2 per cent and 3 per cent respectively in 2004, and energy exports increased during the same period. Putin said.

Rosneft Russia’s seventh biggest group in the oil sector before buying Yuganskneftegaz. It produced 19.4 million tonnes of oil in 2003.

The Georgian Parliam
t has named a Vice-Foreign Minister as the first Ambassador to China, who will head for Beijing early next year to prepare for the establishment of an embassy.

The European Space Agency-managed Huygens aims to shed light on the only moon in the solar system with an atmosphere, a place where the surface may not be solid and the truth, scientists say, is almost certainly stranger than fiction.

“Yale University to announce scholarships for Indian students

New Delhi, 25 Dec — US-based Yale University is planning to announce “sizeable” scholarships and stipends for Indian students for the academic year 2004-05.

The announcement is likely to be made by Yale University President Richard C Levin during his visit to India next week.

“Yale has committed to invest one billion dollars in science and technology fields in this decade and we strongly believe that students from India can help us achieve our goal,” said Levin, who will lead a high-level delegation to India next month, in a Press release here.

11 die as cold wave intensifies in north India

NEW DELHI, 25 Dec — Cold weather has claimed 11 lives since Thursday in northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh, taking the toll in cold-related incidents to 27 this season.

Both Ballia and Mau saw three deaths while one person each died in Jaunpur, Basti, Bhadohi, Azamgarh and Kushinagar due to cold, the Press Trust of India quoted local officials as saying.

Barrely recorded seven degrees Celsius, the coldest place in the state, while the state capital Lucknow shivered at eight degrees, according to the meteorological office.

Sri Lanka asks overstaying foreigners to quit

COLOMBO, 25 Dec — Sri Lanka announced Friday that all foreign nationals living in the country without valid visas must quit by 10 January, 2005.

The Ministry of Public Security Law and Order said in a Press release that “all foreign nationals who have temporary visas have expired have been given time till January 10, 2005 to leave the country or face arrest and prosecution”.

It said the ministry had received information that around 10,000 foreign nationals mostly from Asian nations have overstayed their visas and have found employment in the hotel and jewellery industry among other sectors.

Meerakts Marvin and Mara (R) snift at a sprig of mistletoe at London Zoo, central London, on 22 Dec, 2004. — INTERNET

European space probe breaks away from “Cassini”

LA CANADA (California), 25 Dec — A European-designed space probe broke away from its NASA mothership on Friday on a plume to descend to the mysterious Saturn moon Titan, starting a journey researchers hope will end with answers about one of the most puzzling bodies in the solar system.

Ground controllers received a signal at about 7:24 pm Pacific Time (10:24 pm EST/0324 GMT) indicating that Huygens had separated from NASA’s Saturn probe Cassini, as small explosives sheared away locking bolts and a set of springs gently pushed the probe off on a collision course with Titan.

The European Space Agency’s Huygens probe project manager with the ESA, Long a favourite home for science-fiction tales, Titan is larger than the planets Mercury and Pluto.

Its atmosphere is mostly nitrogen, like Earth, but its surface temperatures of about minus-180 degrees Celsius make it inhospitable.

“In some sense it’s a trip to early Earth,” said David Southwood, director of the scientific programme for the ESA. One of the biggest questions, Southwood and colleagues said, is whether there is any liquid on Titan’s surface — lakes filled with methane rain.

Huygens will hopefully answer that question, after travelling 2.1 billion miles to Saturn over seven years on the hip of the NASA craft Cassini.

About 2.5 yards wide and shaped something like a flying saucer, it was due to make a leisurely descent of about two-and-a-half hours through Titan’s atmosphere, using three parachutes to reduce its speed and give the onboard instruments time to take detailed readings.

Sri Lanka asks overstaying foreigners to quit

COLOMBO, 25 Dec — Sri Lanka announced Friday that all foreign nationals living in the country without valid visas must quit by 10 January, 2005.

The Ministry of Public Security Law and Order said in a Press release that “all foreign nationals who have temporary visas have expired have been given time till January 10, 2005 to leave the country or face arrest and prosecution”.

It said the ministry had received information that around 10,000 foreign nationals mostly from Asian nations have overstayed their visas and have found employment in the hotel and jewellery industry among other sectors. — MNA/Reuters

Tilak Ranaviraja, secretary to the ministry, has advised the police to carry out search operations to arrest those whose visas have expired. The secretary said that any renewals of visas would be done after a close scrutiny. — MNA/Xinhua

11 die as cold wave intensifies in north India

NEW DELHI, 25 Dec — Cold weather has claimed 11 lives since Thursday in northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh, taking the toll in cold-related incidents to 27 this season.

Both Ballia and Mau saw three deaths while one person each died in Jaunpur, Basti, Bhadohi, Azamgarh and Kushinagar due to cold, the Press Trust of India quoted local officials as saying.

Barrely recorded seven degrees Celsius, the coldest place in the state, while the state capital Lucknow shivered at eight degrees, according to the meteorological office.

Sri Lanka asks overstaying foreigners to quit

COLOMBO, 25 Dec — Sri Lanka announced Friday that all foreign nationals living in the country without valid visas must quit by 10 January, 2005.

The Ministry of Public Security Law and Order said in a Press release that “all foreign nationals who have temporary visas have expired have been given time till January 10, 2005 to leave the country or face arrest and prosecution”.

It said the ministry had received information that around 10,000 foreign nationals mostly from Asian nations have overstayed their visas and have found employment in the hotel and jewellery industry among other sectors. — MNA/Reuters

Tilak Ranaviraja, secretary to the ministry, has advised the police to carry out search operations to arrest those whose visas have expired. The secretary said that any renewals of visas would be done after a close scrutiny. — MNA/Xinhua

11 die as cold wave intensifies in north India

NEW DELHI, 25 Dec — Cold weather has claimed 11 lives since Thursday in northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh, taking the toll in cold-related incidents to 27 this season.

Both Ballia and Mau saw three deaths while one person each died in Jaunpur, Basti, Bhadohi, Azamgarh and Kushinagar due to cold, the Press Trust of India quoted local officials as saying.

Barrely recorded seven degrees Celsius, the coldest place in the state, while the state capital Lucknow shivered at eight degrees, according to the meteorological office.

Sri Lanka asks overstaying foreigners to quit

COLOMBO, 25 Dec — Sri Lanka announced Friday that all foreign nationals living in the country without valid visas must quit by 10 January, 2005.

The Ministry of Public Security Law and Order said in a Press release that “all foreign nationals who have temporary visas have expired have been given time till January 10, 2005 to leave the country or face arrest and prosecution”.

It said the ministry had received information that around 10,000 foreign nationals mostly from Asian nations have overstayed their visas and have found employment in the hotel and jewellery industry among other sectors. — MNA/Reuters

Tilak Ranaviraja, secretary to the ministry, has advised the police to carry out search operations to arrest those whose visas have expired. The secretary said that any renewals of visas would be done after a close scrutiny. — MNA/Xinhua

11 die as cold wave intensifies in north India

NEW DELHI, 25 Dec — Cold weather has claimed 11 lives since Thursday in northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh, taking the toll in cold-related incidents to 27 this season.

Both Ballia and Mau saw three deaths while one person each died in Jaunpur, Basti, Bhadohi, Azamgarh and Kushinagar due to cold, the Press Trust of India quoted local officials as saying.

Barrely recorded seven degrees Celsius, the coldest place in the state, while the state capital Lucknow shivered at eight degrees, according to the meteorological office.

Sri Lanka asks overstaying foreigners to quit

COLOMBO, 25 Dec — Sri Lanka announced Friday that all foreign nationals living in the country without valid visas must quit by 10 January, 2005.

The Ministry of Public Security Law and Order said in a Press release that “all foreign nationals who have temporary visas have expired have been given time till January 10, 2005 to leave the country or face arrest and prosecution”.

It said the ministry had received information that around 10,000 foreign nationals mostly from Asian nations have overstayed their visas and have found employment in the hotel and jewellery industry among other sectors. — MNA/Reuters

Tilak Ranaviraja, secretary to the ministry, has advised the police to carry out search operations to arrest those whose visas have expired. The secretary said that any renewals of visas would be done after a close scrutiny. — MNA/Xinhua

11 die as cold wave intensifies in north India

NEW DELHI, 25 Dec — Cold weather has claimed 11 lives since Thursday in northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh, taking the toll in cold-related incidents to 27 this season.

Both Ballia and Mau saw three deaths while one person each died in Jaunpur, Basti, Bhadohi, Azamgarh and Kushinagar due to cold, the Press Trust of India quoted local officials as saying.

Barrely recorded seven degrees Celsius, the coldest place in the state, while the state capital Lucknow shivered at eight degrees, according to the meteorological office.

Sri Lanka asks overstaying foreigners to quit

COLOMBO, 25 Dec — Sri Lanka announced Friday that all foreign nationals living in the country without valid visas must quit by 10 January, 2005.

The Ministry of Public Security Law and Order said in a Press release that “all foreign nationals who have temporary visas have expired have been given time till January 10, 2005 to leave the country or face arrest and prosecution”.

It said the ministry had received information that around 10,000 foreign nationals mostly from Asian nations have overstayed their visas and have found employment in the hotel and jewellery industry among other sectors. — MNA/Reuters

Tilak Ranaviraja, secretary to the ministry, has advised the police to carry out search operations to arrest those whose visas have expired. The secretary said that any renewals of visas would be done after a close scrutiny. — MNA/Xinhua
Nick Saban becoming sixth head coach of Miami Dolphins

ORLANDO (Florida), 26 Dec—LSU head coach Nick Saban announced on Saturday night that he will become the new head coach of the Miami Dolphins beginning in the 2005 season.

Just after landing in central Florida with the Tigers, who will play Iowa in the Capital One Bowl here on New Year's Day, Saban said he is ready to take the next step and begin coaching in the NFL.

"I've always been driven by the opportunity to make a difference," Saban said of becoming the sixth head coach in Dolphins' history. "This is a great opportunity and a tremendous challenge. I know there is a lot to be learned."

Details of the agreement, which has not been officially signed, were not released but it is believed to be a five-year deal.

Saban led LSU to a share of the 2003 national championship and this season guided the Tigers to a record of 9-2. He leaves the school after the first season of a seven-year contract.

"Our time at LSU has been the most rewarding and self-gratifying time of my life professionally," he added about his five-year stint as the head man at LSU.

The Dolphins, meanwhile, are on the way to their worst season in franchise history. Miami is just 3-11, already matching a team record for losses set during the club's 3-11 expansion campaign of 1966.

Dave Wannstedt resigned as Dolphins head coach on November 9 after a 1-8 start. Jim Bates has been serving as the interim head coach.

Saban has had flirtations with NFL teams in the past, including a meeting last season with the Chicago Bears. He took over an LSU programme that was 3-8 in 1999 and guided the Tigers to an 8-4 mark with a Peach Bowl victory in 2000 in his first season in Baton Rouge. He followed that with a victory in the Sugar Bowl the next year.
Motion Picture Academy …

(from page 11)

These days, foreign films and CDs are flooding into Myanmar. As shown by the statistics, there were 40,793 video tapes and laser discs and 771 films from 1988 to 2004. It is found that foreign films outnumbered domestic films. They are all Myanmar film and video industries as well as to national culture, nationalism, patriotism, and Union Spirit. Only when this threat is removed will there be improvement in Myanmar film and video industries. National culture, nationalist, patriotism and Union Spirit will flourish and can be preserved for keeps as well.

A look at the level of the post-golden jubilee Myanmar movie will show that there are still weak-nesses and defects in such aspects as plots, presenta-tion, acting, mode of dress, production, shooting, tech-nology, screening and cin-ema services. Only when they are improved will the level of Myanmar movies be higher, overcome the for-mer media challenges, and penetrate the film industry of the world. To counter these weaknesses, sug-gestions were given at a meet-ing with film artists on 5 December this year.

To repeat them, it is necessary to deviate from the conventional trend and make up new thoughts and visions in conformity with Myanmar culture; film di-rectors and artists as well as technicians are to enhance their ability in making films and it is necessary to avoid de-ac-tent mode of dress although

Movement of earthquake in Andaman Sea

YANGON, 27 Dec — An earthquake of severe inten-sity with 8.5 on the Richter Scale with its epicenter about 400 miles south of Kokogyun was re-corded at 7:32:64 am. Following that, earthquake, nine earthquakes of intensity about 6.0 on the Richter Scale were recorded in the Andaman Sea.

The eighth earthquake of strong intensity with 6.1 on the Richter Scale with its epicenter about 60 miles Southwest of Kokogyun took place at 9:38:42 am. The ninth one of moderate intensity with 5.1 on the Richter Scale centred about 400 miles south of Kokogyun was re-corded.

These earthquakes were activated in the Andaman Sea. The event of severe earthquake, mild earthquakes usually follow at the weak subduction zone in the subse-quent three days.

Under the influences of the earthquakes, tidal waves can occur off and along the coast of the Andaman Sea. People of inland regions can take notice of the movement of the earthquake. No country in the world can predict the earthquake.

The following precautions should be taken during the earthquake.

— keep away from the buildings
— be aware of falling debris
— extinguish fire and turn off electricity in the building
— Members of Red Cross Brigade and fire fighters should be alert to help the people in wards and villages
— do not believe rumours

Fashion-consciousness is ac-ceptable; it is necessary for producers to make the films of high quality and standard with ready markets taking into consideration their long-term commercial gains.

Film technicians are to make efforts for improve-ment of film industry through producing and pro-duce films and hiring sound and developing equipment from abroad if necessary. Film artists are to conduct seminars, work-shops and other courses in order to raise the standard of their filmindustry, to attend international film festivals and seminars to gain new techniques, to get new con-tacts and to screen Myanmar courses and other technical courses by Myanmar Mo-mentum, clothes and other materials by Asianayon, instal-lation of modern film equip-ment and establishment of studios by earning foreign exchange after exporting Myanmar movies and over-coming difficulties encoun-tered through unity, coordi-nation, cooperation and pa-tience. The ministry would provide necessary assistance for development of Myanmar movie, he added.

Film artists and techni-cians took part in inde-pendence struggle and safe-guarding independence in the past.

They are now partici-pating in unity in efforts for peace and tranquillity and development.

Film artists to ac-tively participate in the tasks of building a discipline-flourishing democratic na-tion in the future through the seven steps upholding Our Three Main National Causes.

In conclusion, he urged movie-loving people to give encouragement to the raising of Myanmar movie standard, film artists to preserve Myanmarcultural heritage and national char-acter through their skills and to take part in the tasks for building a disci-pline-flourishing democratic na-tion hand in hand with the government, the Tatmadaw and the people.

Next, the list of Acad-emy Award winners was an-nounced. Best Sound Award went to Khin Sabai Oo and group for their work in Thumsweta Thita; Best Cinematography Award to Kyun Phyoo (Padetha) for his work in ‘Amaynoeboe’; Best Screenwriter Award to Nyein Min for his script in ‘Amaynoeboe’; Best Film Editing Award to U Myint Khaing for his work in ‘Thumsweta Thita’; Best Supporting Actress Award to Cho Pyone for her per-formance in ‘Amaynoeboe’; Best Music Award to Zaw Myo Htut for his work in ‘Nay-gamwedela’; Best Supporting Actor Award to Zaw Oo for his perform-ance in ‘Amaynoeboe’; Best Film Award for ‘Amaynoeboe’, Best Actor Award to Kyaw Hein for his performance in ‘Nay-gamwedela’; Best Film Director Award to Kyaw Thu for his work in ‘Amaynoeboe’; and Best Actor Award to Tun Eindra Bo for her perform-ance in ‘Amaynoeboe’.

Next, some good scenes that helped them win the awards were shown.

Later, Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan presented Acad-emy Awards for 2003 and K 100,000 each contributed by Super Coffeefries to the win-ners. The award winners ex-pressed thanks and the cer-eemony ended.

After the ceremony, Secretary-1 Li Gen Then Sein and wife and Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan celer-dially greeted the award winners.

MNA

Earthquake report

(Issued at 09:00 hours MST on today)

An earthquake of very strong intensity (8.5) Richter Scale with its epicenter outside of Myanmar about (1000) miles South of Kaba-Aye seismological observatory was recorded at (07:32) hours (32 min) (04 sec) MST on 26th December 2004.

Summaries of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of slight increase of night temperature in lower Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 27-12-2004: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 27-12-2004: Fair weather.

WEATHER

Sunday, 26 December, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:

Bangkok, 26 Dec— A tsunami triggered by an earthquake in the Indian Ocean killed one tourist on the southern Thai resort island of Phuket on Sunday and may have swept four or five more out to sea, officials said.

About 100 people were injured as the wave, 5 to 10 metres (16 to 32 feet) high, crashed onto beaches lined with luxury hotels at the peak of the tourist season, they said.

The southern provinces of Krabi and Phang-nga had also been hit, but not as badly as Phuket.

According to news report from Jakarta, Indonesia, as many as 17 people were killed on Sunday in Indone-sia’s Sumatra island at a strong earthquake triggered a tidal wave. Another news report from Colombo, Sri Lanka, reported that the eastern and southern coastal areas in Sri Lanka were devastated Sunday by rising tidal waves which left hundreds to several hundred people dead.

Officials said many homes near the coastal lines had been destroyed displacing thousands of people. The tsunami also claimed the lives of 74 people when it hit the southern Indian coast early on Sunday, news for Hyderabad (India) said.

MNA

Best Actress Winner Tun Eindra Bo. NLM

Five-time academy winners winner Kyaw Hein. — NLM

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Monday, 27 December, 2004

R 489 Published by the News and Periodicals Enterprise, Ministry of Information, Union of Myanmar. Edited and printed at The New Light of Myanmar Press, No 22/30 Strand Road at 43rd Street, Yangon. Cable Newslight, PO Box No. 43, Telephones: Editors 296115, Manager 296864, Circulation 297093, Advertisement 296843, Accounts 296545, Administration 2966161, Production 297032 (Office) / 297028 (Press).
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

Rakhine State USDA holds meeting on successful implementation of seven objectives, nine future tasks of AGM (2004) and plans.

YANGON, 26 Dec—Rakhine State Union Solidarity and Development Association held a meeting at U Oktama Hall on the morning of December 24 to discuss implementation of the seven objectives and nine future tasks laid down by the USDA Annual General Meeting (2004) and the plans to be carried out in Rakhine State.

It was attended by USDA members, (See page 6)

The Academy Awards ceremony started at 6 pm. Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan delivered a speech on the occasion.

He said: First of all, I would like to extend my warm greetings attendance to Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and wife, for their attendance, and members of the State Peace and Development Council, ministers, deputy ministers, departmental heads, and fans.

Before the ceremony, guests were entertained with songs by artists to the accompaniment of Myanmar Athan Modern Music Troupe, U Win Aung and Daw Khin San Myint acted as MCs.

The Academy Awards ceremony started at 6 pm. Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan delivered a speech on the occasion.

He said: First of all, I would like to extend my warm greetings attendance to Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and wife, for their attendance, and members of the State Peace and Development Council, ministers, deputy ministers, departmental heads, and fans.

Before the ceremony, guests were entertained with songs by artists to the accompaniment of Myanmar Athan Modern Music Troupe, U Win Aung and Daw Khin San Myint acted as MCs.

The Academy Awards ceremony started at 6 pm. Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan delivered a speech on the occasion.

He said: First of all, I would like to extend my warm greetings attendance to Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and wife, for their attendance, and members of the State Peace and Development Council, ministers, deputy ministers, departmental heads, and fans.

Before the ceremony, guests were entertained with songs by artists to the accompaniment of Myanmar Athan Modern Music Troupe, U Win Aung and Daw Khin San Myint acted as MCs.

The Academy Awards ceremony started at 6 pm. Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan delivered a speech on the occasion.

He said: First of all, I would like to extend my warm greetings attendance to Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and wife, for their attendance, and members of the State Peace and Development Council, ministers, deputy ministers, departmental heads, and fans.

Before the ceremony, guests were entertained with songs by artists to the accompaniment of Myanmar Athan Modern Music Troupe, U Win Aung and Daw Khin San Myint acted as MCs.

The Academy Awards ceremony started at 6 pm. Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan delivered a speech on the occasion.

He said: First of all, I would like to extend my warm greetings attendance to Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and wife, for their attendance, and members of the State Peace and Development Council, ministers, deputy ministers, departmental heads, and fans.

Before the ceremony, guests were entertained with songs by artists to the accompaniment of Myanmar Athan Modern Music Troupe, U Win Aung and Daw Khin San Myint acted as MCs.

The Academy Awards ceremony started at 6 pm. Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan delivered a speech on the occasion.

He said: First of all, I would like to extend my warm greetings attendance to Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and wife, for their attendance, and members of the State Peace and Development Council, ministers, deputy ministers, departmental heads, and fans.

Before the ceremony, guests were entertained with songs by artists to the accompaniment of Myanmar Athan Modern Music Troupe, U Win Aung and Daw Khin San Myint acted as MCs.