Duty of all nationals

It is the bounden duty of all Myanmar nationals to totally eliminate, with Union Spirit, discord, hatred and disunity among themselves which are the evil legacy of colonialists.

Senior General Than Shwe
Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council
Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services

(From address delivered at the conclusion of Primary Teachership Course No 35)

Senior General Than Shwe sends message of sympathy to India

YANGON, 27 Dec — Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of sympathy to His Excellency Dr APJ Abdul Kalam, President of the Republic of India on the loss of life and property caused by earthquake in India on 26 December 2004. — MNA

Senior General Than Shwe sends message of sympathy to Indonesia

YANGON, 27 Dec — Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of sympathy to His Excellency Mr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, President of the Republic of Indonesia for the loss of life and property caused by the earthquake of 26 December 2004 in Aceh and northern Sumatra in Indonesia. — MNA

Sooner completion of projects urged
Special Projects Implementation Committee meets

YANGON, 27 Dec — The work coordination meeting 2/2004 of the Special Projects Implementation Committee was held this afternoon at the office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) and Chairman of the Special Projects Implementation Committee Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann and Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win, Secretary of SPIC Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council General Maung Aye, members of the SPIC SPIC Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe delivered an address.

It was also attended by Vice-Chairman of the SPIC Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe, members of the SPIC Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann and Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win, Secretary of SPIC Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council (See page 4)

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
**F & R Minister meets officials of IRD**

**YANGON, 27 Dec** — Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun this afternoon met the director-general, deputy director-general, director, state and division heads of the Revenue Departments under the Internal Revenue Department of the Ministry of Finance and Revenue.

At the meeting held at IRD here, the directors and officials of IRD reported to the minister on tasks that had been undertaken. Next, the minister gave instructions.

**NGV vehicles inspected**

**YANGON, 27 Dec** — Minister for Energy Brig.Gen Lun Thi this morning inspected the NGV vehicles in the compound of Yangon’s offshore base of Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise.

Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay and officials of MOGE reported to the minister on converting passenger vehicles using fuel in Yangon into NGV ones and tasks being undertaken. The minister urged officials concerned to make efforts for opening of more gas stations in time.

The number of natural gas used vehicles (NGV) reaches 1,484 so far and five more gas stations will be opened soon.

**Meeting of Beans and Pulses and Sesame Merchants Association on 30 Dec**

**YANGON, 27 Dec** — The 12th annual meeting of Beans and Pulses and Sesame Merchants Association will be held at Traders Hotel on Sale Pagoda Road, here, at 5.30 pm on 30 December. Members are invited to attend the meeting without fail.

**Swimming competitions held**

**YANGON, 27 Dec** — Organized by Myanmar Swimming Federation, trials for XXIII SEA Games was held in conjunction with a prize presentation at National Swimming Pool here this afternoon. After the trials, Director of Physical Education Department U Maung Win, Dr Khin Shwe of MSF and officials presented prizes and cash awards to the winners.

**Customs Clearance Agents Association meets**

**YANGON, 27 Dec** — Myanmar Customs Clearance Agents Association held its eighth meeting at La Pyat Wun Plaza on Signal Pagoda Road, here, yesterday.

Chairman of the association U Myo Thant, Director-General of Customs Department Col Khin Maung Lin and President of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Win Myint made speeches on the occasion.

Next, report of the association was presented and the approval sought.

Afterwards, Vice-Chairman of the association U Maung Maung Kywe donated K 200,000 each to sports funds of the Customs Department and for retired service personnel. The meeting ended with concluding remarks by the chairman.
Over 15,000 people killed by Tsunami waves

JAKARTA, Dec 27— More than 15,500 people were killed by Tsunami waves triggered by a 9.0 magnitude earthquake in southern Asia on Sunday. These figures are preliminary and in some cases rough estimates by local officials.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Deaths</th>
<th>Injured</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>5,697</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>4,491</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Myanmar</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sri Lanka</td>
<td>4,891</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Thailand</td>
<td>431</td>
<td>5,000</td>
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<td>Bangladesh</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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<td><strong>5,200</strong></td>
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</table>

The figure includes an estimated 3,000 feared killed in India’s Andaman and Nicobar islands.

In addition about 1,300 people were missing in India’s Andhra Pradesh, 35 in Malaysia and 10 people were feared dead in the Maldives.

The numbers are based on comments by official sources and local media.

MNA/Reuters

Beijing-Doha air routes have promising future

BEIJING, 27 Dec— The Qatar Airways, the first Arab airline to open routes between Beijing and the Middle East, said here it was confident about the route’s future. December 25 was the one-month anniversary of operation of the new route.

The Asian games in Doha in 2006 and the Beijing Olympics in 2008 will further promote exchanges between China and the Middle East, thus creating more demand for Beijing-Doha route, said Huang Shenglu, general manager of the Qatar Airways China.

The Qatar Airways started preparation for launching a China route a few years ago. Now there are two Chinese cabin crew on each flight.

Chinese passengers can easily find people who speak Chinese in the Doha Airport.

Experts said the Beijing route is strategic for the Qatar Airways.

MNA/Xinhua

Death toll from Tsunami rises to 4,500 in Sri Lanka

PAYAGALA, 27 Dec — Hundreds of thousands of Sri Lankans sheltered in temples and schools on Monday as the death toll from the worst tsunami in living memory to hit the Indian Ocean island rose to 4,500 and was likely to increase.

In the southern coastal town of Galle, a major industrial hub submerged by a 9-metre (30-foot) wave, some residents spent the night on the roofs of office buildings and the local bus station. Many could only watch in horror from balconies on Sunday as men, women and children were swept away by waves of water that poured through the historic city. Floods triggered by the tsunami have stranded an estimated 750,000 people along the southern, eastern and northern shores.

“A wave up to 10 feet (3 metres) in height hit this area and everything was swept away, including my three-wheeler taxi,” said 40-year-old Piyasoma, a resident of Payagala, a town 60 kilometres (38 miles) south of Colombo.

Government officials estimate more than 500,000 people have been left homeless, and said the final death toll could rise much higher because hundreds of people washed out to sea have not yet been accounted for.

MNA/Reuters

Quake hits Chittagong

CHITTAGONG, 27 Dec — An earthquake, measuring 7.36 on the Richter Scale, shook Bangladesh’s southern port city Chittagong port city and neighbouring areas early on Sunday, the city’s geophysical observatory said. It said the quake lasted one minute 42 seconds, rattling buildings and sending panicked people onto the streets, but no injuries were reported.

It came minutes after a quake measuring 6.4 on the Richter Scale shook Indonesia’s Sumatra Island. — MNA/Reuters

Quake, tidal waves kill thousands

A graphic with map of Asia summarising destruction wrought by the earthquake and tidal wave updates death toll; revises map incorporate Maldives and other islands.

INTERNET

At least 4,448 killed in Tsunami triggered by quake in Sumatra

MEDAN, 27 Dec — Indonesian soldiers searched for bodies in treetops and in smashed homes on Monday, a day after a tsunami triggered by a huge earthquake tore through northern Sumatra island killing at least 4,448 people.

Most of the dead were children and elderly who drowned in waters churning with huge rocks, logs and the remains of homes and shops uprooted by waves.

Thousands of people huddled in mosques, makeshift tents and larger buildings as the sun rose a day after the 9.0 magnitude earthquake, the world’s biggest in 40 years, struck off the coast of Aceh Province on the northern tip of Sumatra.

The wall of water up to 10 metres (30 feet) high that followed the earthquake killed more than 12,600 people as it swept across the Indian Ocean.

“It smells so bad... The human bodies are mixed in with dead animals like dogs, fish, cats and goats,” Marine Colonel Buyung Lelana, head of an evacuation team in Lhokseumawe City on the northern coast of Aceh told Reuters by telephone.

There are still a lot of bodies under the wreckage of collapsed houses and in rivers and swamps that we have not yet evacuated. Most of them are children and their mothers.”

A fresh tremor early on Monday rattled strongly Aceh, which bore the brunt of the devastation in Indonesia, but no new damage was reported, local radio reported. — MNA/Reuters

At least 74 killed as Tsunami hit S India coast

HYDERABAD, 27 Dec — At least 74 people have been killed and many injured when a tsunami hit the southern Indian coast early on Sunday, hospital and government officials said.

“Thirty-four are dead and 14 are admitted in hospital,” said an official at the Government Royapettah Hospital in Chennai, capital of Tamil Nadu State.

Ten more bodies were found in Prakasam District in Andhra Pradesh and another 10 died in Machilipatnam District, taking the total death toll in the state to 145. Usha Rani, municipal commissioner of the city of Vijayawada, said.

MNA/Reuters

Lost in translation: Iraqi interpreters live in fear

NEAR ISKANDARIYA, 26 Dec — “Adam” is supposed to be the Iraqi face at a key US military checkpoint south of Baghdad, but he is so fearful for his life that he wears a black ski mask to hide his identity.

Dressed in camouflage fatigues, he is part of an army of translators that serves as a vital link for US occupiers short on Arab speakers needed for manning roadblocks, mounting patrols and interrogating suspects.

But because of their highly visible jobs, they also face an especially high risk from Iraqi guerillas who have branded them traitors and collaborators and marked them for death. The pressure is so intense that some translators have quit.

“We use American nicknames and wear masks because if the Ali Babas find out who we are, they will kill us,” said Adam, referring to guerrillas and bandits who have executed hundreds of interpreters hired since last year’s US-led invasion.

Now translators and thousands of other Iraqis working with US forces must also contend with suspicions of possible infiltrators after a suicide bomber dressed in an Iraqi uniform killed 22 people at a US base in northern Iraq last week. — Internet
Sooner completion of projects...

(from page 1)

Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, members of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe, Lt-Gen Maung Bo, Lt-Gen Tha Hla Thun Aung Myint Oo, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Rear Admiral Soe Hein, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, ministers, deputy ministers and departmental officials.

In his address at the meeting, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council and Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe, also Chairman of Special Projects Implementation Committee, said: it is important to start implementation of special projects for national development as soon as they have been approved to be able to finish them in time because delays can entail more expenditure. Therefore, it is required to complete them ahead of schedule. Moreover, it is necessary to systematically supervise the projects so that unnecessary costs can be avoided and workmanship should be of high quality. This being the case, responsible personnel should often visit and inspect the worksites and conduct constant supervision, especially on low costs, high quality and constant supervision, especially on projects that can boost productivity of manufacturing industry.

As the special projects are very important for national development, the more speedily they are finished, the more beneficial they will be for the nation. We should put our energies into all the nation-building tasks as they will surely go down into history. Next, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Brig-Gen Huay Oo gave a report on five dam projects and a sluice gate construction project to be implemented by the Irrigation and Drainage Department and projects for three river water pumping stations to be constructed by Water Resources Utilization Department.

Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung gave an explanation regarding the projects for construction of more facilities being undertaken by the ministry. Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw explained installation of auto telephones and construction of communication networks and GSM (See page 5).

Maritime University. After hearing the various reports by respective ministers, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance on speedy completion of special projects, low costs, high quality and constant supervision, especially on implementation of projects that can boost productivity of manufacturing industry.

The meeting came to an end in the evening. Of the dams being built by Irrigation Department, Yazaygo earth dam is located on Naypyidaw Creek, two miles north of Yazaygo Village, Kalay Township, Sagaing Division. On completion of the project, it will supply water to 96,500 acres of farmlands and generate 5 megawatts. Marlenattaung dam is on Marlenattaung Creek, 8 miles north east of Singu Township, Mandalay Division. It will supply water to 10,000 acres of farmlands. Madan dam is on Madan Creek near Nawin Village, Lewe Township. It will supply water to 8,000 acres of farmlands. Wakadok dam is on Wakadok Creek near Taungswin Village, Bago Township. It will supply water to Moyunyi-in. The dam also contributes towards greening of 30-mile radius in Yangon City (East) and cultivation of summer crops.

Nga moyeik sluice gate is situated on Nga moyeik creek near Sitpintaung Village, Dagon Myothit (East) Township and it is of reinforced concrete type. In the summer it can supply water to 5,000 acres of farmlands and prevent cultivable lands from flowing of salt water. Myittha dam is on Myittha Creek near Pyinitha Village, Gangaw, Magway Division. It can supply water to 12,000 acres of farmlands and generate 40 megawatts.

Regarding the river water pumping projects, Meiktila Plain Yaypyin project in Wundwin Township will supply water to 29,800 acres of farmlands in Wundwin and Thazi Townships.

Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi. — MNA

Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut. — MNA

It is important to start implementation of special projects for national development as soon as they have been approved to be able to finish them in time because delays can entail more expenditure. Therefore, it is required to complete them ahead of schedule. Moreover, it is necessary to systematically supervise the projects so that unnecessary costs can be avoided and workmanship should be of high quality.
Sooner completion of projects . . .

Ngamoyeik river water pumping project will supply water to 8,000 acres of farmlands in Hlegu Township.

Donthami river water pumping project in Thaton District. The generator to be installed will be 20 MW at the project will be 25 MW and it will generate at least 11 MW. Thate (a) Thahtay Creek 15 miles north of Thate, Rakhine State. The generator to be installed will be 100 MW and it will generate 350 million kph per year. Ministry of Transport has carried out the tasks of extending the runways and airport buildings and constructed the new ones. Homalin Airport construction project, Heho Airport extension project, Monywa Airport construction project, Myeik Airport extension project, Magway Airport construction project, Pakokku Airport construction project and NyaungU Airport extension project have been implemented.

Hkamti Airport construction project, Bhamo Airport construction project, Lashio Airport construction project, Kengtung Airport extension project, Pathein Airport extension project, Yangon International Airport extension project, Anisakhan Airport construction project and Dawei Airport construction project are under way.

The first and second phase of construction work of the Myanmar Maritime University (Thanlyin) have been implemented. Now, students can study ship building, maritime engineering, maritime electrical and electronic engineering, port engineering, river and maritime engineering and maritime science at the university. — MNA

Prime Minister sends message of sympathy to India

YANGON, 27 Dec — Lt-Gen Soe Win, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of sympathy to His Excellency Dr. Thaksin Singh, Prime Minister of the Republic of India on the loss of life and property caused by the earthquake in India on 26 December 2004. — MNA

Prime Minister sends message of sympathy to Thailand

YANGON, 27 Dec — Lt-Gen Soe Win, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of sympathy to His Excellency Dr Thaksin Shinawatra, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand for the loss of life and property caused by the earthquake in southern coastal areas in Thailand. — MNA

Prime Minister sends message of sympathy to Sri Lanka

YANGON, 27 Dec — Lt-Gen Soe Win, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of sympathy to His Excellency Mr. Mahinda Rajapakse, Prime Minister of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka on the loss of life and property caused by earthquake in Sri Lanka on 26 December 2004. — MNA

Vietnamese delegation on study visit to Bagan, Inlay

YANGON, 27 Dec — The visiting goodwill delegation led by Lt-Gen Phung Khac Dung, Vice-Chief of General Political Department of Vietnamese People’s Army of Socialist Republic of Vietnam, accompanied by Lt-Col Hsan Nyunt Oo of the Ministry of Defence, Vietnamese Military Attache’ Senior Colonel Le Van Thanh and officials, went to NayungU Airport by Tatmadaw aircraft on 25 December morning. On their arrival there, they were welcomed by Magway Division PDC Chairman Col Phone Max Shwe and officials.

Next, the delegation visited the Lacquer ware College in Bagan Archaeological Zone and studied lacquerwares. When the guests visited the Bagan Archaeological, officials explained facts about the zone and conducted them round the museum. Afterwards, the goodwill delegation paid homage to the famous pagodas such as the Shwesigon and the Armanda and made cash donations. Next, they visited and studied U Ba Nyien Lacquerware.

Yesterday morning, the delegation went to Heho Airport by Tatmadaw aircraft. They were welcome at the airport by Shan State PDC Chairman Eastern Command Commander Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint, the deputy commander and officials. Accompanied by the deputy commander, the guests visited Inlay Pwun Daw U Pagoda and made cash donations. After studying local products in the pagoda precinct, they proceeded to ancient Alodawpauk Pagoda in Naukku Village, paid homage to the pagoda and made cash donations. The delegation viewed the floating plantations of various crops in Inlay Lake. In the evening, Commander Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint hosted a dinner in honour of the visiting delegation. After the dinner, Lt-Gen Phung Khac Dung and the commander exchanged the gifts, and they posed for documentary photo together with local nationals. This morning, the guests together with the commander Shwephone Pwint Pagoda and Sulamani Pagoda in Taunggyi and made cash donations. The Vietnamese delegation arrived back by air this evening. — MNA

* ကြက်ကလေးဗုဒ္ဓဝင်* အကြောင်း
* ရှားနိုင်ငံ ဗုဒ္ဓဝင်* အကြောင်း

VIETNAMESE DELEGATION OPENED A NEW UNIVERSITY IN MYANMAR

The Vietnamese-made Dinh Tien Hoang University in Bago Township, Magway Division PDC, opened its doors at noon this evening. The chairman of the Vietnamese delegation said that in cooperation with Myanmar’s Ministry of Education, the University will help achieve the goals of education in Myanmar.

— MNA

* ကြက်ကလေးဗုဒ္ဓဝင်* အကြောင်း နိုင်ငံ ဗုဒ္ဓဝင်* အကြောင်း

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Tuesday, 28 December, 2004 5

Commander Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint welcomes Vietnamese delegation led by Lt-Gen Phung Khac Dung. — MNA

Vietnamese delegation led by Lt-Gen Phung Khac Dung studies lacquerwares in ancient agricultural zone in Bagan. — MNA
Secretary-1 inspects dam projects...

On completion of the project, the supporting dam can generate 60 megawatts and contributes to generation of electric power from Sedawgyi Dam. The Secretary-1 and party inspected the site for construction of Nanpet Dam.

They proceeded to Sedawgyi Dam. Officials reported on condition of Sedawgyi Dam and generating of electric power. The Secretary-1 then gave instructions and inspected hydel electric power station.

Sedawgyi Dam is built across Chaungmagyi Creek and it supplies water to over 100,000 acres of cultivable lands in Madaya, Patherynji, Mandalay and Amarapura Townships and two turbines generate 12.5 megawatts.

The Secretary-1 and party went to Myanmar farm equipment factory in Kyaukse Township. Deputy Director-General of Agricultural Mechanization Department U Tun Tin reported on data on the factory and production of power tillers and harvesters.

The Secretary-1 visited the factory giving instructions on production of quality farm equipment useful in mechanized farm.

Strong earthquake hits some regions in Myanmar

YANGON, 27 Dec — After an earthquake of severe intensity with its epicentre about 1,000 miles Northwest of Jakarta, Indonesia, was recorded at 7:32:4 am on 26 December, nine earthquakes of intensity about 6.0 on the Richter Scale were felt in the Andaman Sea.

The eighth earthquake of strong intensity with 6.1 on the Richter Scale with its epicentre about 60 miles Southwest of Kokogyun took place at 9:38:42 am. The ninth one of strong intensity with 7.3 on the Richter Scale centred about 400 miles south of Kokogyun was recorded. Some buildings collapsed in Taninthayi, Yangon, Bago and Ayeyawady Divisions and some regions in Rakhine and Shan State (South) due to the earthquake and coastal regions were hit by tidal waves. Seventeen villages along the coast were destroyed and 200 people were homeless. Thirty-four people were killed, 45 injured and 25 missing. Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing, Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement May-Gen Sein Hwa and acting Director-General Dr U Tin Win Maung of the Ministry of Health visited the earthquake-hit regions in Ayeyawady Division this morning and provided necessary supplies.

Chairs of State/Division Peace and Development Councils also visited the affected areas and provided necessary supplies to the victims. — MNA

Massive earthquake claims lives and property

YANGON, 27 Dec — Human lives and property have been lost in massive tidal waves triggered by the strong earthquake with 9.0 on the Richter Scale under the Indian ocean. Reuters reported that there have been deaths of 22,587 people so far. According to estimated sources, 6,600 died in India, 4,912 in Indonesia, 52 in Malaysia, 52 in Maldives, 38 in Somali, 10,029 in Sri Lanka, 866 in Thailand and two in Bangladesh. — MNA

The land which belongs to us

* Nursery that is lush
  Nurtured by grandparents
  With creepers, buds and blooms
  So fragrant they beckon picking
  Golden, sparkling, developed
  On land which belongs to us
  What we see is newly pleasant.
  "Tis our ancestors’ sacred heritage
  Flower of Independence.

* Father and mother
  With all their diligence.
  Grandpa’s heritage for father
  Grandma’s heritage for mother
  "Twas handed down.
  Spent ever pleasant
  The peacock in-pride.
  Our Golden Land a sight ever to enjoy.
  All the world knows
  Myanmar’s Flag takes crimson tint
  The pride of it brims over
  Fragrant blooms overwhelm.

* Mother’s daughter and son
  In the time of grandchildren
  Let beauty grow twofold
  For benefit of Myanmar land and people
  Be on alert.
  For one tree of Independence
  Thinking forever for its freshness.
  It’s beauty not marred by me
  And if my beauty he should mar
  Myanmar will swell tenfold
  To be rid quickly of destructionist
  Let’s clean it up.

Donate blood

Agricultural Development Councils on production of power tillers and harvesters.

The Secretary-1 visited the factory giving instructions on production of quality farm equipment useful in mechanized farm.

According to estimated sources, 6,600 died in India, 4,912 in Indonesia, 52 in Malaysia, 52 in Maldives, 38 in Somali, 10,029 in Sri Lanka, 866 in Thailand and two in Bangladesh. — MNA

Foreign Minister sends message of sympathy to India

YANGON, 27 Dec — U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of sympathy to His Excellency Mr K Natwar Singh, Minister of External Affairs of the Republic of India on the loss of life and property caused by earthquake in India on 26 December 2004. — MNA

Foreign Minister sends message of sympathy to Indonesia

YANGON, 27 Dec — U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of sympathy to His Excellency Dr N Hassan Wirajuda, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia for the loss of life and property caused by earthquake of 26 December 2004 in Aceh and northern Sumatra in Indonesia. — MNA

Foreign Minister sends message of sympathy to Thailand

YANGON, 27 Dec — U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of sympathy to His Excellency Dr Surakiart Sathirathai, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand for the loss of life and property caused by earthquake of 26 December 2004 in southern coastal areas in Thailand. — MNA

Foreign Minister sends message of sympathy to Sri Lanka

YANGON, 27 Dec — U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of sympathy to His Excellency Mr Lakshman Kadirgamar, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka on the loss of life and property caused by earthquake in Sri Lanka on 26 December 2004. — MNA
Achievements in the health sector from 1988 to 2004

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<tr>
<th>Sr</th>
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<td>Dispensary</td>
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Hepatitis B vaccine factory in Hlegu Township, Yangon Division provides better health care service to the public.
and social insults were indeed a bitter pill for all
truders’ political pressure, economic manipulations
anti-colonialist resistance history.
their lives to embody an image in the nation’s
power outnumbered much more than that of the
colonialists whose strength of weapons and man-
alistic fervour launched a brave fight against the
nation.
the Colonialists resisted the invaders for more than a
decade at risk to their lives. Undaunted, the
national people sharply declined and their
ices. Consequently, the socio-economic life of the
nation.
The BOC company monopolized the oil
industry; British-run Mawchee Mine Co and Burma
Corporation, the mining industry; the Steel Broth-
ers Co, paddy export; the BBTC Steel Co and
McGregor, timber extraction; British-owned com-
panies, rubber industry; the Ayeyawady Flotilla
Co, water transport; RET Company, electric power
million annually. Before World War II, the
colonialists made investments of K 630 million to
exploit all the natural resources of the nation and
the chattiers, 3.5 million acres of farmland worth
K 450 million to exploit the nation’s agricultural
Evil consequences of servitude in
colonial days
heroes who absolutely hated to live under servi-
tude of colonialists resisted the invaders for more
than a decade at risk to their lives. Undaunted, the
national people being fully equipped with nation-
alistic fervour launched a brave fight against the
colonialists whose strength of weapons and man-
power outnumbered much more than that of the
former. Many Myanmar national heroes sacrificed
their lives to embody an image in the nation’s
anti-colonialist resistance history.
Throughout the colonial period, the in-
truders’ political pressure, economic manipulations
and social insults were indeed a bitter pill for all
supply; Burma railways company, road transport;
and Lloyd Bank and Imperial Bank, banking serv-
ices. Consequently, the socio-economic life of the
then national people sharply declined and their
whole life was a constant battle against poverty.
That miserable situation reflected in many events
faced by the entire people.
The majority of national farmers had to
hand over their farmlands to the creditor chettiers
as the former could not repay their debts. The
mass of the oil-field workers got no kerosene
even to light lamps and lanterns in their homes.
Such events were too bitter for the national people
to forget. It was learnt that although the national
people got into severe financial crisis, the BOC
Co alone could make profit of more than £ 2

The balance between the nation’s export
turnover and import turnover from 1868 to 1941
showed more than K 8,000 million in surplus.
Yet, at the beginning of the 2nd World War,
Myanmar was deeply in debt to England and
India, indicating that the British colonialists showed
no mercy to the nation in seeking their self-
interest in their colony.
In April 1897, the British colonialists des-
ignated Myanmar as a state of India. Under the
Indian Council Act (49) prescribed in 1861 by the
Indian Legislative Body, a legislative body for
Myanmar was formed on 1 May the same year
with nine members who were completely under
the control of the deputy governor-general who
ruled Myanmar.
The legislative body was formed with the
deputy governor-general as chairman and two
Myanmar lackeys and seven English merchants.
In fact, the British imperialists’ bureau-
cratic administrative machinery invested the syc-
ophant officers with the rights and powers to
hear the cases and hand down sentences to those
whom the former themselves had charged, and to
oppress and insult Myanmar national people as they wished.
The colonialists turned the national
education sector into the colonial education, which
Evil consequences of servitude in colonial days

(from page 8) Just helped strengthen their bureaucratic administrative machinery and to prolong servitude of Myanmar.

In reality, the colonial education did not include any subjects nor studies that contributed towards reconstruction of the nation and boosting productive and defence forces, and made the people to love and cherish national traditions and culture. But it made the students to fear and be loyal to the British empire and helped run their colonial administrative machinery smoothly.

Therefore, through the colonial education, national students did not gain correct knowledge, concepts, principles and education. It was indeed a systematic intentionally prescribed scheme to hurt the national character and prestige and to undermine the nationalist spirit of the people.

Colonyists annexed Myanmar with the aim of exploiting her natural resources. Photo shows without workite-safety, workers in the oilfields working at the risks of their lives.

Later, there emerged national colleges and national traditions and customs, to make national youths intoxicated with the life of servitude and then to make their nationalistic fervour diminish in the end. Such above-mentioned points were evil and bitter consequences of the servitude, which Myanmar national people suffered in the colonial days.

Living standard of Myanmar peasants was very low in the time of colonialists.

In addition to practising the colonial education system, the British colonialists tried to tarnish the national prestige and integrity and character by opening mission schools to inculcate Myanmar students with western culture and customs. For instance, Myammar students were not allowed to be called with Myanmar names but with English names in the schools following the first students' boycott in which the national youth students strongly protested Yangon University Law. It was the start of Myanmar national people and students in rising against the British government.

In 1920 according to Yangon University Law. However, the colonial education was beyond the reach of national youths because Yangon University established in 1920 and Yangon University Law severely restricted the admission of the students. Actually, the 1920 Yangon University Law benefited only the children of the rich and the lackeys' children, and the purpose of the Law was not to produce large number of youth graduates.

Indeed, the intentionally plotted scheme was a social attack on the nation to damage national culture.
Vice-Senior General Maung Aye sends message of sympathy to India

YANGON, 27 Dec — Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of sympathy to His Excellency Mr Bhairon Singh Shekhawat, Vice-President of the Republic of India on the loss of life and property caused by earthquake of 26 December 2004 in Aceh and northern Sumatra in Indonesia. — MNA

Myanmar traditional medicines an effective...

(from page 16)

Development Council Office, heads of department, directors-general, rectors and officials of traditional medicine departments and universities under the Ministry of Health, members of the Mandalay Division PDC, departmental heads at division level, local authorities, traditional medicine practitioners, faculty members of the University of Traditional Medicine, Union Solidarity and Development Association and Social Organizations, and students and local people.

First, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint and Minister Dr Kyaw Myint formally opened the new building and General Thura Shwe Mann unveiled the stone plaque.

Next, the inauguration ceremony of the new building followed and General Thura Shwe Mann delivered an address.

He said Myanmar traditional medical science is a medical subject that emerged through own cultures, traditions and national practices with a long history. With the care of potent Myanmar traditional medicines, Myanmar ancestors had been able to enjoy longevity. Hence, Myanmar traditional medicines have been an effective tool in the public health care services. Thanks to efforts and preservation of Myanmar traditional medicine practitioners in successive eras Myanmar traditional medicine has become a subtle and delicate one.

The government is making earnest efforts for the emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation. In doing so, it is laid down and is implementing the four social objectives which call for uplift of morale and morality of the entire nation, uplift of the national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character, uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit and uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation.

Making efforts for preservation and propaganda of Myanmar traditional medicine amounts to striving for ensuring better health care services of the people, which is in line with the social objectives.

The government has laid down and is implementing policies on health to be able to produce traditional medicines of international level through scientific techniques. It is doing so with the aim of promoting and propagating Myanmar traditional medicine of higher standard.

Thanks to concerted efforts of the government, traditional medicine practitioners and medical producers, the Myanmar traditional medicine has achieved the high standard.

Significant progress has been made in the traditional medicine sector through the holding of the Myanmar traditional medicines’ conference, conducting of more diploma courses on traditional medicines and opening of more and more traditional medicine hospitals and traditional medicine health care centres.

Nowadays, the University of Traditional Medicines complete with modern teaching and learning aids has emerged.

The higher learning institution amounts to laying down a good foundation for Myanmar traditional medical sector.

In accord with the guidance of the Head of State, the University of Traditional Medicines was opened with the aim of producing highly-qualified traditional medicine practitioners.

Arrangements are being made to use Myanmar traditional medicines in the treatment in combination with traditional medicines from other countries and it is also imperative for traditional medicine practitioners to be well-versed in Myanmar traditional medicines to be able to exchange views with their counterparts from foreign nations. With the emergence of highly-qualified traditional medicine practitioners all the more, the university will develop not only in form but also in essence.

Meanwhile, traditional medicine practitioners are to conduct researches on potency of traditional medicines to develop traditional medicines of higher standard and new therapies. Continued efforts are to be made to provide the people with full health care services with the might of Myanmar traditional medicines.

Moreover, altogether 1,177 traditional medicine practitioners emerged through the one-year courses for traditional medicine practitioners that have been opened since 1998 in accord with the guidance of the Head of State.

At the same time, the University of Traditional Medicines with magnificent buildings was opened on 19 December 2001 and subject on Western medicines, Myanmar traditional medicines, subject on acupuncture and others are being taught at the higher institution.

Emphasis is being placed on producing highly-qualified traditional medicine practitioners as more and more students are taking interest in the study of traditional medicines. The health staff, on their part, will have to make efforts for producing highly-qualified traditional medicine practitioners to provide health care services to the people.

Minister Dr Kyaw Myint presented gifts in commemoration of the university to General Thura Shwe Mann, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Lt-Gen Ye Myint, the commander and the ministers.

General Thura Shwe Mann and party inspected the new building of the university. They also inspected herbal plant garden, medicinal plants and practical hall.

General Thura Shwe Mann and party inspected the new building of the university to General Thura Shwe Mann, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Lt-Gen Ye Myint, the commander and the ministers.

The newly-built University of Traditional Medicine. — MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye sends message of sympathy to Indonesia

YANGON, 27 Dec — Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of sympathy to His Excellency Mr Jusuf Kalla, Vice-President of the Republic of Indonesia for the loss of life and property caused by earthquake of 26 December 2004 in Aceh and northern Sumatra in Indonesia. — MNA

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ANGON
Bago Division (West) holds meeting on successful implementation of seven objectives, nine future tasks of USDA AGM (2004) and plans

Yangon, 26 Dec—Bago Division (West) Union Solidarity and Development Association held a meeting at Kittara Yadana Hall in Pyay 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 Bago Division (West).

It was attended by USDA members, townsmen, members of Myanmar War Veterans Organization, women’s affairs organizations, Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Red Cross Society, Auxiliary Fire Brigade, nurses, students and outstanding youths. First, those present saluted the State Flag while the students sang a song.

Speaking to the meeting, Presiding Chairman Bago Division (West) USDA Secretary U Min Han said the Head of State gave guidance to the USDA Annual General Meeting (2004) that the entire national people had a fine tradition of defending the country through national unity. The chairman said as all the people believed that national consolidation is of utmost importance, they strove for seeking peace in the country and with the result that the border regions have now seen significant progress in economy, transport, agriculture, education and health. Our goal is to transform the nation into a peaceful, modern and developed one with active participation of the people. The government, on its part, has adopted the seven-point future policy programme of the State to realize the goal, he added. Therefore, for the the great national force of the nation, are to work hard side by side with the people by playing their part in respective roles. The meeting was held to make plans for implementation of the seven objectives and nine future tasks laid down by the AGM (2004) of the USDA, the chairman concluded.

Next, Bago Division (West) USDA Executive U Khin Aung Win, Executive Daw Hta Hta Nu and Executive U Kyaw Myint seconded the motions. Later, officials presented cash awards to the outstanding youths and wellwishers donated Ky 2.5 million for regional development to Division USDA Joint Secretary U Aung Cho Oo.

The meeting chairman announced the resolutions of implementation of the seven objectives, nine future tasks and the plans. The meeting ended at 11 am with chanting of slogans.
French court furthers probe into bin Laden family’s financial network

Paris, 26 Dec — A French judge has widened a probe into the financial network surrounding the family of Osama bin Laden after questioning his half-brother and learning of a $19 million annual import tax that will decrease from 45% to 25%.

Beijing says no to inferior sculptures

Beijing, 26 Dec — Beijing will soon dismantle 15 sculptures which are deemed “inferior” in quality by local art critics, said a local official.

British police foils “F4J’s” Christmas day stunt

London, 26 Dec — British police arrested eight fathers’ rights activists on Saturday after an abortive attempt to scale a church on Queen Elizabeth’s country estate.

Customs union to cost Tanzania $19m annually

Dar-es-Salaam, 26 Dec — The customs union, set to be effective among the three East African Community countries next Saturday, is to cost Tanzania 19 billion shillings (19 million US dollars) in annual import tax revenues. The burden will be shared among the three East African Community countries jointly apply for a World Bank compensation for their respective losses resulted from the introduction of a common tariff rate for all goods imported from everywhere into Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda starting January 1, 2005, according to the East African Finance Minister.

The common tariff rate will reduce the volume of imports into Tanzania by 20%.

The East African Community Customs union protocol was signed on March 1, 2001 and the protocol was endorsed into a binding multiparty treaty by the East African Legislative Assembly last week.

Under the treaty, Kenya will not levy duties on goods imported from Uganda and Tanzania while certain goods from Kenya to its two community partners will be subjected to a duty that will decrease from 10 per cent to zero per cent over the course of five years.

The World Bank funds will then be included in the Tanzania Government’s budget for 2005-2006. The East African Community Customs union protocol was signed on March 1, 2001 and the protocol was endorsed into a binding multiparty treaty by the East African Legislative Assembly last week.

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Turkey needs to spend $80b on environment cleaning

ANKARA, 26 Dec — Turkey may need to spend up to 60 billion euros (80 billion US dollars) cleaning up its environment to meet European Union standards, officials said on Friday.

EU leaders have agreed to open entry talks with Turkey on October 3, 2005, but the large, relatively poor, country is not expected to join for about a decade, partly because of the scale of its economic problems.

“The most optimistic but not very realistic projections speak of a need for investment of 20 billion euros. But this figure could rise to 60 billion euros,” a Turkish official told a news briefing, on condition of anonymity.

The environment is one of 31 policy areas where Turkey would have to align its laws and standards with those of the EU. It has also proved one of the most problematic areas for the eight ex-communist countries which joined the wealthy bloc in May.

In its annual report on Turkey, the European Commission said recently Turkey still had much work to do to improve air and water quality, the treatment of waste and nature conservation. Turkish officials said Ankara would qualify for increased EU funds to help overhaul its economy and public administration, but said the increases were likely to be phased in gradually. — MNA/Reuters

Russia supply ship docks with “Int’l Space Station”

WASHINGTON, 26 Dec — An unmanned Russian supply ship docked with the International Space Station on Saturday, delivering food, water and Christmas presents to astronauts running low on supplies.

Progress M-51 linked up with the station at 6:58 p.m. (2358 GMT), bringing 2.5 tons of supplies for American astronaut Leroy Chiao and Russian Salizhan Sharipov, including letters, videos and photographs from their families.

The supply ship completed “a flawless two-day Christmas pilgrimage to the International Space Station,” a commentator for NASA TV, which relayed live Russian images on NASA TV, which relayed live Russian images from their families.

Shandong Airlines to resume “Bombardier CRJ” airplane flights

Jinan, 26 Dec — East China’s Shandong Airlines will resume ten Bombardier CRJ-200 airplane flights Sunday, one month after an urgent circular stopping Bombardier CRJ airplane flight was issued by the General Administration of Civil Aviation of China (CAAC), said an official from the Shandong Airlines.

On 21 November, a China Eastern Airlines plane went down in Baotou, a city in the north Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, a few seconds after takeoff. The plane, a Canadian-made Bombardier CRJ-200, was headed for Shanghai with 53 people aboard. The rash killed 54 people. — MNA/Xinhua

Non-stop train makes urgent halt for pregnant woman

ZHENGZHOU, 26 Dec — A doctor from a Xuchang hospital in central China’s Henan Province said the baby born in a cold winter predawn on a railway station platform under poor hygienic circumstances is safe.

The mother, summoned Bao, who is also safe, gave birth to the baby just two minutes after she was transferred to an ambulance from a Z-category non-stop train, which made an emergency call at Xuchang railway station. On Sunday night, the train carried passengers, including Bao and her husband, from Henan to Beijing. Before they left Beijing, she began having contractions, which became acute in the early hours of the next day. Her husband, named Li, decided to return to the crew on the train for help. The conductor showed up and summoned several experienced women crew members to deal with this unexpected problem. He also tried to find out any doctor on the train through the train broadcast system. Within minutes, a woman medical student came around to help. — MNA/Xinhua

Archbishop lambasts rich world for neglecting global poverty

LONDON, 27 Dec—The leader of the world’s 70 million Anglican Christians, Archbishop Rowan Williams, took Western nations to task on Saturday for neglecting global poverty and “massaging” the threat of terrorism.

“Never shy of controversy, Williams used his Christmas Day sermon to lambast the rich world for failing to make good progress on the UN Millennium development goals.

“The likelihood of a reduction by half of people living in abject poverty by the year 2015 is not noticeably greater than it was four years ago,” he said in reference to one of the key goals during his address at Canterbury Cathedral.

“Some developed nations appear deeply indifferent to the goals agreed,” he added.

The Archbishop pointed out that international agencies had agreed to open entry talks with Turkey on October 3, 2005, but the large, relatively poor, country is not expected to join for about a decade, partly because of the scale of its economic problems.

The environment is one of 31 policy areas where Turkey would have to align its laws and standards with those of the EU. It has also proved one of the most problematic areas for the eight ex-communist countries which joined the wealthy bloc in May.

In its annual report on Turkey, the European Commission said recently Turkey still had much work to do to improve air and water quality, the treatment of waste and nature conservation. Turkish officials said Ankara would qualify for increased EU funds to help overhaul its economy and public administration, but said the increases were likely to be phased in gradually. — MNA/Reuters

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China’s top science academy awards best doctoral theses

BEIJING, 26 Dec—The Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) granted awards here Friday to 50 researchers who wrote outstanding doctoral theses.

The country’s top academy also issued CAS president’s awards to excellent postgraduate students.

CAS president Lu Yongxiang encouraged all the postgraduate students to make more contributions to the country’s research advancement.

Twenty of the 119 students were awarded the top prize. The rest received a second prize.
English Premier League matches report

LONDON, 27 Dec— Brief reports on English Premier League matches played on Sunday:

**Crystal Palace 0 — Portsmouth 1**

Central defender Linvoy Primus headed Patrik Berger’s corner to give Velimir Zajec a winning start as Portsmouth’s permanent manager. Ricardo Fuller also hit a post but Portsmouth were indebted to goalkeeper Shaka Hislop, who made a number of good saves including one superb stop from Danny Granville’s free kick.

The kickoff at Selhurst Park was delayed for 40 minutes because of ice on the tarpaulin covering the pitch.

**Southampton 0 — Charlton Athletic 0**

Struggling Southampton will be happy to have taken a point but contributed little to a forgettable game. Charlton dominated in terms of possession and chances but South African Shaun Bartlett missed the best opportunities.

Portsmouth won 1-0 at Crystal Palace, while Graeme Souness’ return to Ewood Park ended with his Newcastle United side drawing 2-2 with Blackburn Rovers.

After a subdued start, Chelsea struck when Arjen Robben attacked a retreating Villa defence and fed Duff, who cut in from the right to fire in a low left-footed shot from 12 metres.

It was the sixth time in Chelsea’s last nine games that the Irish winger had opened the scoring but, unlike in recent weeks, they failed to build on the lead.

The slick passing that has led to so many emphatic victories was absent and the second half was something of a battle. However, Jose Mourinho’s team did enough to make it eight wins and two draws from their 10 home games, in which they have scored 20 goals and conceded just three.

“Villa always create problems for Chelsea but with the number of good chances we had we should have killed the match early on,” Mourinho told Sky Sports News. “But we fought, maybe some people don’t understand that. They think Chelsea should always play fantastically and score a lot of goals but I don’t remember a really difficult situation for us.”

At Highbury, Henry showed neat control to make space on the edge of the box before stepping inside to score a typical opportunistic goal and get Arsenal going.

Arsenal's Thierry Henry (R) and Robert Pires celebrate. English champions Arsenal stayed second in the table, five points behind leaders Chelsea, with a 2-1 home win over Aston Villa on Sunday.

**Chelsea 2 — Newcastle United 2**

Andy Cole (Newcastle United), Mark Viduka (Middlesbrough), Robert Earnshaw (West Bromwich Albion), Alan Smith (Manchester United).

**Birmingham City 2 — Middlesbrough 0**

Striker Clinton Morrison scored his fourth goal in five games and Emile Heskey netted with an unmarked header on half time as Birmingham ran out easy winners at St. Andrews. Middlesbrough, who had a goal ruled out for offside, had their attack blunted when striker Mark Viduka was stretchered off on 23 minutes after falling heavily on the hard pitch.

**Blackburn Rovers 2 — Newcastle United 2**

Andy Cole (Newcastle United), Mark Viduka (Middlesbrough), Robert Earnshaw (West Bromwich Albion), Alan Smith (Manchester United).

**Nouguoi sent off three minutes after coming on as substitute**

LONDON, 27 Dec— Manchester City’s French midfielder Christian Nouguoi had a Premier League debut to forget on Sunday when he was sent off three minutes after coming on as a substitute, without touching the ball.

Nouguoi came on in the 80th minute for Jonathan Macken during City’s 2-1 defeat at Everton and three minutes later crashed his studs into the shin of Everton striker Marcus Bent to earn a straight red card.

The Martinique-born 29-year-old joined City from Belgian club Charleroi three years ago.

**Celtic move four points clear at top**

GLASGOW, 27 Dec— Celtic moved four points clear of Rangers at the top of the Scottish Premier League with a 2-0 win at Hearts on Sunday in their final match of 2004.

A goal in each half took them to 50 points from 20 matches. Rangers play their game in hand at home to Motherwell on Monday.

Balugarian Stefan Petrov set Celtic’s opener after nine minutes for Aiden McGeady at the back post and scored the second himself after 69 minutes.

The fixture was marred by fighting between rival fans before the kick-off, causing the stadium to be half empty at the start. Celtic manager Martin O’Neill said: “We needed that second goal just ward off any danger that might appear late on in the game.

“It will be a hectic January, but we are delighted to go into the New Year on top of the table.”

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**Reserve keeper helps the Strongest to win Clausura C’ship**

LA PAZ, 27 Dec— Reserve goalkeeper Mauricio Sahonero helped The Strongest win Bolivia’s Clausura Championship by saving a penalty from Oriente Petrolero veteran Erwin Sanchez on Saturday.

The Strongest defeated Oriente 4-3 on penalties following a 1-1 draw in the replayed final. Lider Paz put The Strongest ahead after four minutes before Juan Carlos Arce headed Oriente level in the 34th minute. Sahonero was called into the team after first-choice goalkeeper Juan Marcelo Robledo was suspended by the league because of problems with his documents.

The teams met twice last week with Oriente winning the first match 3-1 in Santa Cruz and The Strongest winning the return 2-1 in La Paz to send the final to a third game in the neutral venue of Cochabamba.

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**Chelsea hold on to remain five points clear at top**

LONDON, 27 Dec— Leaders Chelsea got off to a victorious start in the Premier League’s busy holiday programme with a 1-0 home win over Aston Villa on Sunday.

Arsenal’s Thierry Henry (R) and Robert Pires celebrate. English champions Arsenal stayed second in the table, five points behind leaders Chelsea, with a 2-1 home win over Aston Villa on Sunday.

Eidur Gudjohnsen (Chelsea), Alan Smith (Manchester United).

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**English Premier League leading scorers**

LONDON, 27 Dec— English Premier League leading scorers after Sunday’s matches:

16 - Thierry Henry (Arsenal)
10 - Robert Pires (Arsenal)
9 - Andy Johnson (Crystal Palace), Jermain Defoe (Tottenham Hotspur)
8 - Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink (Middlesbrough), Milan Baros (Liverpool)
7 - Craig Bellamy (Newcastle United), Eidur Gudjohnsen (Chelsea), Paul Scholes (Manchester United)
6 - Jose Antonio Reyes (Arsenal), Nicolas Anelka (Manchester City), Yakubu Aiyegbeni (Portsmouth), Henrik Pedersen (Bolton Wanderers), Kevin Davies (Bolton Wanderers), Andy Cole (Fulham), Paul Dickov (Blackburn Rovers), Damien Duff (Chelsea)
5 - Marcus Bent (Everton), Luis Boa Morte (Fulham)
4 - Shaun Wright-Phillips (Manchester City), Robert Earnshaw (West Bromwich Albion), Mark Viduka (Middlesbrough), Darren Huckerby (Norwich City), Robbie Keane (Tottenham Hotspur), Frank Lampard (Chelsea), Alan Smith (Manchester United).
Death toll from Tsunami close to 400 in Thailand

PHUKET (Thailand), 27 Dec — The death toll from a deadly tsunami that devastated Thailand’s southern tourist playground surged close to 400 as rescue workers worked overnight, retrieving bodies and searching for injured.

Government officials said early on Monday at least 392 bodies were found in stricken areas in six western Thai provinces bordering the Andaman Sea but some expected the final toll to approach 1,000.

Witnesses spoke of a wave three stories high which tossed cars around and burst into luxury hotels on the holiday island of Phuket, popular with Western and Asian tourists and currently at the height of the Christmas holiday season. Disaster officials said at least 130 people died in Phuket, including several dozen foreigners. Nearly 700 people were injured and 214 missing. The hardest hit area was Phang Nga, north of Phuket, where rescue workers found 80 bodies.

Officially, the death toll for the six western Thai provinces bordering the Andaman Sea and South Bay and fair elsewhere in the Andaman Sea and South Bay and fair elsewhere in the Andaman Sea and South Bay and fair elsewhere in the Andaman Sea and South Bay and fair elsewhere in the Andaman Sea.

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Several people were reportedly killed by high waves in Somalia’s Cabo region, 800 kilometres northeast of Mogadishu, while seven others were missing in the port of Elman near Mogadishu. The Kenyan Government asked people to evacuate from the beaches along the coastal region and put its Navy on top alert. However, a swimmer drowned off the coastal town of Malindi after being hit by strong waves.

Several African islands including Mauritius and Seychelles were also affected with an uncertain number of people missing or dead.

An earthquake, measuring 8.7 on the Richter Scale, was registered Sunday west of the island of Sumatra, triggering tsunamis, or tidal waves, in south and southeast Asia.

High waves triggered by Asian earthquake hit east Africa

Nairobi, 27 Dec — The east coast of Africa was hit Sunday by high waves believed to be triggered by a massive earthquake of the Indonesian island of Sumatra, leaving dozens of people drowned or missing.

Nine people were reportedly killed by high waves in Somalia’s Cabo region, 800 kilometres northeast of Mogadishu, while seven others were missing in the port of Elman near Mogadishu. The Kenyan Government asked people to evacuate from the beaches along the coastal region and put its Navy on top alert. However, a swimmer drowned off the coastal town of Malindi after being hit by strong waves.

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Nine killed after tidal wave hits northeastern Somalia

Nairobi, 27 Dec — Somalia in East Africa was affected by tsunamis off the Indonesian island of Sumatra on Sunday with at least nine people killed when a tidal wave hit the country’s northeastern part, according to a report reaching here from Mogadishu.

Many more fishermen were feared drowned after the wave hit Kabal, 800 kilometres northeast of Mogadishu. Somalia, thousands of kilometres away from Sumatra, has a long coastline on the Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Aden, forming the “Horn of Africa”.

An earthquake, measuring 8.7 on the Richter Scale, was registered Sunday west of the island of Sumatra, triggering tsunamis, or tidal waves, in south and southeast Asia.

Over 6,000 people in Sri Lanka, India, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Maldives, Thailand and Malaysia have been killed by the waves.

Deputy FM signs book of condolences for demise of former Indian Prime Minister

YANGON, 27 Dec — Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu signed in the book of condolences at the Embassy of the Republic of India at 2 pm today in memory of the late Shri PV Narasimha Rao, former Prime Minister of the Republic of India.

MNA/Reuters
**Four political objectives**

- Stability of the State, community peace and tranquility, prevalence of law and order
- National reconsolidation
- Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
- Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

**Four economic objectives**

- Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well
- Proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system
- Development of the economy inviting participation in terms of technical know-how and investments from sources inside the country and abroad
- The initiative to shape the national economy must be kept in the hands of the State and the national peoples

**Four social objectives**

- Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation
- Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character
- Uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit
- Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation

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**Senior General Than Shwe sends message of sympathy to Thailand**

YANGON, 27 Dec — Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of sympathy to His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej, King of Thailand for the loss of life and property caused by the earthquake of 26 December 2004 in southern coastal areas in Thailand. — MNA

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**Myanmar traditional medicines an effective tool in public health care services**

*University of Traditional Medicine inaugurated*

YANGON, 27 Dec — The University of Traditional Medicine located in Owebo Shwekyin Ward, Aungmyaythazan Township, Mandalay Division, was inaugurated yesterday morning and Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann unveiled the stone plaque of it.

Also present on the occasion were Chairman of National Health Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Chairman of Mandalay Division PDC Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint, Chairman of Sagaing Division PDC Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye, the ministers, senior military officers, the Mandalay mayor, the deputy chief justice, the deputy attorney-general, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo, Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung and officials inspected the project site of Sedawgyi supporting dam (Nanpet Dam) in Madaya Township yesterday.

Director of Construction 4 of Irrigation Department UT Maung Maung Tin and Director of Mandalay Division Irrigation Department U Aye Thein reported on the project.

The water storage capacity of Sedawgyi multipurpose dam built in 1987 is only 363,000 acre feet. Overflowing water of 800,000 acre feet from the dam is diverted to spillways each year.

For full utilization of water from Chaungmagyi Creek on which Sedawgyi Dam was built a support dam project (Nanpet Dam) is being implemented on Nanpet Creek, 12 miles upstream of Sedawgyi Dam.

(See page 6)

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**Secretary-1 inspects dam projects, Myanmar farm equipment factory**

YANGON, 27 Dec — Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein together with member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo, Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung and officials inspected the project site of Sedawgyi supporting dam (Nanpet Dam) in Madaya Township yesterday.

At the Steel Plant in Pyin Oo Lwin, Mandalay Division, the Head of State exhorted responsible personnel to boost production of manufacturing industries, especially iron wares that are essential to nation-building endeavours.

(See page 10)