Established 1914

Strength and prowess of Myanmar is glorious in history

It has been placed on record with many concrete and profound evidences that Myanmars are people who have successively inherited and preserved the pride of their origin and lineage and safeguarded their freedom with heroic spirit. In the course of their struggles for regaining national independence without letting themselves get bogged down in the quagmire of slavery in the aftermath of lawless aggression of colonial forces, Myanmars on the strength of their love of lineage and nation had fought back against the colonialists politically and militarily in various ways. We should never forget that the proud strength and prowess of Myanmars who had forged strong unity and striven in unison throughout the course of the struggle for Independence, sacrificing lots of lives, blood and sweat, is glorious in Myanmar history.

Senior General Than Shwe
Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council
Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services
(Message sent on the occasion of the 51st Anniversary Independence Day)

Government to generate 2,000 more megawatts during five-year plan

Thanks to Mone Creek Multipurpose Dam, dry Pwintbyu plain can now increase irrigated areas

YANGON, 29 — Mone Creek Multipurpose Dam in Sedoktara Township jointly constructed by the engineers of the Irrigation Department under the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and the Ministry of Electric Power was opened this morning at Mingalar Pandal, with an address by Chairman of the National Electric Power Development Project Work Committee Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win.

In his address Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win said that the opening of the Mone Creek Multipurpose Dam will benefit the whole nation in addition to Magway Division itself. A number of tributaries including Mone Creek, Salin Creek, Mann Creek and Yaw Creek drain a large amount of water annually into Ayeyawady River from the west bank. But the

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
**Upgrading of banking services coordinated**

Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun addresses 65th meeting of banks supervisory committee and the Myanmar Banks Association.— MNA

**Vietnamese goodwill delegation concludes visit**

The Vietnamese goodwill delegation led by Vice-Chief of General Political Department Lt-Gen Phung Khac Dang of Vietnamese Army and party visit Defence Services Museum.— MNA

**Road construction inspected**

Director-General Col Myo Myint of Development Affairs Department inspected construction of earth road in Waing Village of Gyobingauk Township. — MNA

**MCCWA donates milk powder to child nurseries**

Director-General Col Myo Myint of the Development Affairs Department under the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs, accompanied by officials, on 27 and 28 December inspected the construction of village-to-village roads by Township Development Affairs Committees in Bago Division (West).

When the director-general arrived at Waing Village in Gyobingauk Township, he heard reports on earth works and

**ICT Exhibition to be staged in Mandalay**

With the aim of achieving equitable development of Information and Communication Technology in all parts of the nation, ICT Exhibition organized by Computer Industry 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

**For constant development and modernization of traditional medicines**

The State Peace and Development Council is building the Union of Myanmar into a peaceful and developed nation through the implementation of political, economic and social objectives. Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character and uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation are among the social objectives. In accordance with these two objectives, health infrastructures are being built and necessary steps taken to enable traditional medicine practitioners to do research on Myanmar traditional medical science and modern medical science and provide better and wider health care services for the people.

The opening ceremony of the new building of the University of Traditional Medicine was held in Mandalay on 26 December and it was attended by Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann. In his address on the occasion, General Thura Shwe Mann said, “Myanmar traditional medical science is a medical subject that has 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 medicine has been an effective tool in the public health care services.”

By laying down suitable policies on health, the State Peace and Development Council has been encouraging the development and modernization of Myanmar traditional medical science and scientific production of potent traditional medicines. Due to the encouragement of the government and the constant efforts of traditional medicine practitioners and producers of traditional medicines, the quality and standard of Myanmar traditional medicines has become higher. As a result, Myanmar traditional medical science has gained wider acceptance and complete trust of people.

In accordance with the guidance of the Head of State, the University of Traditional Medicine has now been opened. The university completed with modern teaching and learning aids will be capable of producing highly-qualified traditional medicine practitioners.

We would like to call on traditional medicine practitioners to strive for the constant development and modernization of traditional medicines through research. Only then will they be able to provide better and wider health care services for the people.

**PERSPECTIVES**

**Thursday, 30 December, 2004**

- Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views
- Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of the State and progress of the nation
- Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State
- Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy
Vietnam to keep strong economic growth in 2005

HANOI, 29 Dec — The World Bank (WB) expects Vietnam’s economic growth to remain strong next year, Vietnam News Agency reported on Monday.

“The next five years will be about laying the foundations of a modern economy for Vietnam,” the report quoted Klaus Rohland, Director of the World Bank in Vietnam, as saying.

Success in this task will mostly depend on decisions and choices to be made in 2005.

Accessing the World Trade Organization (WTO) will ensure the country is estimated to post GDP growth of 7.69 per cent this year.

Rohland also highlighted five areas where the Vietnamese Government’s role remains essential.

They include foundations for markets, infrastructure development, poverty reduction, social protection, and collective goods.

“Next year, economic growth is expected to top 7 per cent for East Asia and the Pacific, excluding Japan, while developing economies in the region are expected to expand by more than 8 per cent,” he said.

MNA/Xinhua

Epidemics threaten tsunami survivors in S Asia

GENEVA, 28 Dec — Typhoid, diarrhoea and hepatitis epidemics now pose the gravest threat to the tens of thousands who survived a devastating tsunami which tore across the Indian Ocean, international relief agencies said on Monday.

A senior UN humanitarian official said the United Nations faced an “unprecedented” challenge to get aid to victims left vulnerable by the wall of water which killed at least 22,000 people when it pounded coastlines from Sri Lanka to Indonesia, even taking lives as far away as Somalia.

“The biggest threat to survivors is from the spread of infection through contamination of drinking water and putting bodies left by the receding waters,” James McGoldrick of the world body’s OCHA agency told reporters.

In Geneva, spokeswoman Fadela Chaib of the World Health Organization (WHO) told reporters it was vital to get water purification tablets and anti-malarial first aid kits into the region, especially to the intolerable traffic congestion of Dhaka City.

Dhaka to take special traffic management during SAARC summit

DHAKA, 28 Dec — The Dhaka Metropolitan Police will put in place extra measures to control traffic movement for the three-day summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) slated to begin on 9 January next year.

The traffic department has decided to bring 100 traffic policemen from other districts for its 2200-man contingent to facilitate vehicle movement across the capital, according to the New Age Sunday.

The department officials feared that the traffic congestion might increase during the summit because of the movement of dignitaries attending the summit.

Additional traffic police would be on special duty to check illegal parking and occupation of footpaths for smooth vehicle movement. Besides, traffic police will be on special duty around the SAARC summit venues to manage traffic.

Dhaka City, the capital of Bangladesh, is experiencing rapid population expansion and traffic congestion.

Thai death toll in tsunami rises to 918

BANGKOK, 28 Dec — At least 918 people were killed and more than 7,400 injured by the tsunami on Sunday morning in southern Thailand, the Thai Interior Ministry said on Monday.

Earlier in the day, Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra said around 700 people were killed by tidal waves. Between 600 to 700 people were killed by strong waves hitting the country’s southwest coast area, the Prime Minister said after an emergency meeting held in the heavily-hit resort island of Phuket. “I have asked the Army to prepare 1,000 body bags,” he told reporters. Thaksin, however, did not give specific casualties caused by the tsunami triggered out by an earthquake in the sea close to northeastern Indonesia on Sunday morning. Local media also quoted rescue workers as saying that around 300 people probably died in the isolated resort island of Phi Phi.

MNA/Xinhua

Family Mart enters Chinese market

SHANGHAI, 29 Dec — Family Mart, one of the world’s leading chain convenience store operators based in Japan, has opened its first chain outlet, Shanghai Family Mart Co Ltd in China on Monday, as an indication of its entry into Chinese market.

The Shanghai-based company is the sixth regional company that Family Mart has set up around the world. As planned, the company is expected to open 350 chain convenience stores in Shanghai by 2006.

“Domestic convenience stores still run at a low level, while Family Mart can compete on the Chinese market with its mature experience and technology in service and logistics,” said Wei Yingxiong, board chairman of Shanghai Family Mart Co Ltd. on Monday.

MNA/Xinhua

17 archaeological sites found south of Iraq

BAGHDAD, 28 Dec — Archaeologists in Iraqi found 17 ruined sites in the city of Nasiriyah, 370 kilometres south of Baghdad, which dated back to the Sumerian civilization, Baghdad newspaper reported Monday.

“These sites were found within the regions of Dawayah, and Maymona, between the cities of Nasiriyah and Umarah, south of Iraq,” a source in the Iraqi archaeology department said. “These sites were discovered within 44 ruined sites that were lately discovered in the region of Sooq Al Shyookh in Nasiriyah,” said the source, adding pointing out the number of the discovered sites reaches about 80. Meanwhile, the Iraq Museum, a department of the Iraqi general department of the ruins and culture, received an antiquity — a big jar dated to the pre-Islamic period — from a citizen who returned the jar to the museum after buying it from another Iraqi citizen who intended to sell it in the isolated resort island of Phi Phi.
Eight more dead as cold wave intensifies in northern India

NEW DELHI, 28 Dec — Cold wave continued to sweep across plains of northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh, claiming eight more lives since Sunday night and taking the death toll in this season to 43 in the state, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported Monday.

Mercury dipped to two degrees Celsius in Sultanganj, the lowest this season while the biting cold winds swept large areas, said PTI.

Four people died of cold in Pratapgarh, two in Mahoba and one each in Basti and Faizabad, said the report.

The minimum temperature plummeted to 4.5 degrees in Varanasi which was about five degrees below normal as thick fog paralyzed normal life by affecting the air, train and road traffic.  — MNA/Xinhua

China opens hot line for public inquiries on South Asia tsunamiis

BEIJING, 28 Dec — Chinese Foreign Ministry set up a hot line, 86-10-65963511, Monday to help the public learn information about their Chinese relatives and friends in South and Southeast Asian areas affected by earthquake and tsunami.

One tourist from China’s island province of Taiwan has been confirmed dead in tsunami-hit Thailand, according Foreign Ministry sources. No other casualty of Chinese citizen in the disaster-hit areas was reported.

The Foreign Ministry and Chinese embassies and consulates in the affected countries are taking immediate actions to extend assistance to Chinese citizens in those areas.— MNA/Xinhua

Car bomb kills one person, injures eight in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 29 Dec — A car bomb targeting the chief of staff of the US-backed Iraqi National Guard killed one person and injured eight on Tuesday, witnesses and a police source said.

General Mudher al-Mula, who was leaving his home on the edge of the Adhamiya District of Baghdad in a convoy when the bomb went off, apparently escaped unhurt.

Iraqi Defence Ministry officials were not immediately available for comment.

Witnesses said the car bomb appeared to have been parked close to the general’s house in a long line of vehicles waiting overnight for petrol, a common feature of Baghdad’s fuel crisis. — MNA/Reuters

Vietnam welcomes more foreign arrivals in 2004

HANOI, 28 Dec— Vietnam is estimated to host over 2.9 million foreign visitors this year, a year-on-year rise of 20.5 per cent, the Vietnamese National Administration of Tourism (VNAT) told Xinhua on Monday.

Over 1.6 million, followed by overseas Vietnamese returning home to visit relatives by 19.2 per cent to 467,000, and business visitors by 11.4 per cent to nearly 522,000, it noted.

“We hope to welcome 3.1 million foreign visitors and record tourism revenues of some two billion US dollars next year,” the VNAT said.  — MNA/Xinhua

China’s west-east gas project operational this year

BEIJING, 28 Dec — China’s massive project to transfer natural gas from the Tarim Basin of Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region all the way to the coastal metropolis of Shanghai in the east will go into commercial operation on December 30, according to the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC).

The new project is expected to produce 12 billion cubic metres of gas annually in 2007, with a targeted volume of 17 billion cubic metres in the future.

The construction of the gigantic pipeline, the longest in the country, started in July, 2002, with the aim to transfer the abundant natural gas resources from western China to the energy-starved industrial regions.

The trunk pipes of this project, approximately 4,000 kilometres, originates from the Tarim Basin of the Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region to Bahei (White Crane) town of Shanghai, bypassing ten provinces and autonomous regions.

Tsunami deaths mount to 6,800 in India

NEW DELHI, 28 Dec— Relief operations were launched on a massive scale in the areas hit by tsunami tidal waves as the toll rose rapidly to 6,800 in India as scores of bodies were recovered in Tamil Nadu and Andaman and Nicobar Islands, the Press Trust of India reported Monday.

Southern Indian State of Tamil Nadu reported a toll of 3,200 with the worst hit Nagapattinam accounting for 1,700 deaths, followed by Kanniyakumari at 525, Cuddalore 400 and Chennai City 200.

Pondicherry a union territory in the south of India, reported a loss of 377 lives, including 265 in Karaikal, an enclave surrounded by Tamil Nadu.

The scale of tragedy in the far-flung Andaman and Nicobar Islands, located on the east coast of India, also came to light Monday with 2,000 more deaths reported, taking the overall figure to over 3,000.

In Kerala State, located in south India, the toll was 138 and in southeastern Indian state of Andhra Pradesh 73.

The state governments and the centre launched Monday massive relief operations engaging defence forces and aircraft and ships to reach food, blankets, medicines and other material to people in the affected areas.  — MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam aims population of 88 million by 2010

HANOI, 28 Dec— Vietnam aims to have a population from the current 82 million to 88 million till 2010 with each couple having two children at most, Vietnam News Agency reported on Monday.

The target also includes reducing the country’s natural population growth rate to 1.1 per cent and the infant mortality rate to 25 per 1,000 births, lifting the number of people using modern birth control methods to 70 per cent, halving the number of abortions as compared with 1998 that recorded almost one million cases, and raising the human development index to the world’s average standard of 0.75 point by then. — MNA/Xinhua
China vows to improve transport ability in 2005

BEIJING, 27 Dec — Zhang Chunxian, Minister of Communications, said here Sunday that the ministry will improve transportation in 2005 to meet the increasing demands of China’s booming economy.

Zhang made the announcement at products, life necessities and important materials for the national economy such as oil, minerals and food supplies. Zhang urged all concerned departments to further improve transportation in the Three Gorges area to make it easy for passengers and vessels to pass through the dams. Meanwhile, Zhang said the ministry will strengthen regulations on overloading next year, aiming to limit overloaded vehicles to under 6 per cent.

The Ministry of Communications, along with eight other ministries, began to deal with overloaded vehicles on 20 June when 30 per cent of all vehicles were overloaded. Now there are 10 per cent overloaded vehicles found on highways. — MNA/Xinhua

UN teams head for Asian nations hit by quakes, tidal waves

UNITED NATIONS, 27 Dec — The United Nations has sent experts to help with rescue and relief work in Indonesia, India and other Asian countries stricken by powerful earthquakes and tidal waves, a UN spokesman said on Sunday.

“The Secretary-General was profoundly saddened to learn of the massive loss of life and destruction caused by a series of earthquakes and tidal waves in the western Pacific and Indian Oceans today,” spokesman Fred Eckhard said in a statement.

An 8.9-magnitude underwater earthquake struck off the Indonesian island of Sumatra Sunday morning. The quake and its aftershocks triggered tsunamis which hit India, Sri Lanka, Malaysia and four other Asian countries. The death toll from the disasters has surpassed the mark of 10,000.

Putin sends condolences to S Asian leaders over earthquake

MOSCOW, 27 Dec — Russian President Vladimir Putin on Sunday sent condolences to leaders of the Asian nations which were hit by tidal waves caused by a devastating earthquake off Indonesia’s north-west coast.

Putin conveyed his deep condolences to leaders of India, Indonesia, Thailand, and Sri Lanka over the enormous loss of life and material damages in the catastrophe, the Kremlin said in a statement.

More than 4,000 Asian people have been reportedly killed by horrible tsunamis triggered by the devastating earthquake measured 8.9 on the Richter Scale, which jolted sea areas northwest of Indonesia’s Sumatra Sunday morning. — MNA/Xinhua

Germany offers to help in S Asian quake

BERLIN, 27 Dec — Germany sent condolences to southern Asian countries which were hit by the biggest earthquake in 40 years Sunday and expressed its willingness to offer assistance.

German President Horst Koehler expressed his deepest sympathy on behalf of all German people in a message to the leaders of the southern Asian countries.

In a telegram to the foreign ministers of Sri Lanka, Indonesia, India, Thailand, Bangladesh, Malaysia and Maldives, German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer said his government was prepared to offer help in the catastrophe.

The statements gave no further details.

Two US soldiers killed by roadside bombs in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 27 Dec — Roadside bombs killed two US soldiers and wounded five in two separate blasts in Iraq, the US military said Monday.

An attack on a US military patrol in Samarra, about 100 km (60 miles) north of the capital, killed one soldier and wounded another overnight, it said in a statement.

A second soldier was killed and four wounded by another blast in Baghdad early Monday morning, it said.

The statements gave no further details.

Suni group pulls out of Iraq polls

BAGHDAD, 27 Dec — A leading Sunni Muslim party is withdrawing from Iraq’s 30 January elections, saying persistent violence would prevent people from voting in the Sunni north and west.

“We are withdrawing,” Muhsin Abd al-Hamid, head of the Iraqi Islamic Party, said on Monday.

“We are not calling for a boycott but we said we would take part only if certain conditions had been met and they have not.”

His party had threatened to boycott the election unless it was postponed by up to six months to ensure that voters across the country would be able to vote. — Internet

Donate blood
Let’s march for the Salute

* The nation free from harm
Peaceful and pleasant
For its development, beloved citizens
Do your best
Look around Myanmar nation
Beautiful scenery
Roads and bridges variegated
With budding flowers
When the dew uncovers the dawn
Our era’s seen
* With dams and irrigation
Ponds, lakes brimming clear
Be there drought, but there’ll be water
All’s been reinforced
Pagodas and edifices plenty
A glitter with gold
And religion shining out
To outshine others in the world
Do our best with the inputs
Forever asserting our strength
Noble is the mind
* Brethren, come together
Our kin come together
Hands held unity forever
Our nation, our strength
That’s what we rely on
To the Independence monument
We’ll march without hesitation
* Non-disintegration of the Union
Non-disintegration of national solidarity
And perpetuation of sovereignty
If only we base on Our Three Main
National Causes
Our Golden Land will be harmless
There’ll be peace, all-round
development
With these noble thoughts
Let’s all salute.

Soe Moe (Pathein) (Trs)
### HAILING THE 57TH ANNIVERSARY INDEPENDENCE DAY

### MUSHROOMING INDUSTRIAL ZONES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY

### PATHEIN INDUSTRIAL ZONE

Vehicles and farm equipments are manufactured at Ayeyar Car Assembling Workshop in Pathein Industrial zone.— MYANMA ALIN

### POWER-TILLERS PRODUCED FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Industrial zones are being established throughout the country for industrial development. Photo shows power-tillers manufactured in Ayethaya Industrial Zone, Taunggyi Township, Shan State (South). MYANMA ALIN

### INDUSTRIES IN HLINETHAYA INDUSTRIAL ZONE

Export items and import-substitute goods are produced in Hlinethaya Industrial Zone in Yangon Division.—MYANMA ALIN

### Industrial zones emerged after 1988

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr</th>
<th>State/Division</th>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Yangon Division</td>
<td>Yangon (East) Industrial Zone</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Yangon (West) Industrial Zone</td>
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<td>Yangon (North) Industrial Zone</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Mandalay Division</td>
<td>Mandalay, Myingyan, Meiktila</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Magway Division</td>
<td>Yenangyoung, Pakokku</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Bago Division</td>
<td>Pyay, Bago</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Ayeyawady Division</td>
<td>Pathein, Myaungmya, Hinthada</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Sagaing Division</td>
<td>Monywa, Kalay</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Mon State</td>
<td>Mawlamyne</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Taninthay Division</td>
<td>Myeik</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Shan State</td>
<td>Taunggyi</td>
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<td>Total</td>
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Myanmars were like the slaves, who had to obey the orders and face the inhuman acts of the colonialists.

All the profits from mineral and timber enterprises were channelled into the colonialists’ pockets, and foreigners and foreign companies were the ones enjoying benefits, while Myanmars were facing a miserable life.

The colonialists applied various means to invade others’ territories and loot the riches, and colonialists’ methods included the acts to cause dissension among the people of the occupied territories to facilitate their evil work of manipulation and exploitation.

When the colonialist BOC was making annual profits between K 90 million and K 101 million, the salaries of Myanmar workers were very low. It showed how much the colonialists were exploiting the workers, by spending the least amount for them in all aspects. The company permitted the white officials to enjoy a six-month leave with full pay every three years, but it did not allow Myanmar workers to enjoy even an annual casual leave of ten days.

First, the BOC granted ten holidays for

All the profits from mineral and timber enterprises were channelled into the colonialists’ pockets, and foreigners and foreign companies were the ones enjoying benefits, while Myanmars were facing a miserable life. The colonialists applied various means to invade others’ territories and loot the riches, and colonialists’ methods included the acts to cause dissension among the people of the occupied territories to facilitate their evil work of manipulation and exploitation.

Myanmar workers, but later it amended the rule, and permitted only seven holidays for them. So, there was discontent among the workers. The workers made demands to permit them ten days of leave for religious and social affairs and another 30 days of leave with full pay every year. As the company rejected the demand and continued to deny their basic rights, the dissatisfaction among them grew, and it reached the boiling point to start the worker’s strike in Chauk when the company dismissed a worker, Thakin Khin for taking extra one-day leave.

Because of the unjust acts of the colonialists and the foreigners of the company, there emerged the Year 1300 Workers’ strike led by Thakin Po Hla Gyi. The strike gave extra strength to the anti-colonialists and national liberation struggles.

The workers of Steel Brothers Cotton Ginning Factory in Aunglan and Steel Brothers Company in Thonze, and Ayeyawady Flotilla,

(See page 9)
The Myanmar workers had to work from dawn to dusk every day under severe conditions. But the white officials of the companies had no mercy for them. They were thinking about making more and more profits, utilizing the cheap labour of the Myanmar workers.

The entire national people participating in anti-colonialist movement.

(Translation: TMT)
Myanma Alin: 28-12-2004

As the real image of the colonialists was unveiled gradually, the people’s unity and Union Spirit became stronger and they launched the anti-colonialist struggle with greater velocity. Victories were won in the struggle risking lives, blood and sweat of the people, and they have been recorded in history as milestones. Thanks to their unity, the national races were able to win victories over the colonialists and the Fascists. In accord with the fine traditions, the entire nationalities of Myanmar have been safeguarding the independence and sovereignty of the State with their united strength and dynamic Union Spirit.
Government to generate...
(from page 1)

Creeks also posed as barriers for the people of Minbu, Sagu, Salin, Pwintbyu, Ngaphe, Sedoktara, Seikpyu and Pakokku to extend mutual trade and relations with other regions. Because of the strong currents of the water-courses, sometimes, the local people of the west bank faced difficulties in travelling to the opposite bank.

Head of State Senior General Than Shwe has laid down workable development plans for progress of the west bank and made arrangements to build necessary infrastructures one after another swiftly.

The Government has built Yaw Creek Bridge, Mann Creek Bridge, Nwetame (Salin) Bridge, Mone Creek Bridge and also the Anawrahta and Magway bridges spanning the mighty Ayeyawady, linking the west bank and east bank as if they were on a contiguous land-mass.

In addition, the Government after conducting feasible study of the Mone, Mann, Salin and Yaw creeks has built dams on them at necessary places to control and tap their waters for the regions and the nation. The Mann Creek Dam was inaugurated in 1998, and the Salin Creek Dam in 2001. A series of diversion works the Mone Creek can be stored to irrigate crops the whole year round through Mezali Diversion Weir, and over 100,000 acres of crops will get adequate amount of water annually. As the Mezali Division Weir could control the Mone Creek only to a certain degree in the past, farmers had to rely on North Mone Creek Canal and South Mone Creek Canal that were irrigating the crops in turn. According to the records, the then irrigation capacity was only about 30,000 acres of land. But after the completion of the Mone Creek Multipurpose Dam, the irrigated areas in the region have increased more than three times.

Thanks to the Mone Creek Dam, the dry Pwintbyu plain can now increase its irrigated areas, and because of the Mann Creek Dam and Salin Dam, Salin and Minbu (Sagu) plains can put more acres of land under crops. Double-cropping will help increase the income of local farmers.

The erection of a hydroelectric power plant at the Mone Creek Dam is a great victory for the people in effectively utilizing the land and water resources of the western sector of Magway Division.

Because of the market-oriented economy, the agricultural sector has been enjoying production growth, and is in the process of changing to mechanized farming. At the same time, more private and State-owned factories emerge leading to the development of the industrial sector, extension of rural areas and rapid improvement of the living standard that need more electricity. Roughly, power consumption of the nation is growing at 15 per cent annually. Yangon alone consumes about 450 megawatts at present, up from about 130 megawatts 15 years ago. The Government has been implementing projects in accord with the guidance of the Head of State to generate 2,000 more megawatts of power during the five-year plan based on the nation’s rich land and water resources.
Government to generate ...  
(from page 10)

The Government with the collective participation of the ministries concerned founded the Leading Committee to Develop National Power Project and the work committee.

The total amount of water flowing in the rivers and creeks in the whole nation is over 876 million acre-feet. According to experts, about 40,000 megawatts of electricity can be generated from 268 hydel power stations.

The Mone Creek Multipurpose Dam Project is part of the National Grid, which covers the entire nation and serves the interests of the nation and the people. It can irrigate more than 100,000 acres of farmland, generate electricity, prevent the region from floods of the creek and contribute towards regional development measures for long-term. So, even the posterity will benefit from the project, he said.

The feasibility study on extended utilization of the current of the creek led to the Buywa Hydropower Plant—

...and there are still many nation-building work programmes to be accomplished in a similar way, he noted.

The State’s seven-point Road Map adopted for flourishing of genuine democracy in the nation is to be put into reality step by step and through active and conscious participation of the entire people, he remarked.

The correct leadership of the State and enthusiastic participation of the local people have served as the engine for translating into reality the arid zone greening project to be part of the environmental conservation drive, he said.

In conclusion, the Prime Minister said that he wholeheartedly welcomed the Mone Creek Multipurpose Dam Project together with the people, calling for continued cooperation of the State, the people and service personnel based on mutual understanding and good will in a bid to implementing the nation-building projects, while preserving such fine traditions.

Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo delivered a speech. He said Magway Division is important for production of major crops such as paddy, beans and pulses, groundnuts, sesame, sunflower, cotton, sugarcane and maize. He said he believed people in the region would be pleased with the emergence of a multipurpose dam that could not only supply water but also generate electric power.

On completion, the two projects will be able to generate 120 megawatts. Therefore, the projects along the Mone Creek will be able to supply sufficient water for agricultural purpose and generate nearly 200 megawatts, he said.

Seeking ways and means to fully utilize the invaluable terrestrial and aquatic resources of the nation, the government has built 169 irrigation facilities and 30 hydroelectric power plants across the nation, he said.

In the process, it is taking innovative measures by combining the State’s finances and the technologies and skills of the national engineers. Based on perseverance, innovative measures and sacrifices, it is doing its utmost for achieving the national goals such as development of the nation, reducing the development gap between one part and another, parallel progress of the regions, alleviation of poverty, fortiﬁcation of national unity, and ﬂourishing of Union Spirit, he added.

The local people of Magway on their part are to respond to the noble goodwill and lofty goals of the State by working hard in respective sectors, he said.

The fruitful results of national progress are due to the harmonious and united efforts of the State and the people, he said.

On completion, the two projects will be able to generate 120 megawatts. Therefore, the projects along the Mone Creek will be able to supply sufficient water for agricultural purpose and generate nearly 200 megawatts.
China makes its first self-designed digital TV chip

SHANGHAI, 28 Dec — Elite Fudan University in Shanghai said on Monday that it has turned out China’s first ever home-made digital TV chip in collaboration with two domestic companies.

The chip, known as “Zhongsha No 1”, which integrates more than 70 storage, two million logic gates and 20 million transistors, has outperformed European and American products in terms of sensitivity and anti-jamming capacities at far lower costs.

The chip was made by Grace Semiconductor Manufacturing Corporation and Semiconductor Manufacturing Internationa l Corporation, according to Zhou Dian, president of the School of Microelectronics of Fudan University, independent designer of the product.

Zhongsha No 1 was based on China’s DMB-T standard and has outdone European and US standards for experimental broadcasts of digital TV, respectively known as DVB-T and ATSC, in terms of definition, noted Zhou.

He acknowledged that a dozen domestic electronics manufacturers had integrated the new chip technology into their products, including Changhong, TCL, Skyworth and Haier. Central China’s Henan Province has applied the new technology to launch mobile TV programmes, and at least 10 other localities — including Beijing, Tianjin and Guangzhou — have reported success in trial operations. According to mass production of the cost-effective chip is for sure to boost China’s digital TV industry.

“Zhongsha No 1 is adaptable to international as well as domestic standards and is cost-effective compared with similar international products,” said Wu Youshun, an academic with the Chinese Academy of Engineer ing.

European insurers may lose business due to deadly tsunami

ZURICH, 28 Dec — European insurers face new costs and travel firms could lose business after tsunami waves killed more than 22,000 in southern Asia this weekend, but the financial impact is likely to be less than that of other disasters this year.

The markets took a cautious stance, however, pushing down shares in many insurers, reinsurers and tourist operators.

Germany’s Munich Re, Switzerland’s Zurich Financial and other insurers said they could not yet assess the cost of Sunday’s deadly waves, which brought havoc to shores from India to Thailand.

“If many things are unclear, it is just too early to tell. You need very complicated processes to estimate damages. Unlike the hurricanes, you can’t just run a model,” said Serge Troebel, a natural catastrophe expert at Swiss Re.

Shares in the world’s top two reinsurers, Munich Re and Swiss Re, which insure other insurers, both ended down more than 1.6 per cent.

But shares in Germany’s Hannover Re rebounded most of their losses after the company said it would stick to its earnings forecast for this year, despite damage caused by the tsunami waves. The shares fell 0.1 per cent.

A Hannover Re spokesman said tsunami-related damages were expected to be in the low double-digit millions of euros, well below the low claims of about 300 million euros (400 million US dollars) from four major hurricanes that hit the United States.

Hannover Re’s Troebel also said his company hoped that its total claims would be less than those from the hurricanes, which the company put at 640 million US dollars. US property-casualty insurers have little exposure to southern Asia’s emerging markets and so are not likely to feel any significant financial impact, analysts said.

25,000 Sri Lankan troops deliver aid to victims

COLOMBO, 28 Dec — Sri Lanka has dispatched some 25,000 soldiers and 10 helicopters Monday to coastal areas, which were lashed by Sunday’s massive tidal waves triggered by a powerful earthquake in Indonesia, to deliver aid and rescue teams as the death toll has climbed to 4,813 and a million others displaced in the country.

The helicopters were dropping medicine and rescue teams to areas not accessible by land, while soldiers were trying to help the local people in their rescue work.

Arroyo urges preparation after tsunami disasters

MANILA, 29 Dec — Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo called on the public to Tuesday to prepare for any natural disaster emergency amidst reports of a catastrophe that hit several Asian countries this week.

“As we continue to reach out to help in whatever way we can, we should also remember that this tragedy could also happen in our own shores, ours being the longest shoreline in the world,” Arroyo said.

Arroyo said on a state visit to Pakistan that the country’s forecasti ng system and link this up with international warning networks to avert a similar disaster.

“We must modernize our forecasting systems and link these up with international warning networks,” she said.

“We must know the geophysical hazards around us and strengthen our capacity to cope with them,” Arroyo said.

Likewise, Arroyo cited the need to modernize the country’s forecasting system and link this up with international warning networks to avert a similar disaster.

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UAE ranks among world’s best countries for investment

ABU DHABI, 28 Dec — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) was listed among the world’s 25 most attractive countries for investment, Arabian Gulf News daily quoted a 2004 World Investment Report (WIR) as saying on Sunday.

The report, issued by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), said the competitive cost of labour, low tax rates and skilled workforce made the UAE one of 140 countries of the world.

The UAE, with competitive growth rate of 14 per cent, was placed tied 11th in the world-ranking list, according to the report.

Sudanese presidential adviser to the prime minister, director of the presidential office for technical affairs, said that the UAE topped the list with best scores in many indices, including technological advancement, public institutional administration and capacity to channel economic growth, stability of competitiveness among business sectors and local work atmosphere.

Our region’s macroeconomic environment, the UAE was placed the 11th in the world-ranking list, according to the report.

Nigeria seeks investment to develop gas industry

ABUJA, 28 Dec — Nigeria has lined up a number of incentives for prospective foreign investors to develop the country’s gas industry, Alhaji J’afaru Pasi, special assistant to Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo on Petroleum and Energy Matters, said on Monday.

The government’s door “is open to foreign investors who wish to invest in the gas sector”, he told reporters at a news conference in the national capital.

The government is hoping that the investor will exploit the gas and oil in the coastal region of the country to develop the gas, which is the most profitable oil in the world.

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“The gas policy will enhance local content and the investor to develop the gas industry,” she said, adding: “that the national gas policy document is enough incentive for any interested investors.”

He said the gas policy contained more favourable treatments given to any potential investors, including guaranteeing total revenue and investment.

“The gas policy will enable the government and the investor to derive maximum benefits in the interest of all,” he said.

According to the special assistant, gas projects under Production Sharing Contract assistance to the government in realizing its cardinal objectives.

The objectives, he explained, included increasing oil reserve and liquidity investment, gas flaring by 2008 and enhancing local content development among other things.

The government’s door “is open to foreign investors who wish to invest in the gas sector”, he told reporters at a news conference in the national capital.

The government said it was still in the process of developing the gas industry and that no firm investment decision has been made so far.

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Seven HK tourists injured by tsunami of Phuket

HONG KONG, 28 Dec—At least seven people were injured by the quake-triggered tsunami in Phuket, a famous tourist resort in southern Thailand, Hong Kong media reported on Monday morning.

Hong Kong television stations reported that three of the seven injured have been discharged from a Phuket hospital after treatment while the rest of the four are in stable conditions.

In a separate development, a Hong Kong couple have been stranded in another island in southern Thailand. They are safe and are waiting for rescue forces as they dared not to get out of the island by boat. By 10.00 pm Sunday, Hong Kong’s Immigration Department has received 219 inquiries and 1099 requests for assistance relating to the tsunami triggered by massive quakes.

HKSAR Government has pledged to closely follow the cases and render every possible assistance to Hong Kong residents when needed. Hong Kong media reported that over 1,200 Hong Kong tourists are in Phuket and they were feared to have been affected by the quake-triggered waves in Phuket.

A powerful earthquake hit Bataan in the northern Luzon Island and Davao in the southern Mindanao Island early Monday, said Philippine seismology officials.

A quake hit Bataan at 4.08 am local time (20.00 pm GMT Sunday), with the epicentre believed to be in Olongapo City north of Bataan City. It was estimated that it had the magnitude of 4.7 of Richer Scale.

Two mild earthquakes hit Tanah in the northern Sumatra Island and Davao in the southern Mindanao Island early Monday, said Philippine seismology officials.

A quake hit Bataan at 4.08 am local time (20.00 pm GMT Sunday), with the epicentre believed to be in Olongapo City north of Bataan City. It was estimated that it had the magnitude of 4.7 of Richer Scale.

Mild tremors jolt Philippines as tsunami spares the country

MANILA, 28 Dec—Mild tremors jolt the northern and southern Philippines after the killer tsunami which destroyed some Asian coasts on Sunday has spared the country due to geographical location.

Romy Tabanlan, science research specialist of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS), said the quake was tectonic in origin, and triggered possibly by a movement in the Manila Trench.

A similar quake hit Davao City at 4.50 am (20.50 pm GMT Sunday) and was strongly felt at its epicentre located in Mati, Davao Oriental.

PHIVOLCS said the possible source of the quake, also of tectonic origin, may be a movement in the Philippine trench. The institute estimated the quake had a magnitude of 5.0 of Richter Scale.

Officials said the earthquakes were not connected with the massive underwater earthquake that caused tsunamis in southern Asia Sunday.

Experts said the Philippines was spared by the tsunami on Sunday because the peninsula consisting of southern tip of Thailand, western Malaysia and western Indonesia had absorbed the shock wave.

They warned the Philippines to be vigilant against possible incoming tsunamis as the country was vulnerable to such oceanic devastation due to numerous ocean-land trenches nearby.

New Zealand woman dead of tsunami in Thailand

WELLINGTON, 28 Dec—One New Zealander has been confirmed dead following a massive earthquake and tsunami that has devastated southeast Asia, Foreign Affairs Minister Phil Goff announced on Monday.

The unnamed married woman, who was traveling with her family, died in Thailand’s southern resort of Phuket.

At this point we have no other known New Zealand casualties or missing people who are of particular concern,” Goff said in a statement. “However, we cannot rule out that there may be other casualties,” he said. A Bangkoker-based New Zealand Police liaison officer was on his way to Phuket to help the dead woman’s family and any other New Zealanders needing assistance.

Six Australians are missing in tsunami waves

SYDNEY, 28 Dec—Six Australians are missing and 177 have needed assistance after a huge earthquake unleashed devastating tsunami waves that killed thousands across Asia, officials said on Monday.

“At this stage we understand there are no Australians of concern, but these numbers are likely to change around hour by hour as we get information,” Foreign Minister Alexander Downer told reporters in Adelaide.

No Australians had been confirmed dead, officials said. Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade spokesman Justin Lee said 4,100 Australians had been in areas hit by the quake and tsunami waves, which killed more than 126,000 people in coastal areas of Asia around the Indian Ocean.
**Chelsea extend lead in Premier League**

**LONDON, 29 Dec—** Chelsea needed late goals from Dutchman Arjen Robben and England’s Joe Cole to earn a 2-0 win at Portsmouth and extend their lead in the Premier League to eight points on Tuesday.

However, they failed to shake off a resilient Manchester United who later beat Aston Villa 1-0 to register their seventh win in eight league games and move up to third in the table. Chelsea lead by 49 points, champions Arsenal have 41 before facing Newcastle United on Wednesday and United are third on 40 points. Goal difference separates Alex Ferguson’s men from an Everton side who lost 2-0 at Charlton Athletic.

Up at the top, Robben broke the deadlock for Chelsea in the 79th minute of a tricky match at Fratton Park against a Portsmouth side beaten only once in their previous six games.

“They made it very difficult for us,” Mourinho told Sky Sports News. “They’re playing well, they’re getting results, the players are good and the organization is good.

“But in the second half I think we discovered the positions we had to use to break the balance in their defensive system.”

“By the end of the game, I think we deserved to win... and I just told my players that it was a really big victory for us.”

**French coach says dispute with Pires over**

**PARIS, 29 Dec—** Football coach Raymond Domenech says his dispute with Robert Pires is over and the Arsenal midfielder would be welcome back in his squad.

Pires began the row in October when he slammed Domenech’s strategy as unclear and bitterly complained after he was replaced at the interval of the 2-0 victory over Cyprus in a World Cup qualifying match.

Pires, France’s most capped player of the squad with 79 appearances, said that he felt uneasy with Domenech and accused the coach of treating the players like schoolboys. Domenech responded by leaving Pires out of France’s last match of the year against Poland in Paris in November.

“I don’t have to forgive Robert for anything. If I did, it would mean that I have been hurt by his comments,” Domenech said in an interview in sports daily L’Equipe published on Tuesday.

“I don’t make up my mind about someone from what he says but from what he does,” Domenech said. “And there is no reason for Pires not to make his comeback.

“When you are in charge of a national team you can’t rule out someone for irrelevant reasons. I’m not a

**Berlusconi steps down as Milan’s president**

**MILAN, 29 Dec—** Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi has stepped down as president of AC Milan to comply with a new law on conflicts of interest, the Serie A club said on Tuesday.

Berlusconi has been Milan’s president since 1986, missing them on to European Cup glory on four occasions, most recently in 2003, and seven domestic league titles.

But he also criticized current coach Carlo Ancelotti’s tactics, forcing changes from the stadium box and from inside his television.

"Of course I’m sad. I’m very sad," Berlusconi told reporters in Rome. Asked to rank his sadness on a scale from 1-10, Berlusconi replied: "Eleven.

"In any case, in the years I’ve been president, I’ve won more than anybody else in the world — in international championships, that is," he added.

A new law designed to resolve the clash between Berlusconi’s political power and his sweeping business empire was passed in July and was widely expected to force the billionaire businessman out of the Milan president’s seat.

Club captain Paolo Maldini told Gazzetta dello Sport: "It will have been a very painful decision for Berlusconi even if stepping down as president does not mean abandoning the team completely. I am sure he will always be close to us.

"For Berlusconi, Milan is not a company to make money but an affair of the heart."

But opposition politician Sandro Battioli from the centre-left Margherita party said: "Berlusconi’s resignation is a farce at the end of a comedy and the clearest proof that the conflict of interest law is a failure and can have no real effect on the premier’s personal interests which remain firmly in his hands."

In a statement, the club said the presidency would remain vacant for the time being.

An Italian newspaper earlier reported that Berlusconi would hand the presidency on to his son Piersilvio, the deputy chairman of Berlusconi’s media empire Mediaset.

Italian champions Milan are second in Serie A, four points behind Juventus.

**Premier League match reports**

**LONDON, 29 Dec—** Match reports from Tuesday’s Premier League matches:

**Bolton Wanderers 0 Blackburn Rovers 1**

Bolton slumped to a sixth consecutive league defeat as Mark Hughes’s Blackburn continued their move away from the relegation zone with a morale-boosing win. Scottish striker Paul Dickov volleyed Blackburn’s winner after only six minutes and his team mates held on to the points despite plenty of pressure from Sam Allardyce’s men.

**Charlton Athletic 2 Everton 0**

Everton looked to have earned a point until the match was completely turned on its head in the space of just three minutes at the very end.

Moroccan defender Talal El Karkouri headed home in the 82nd minute, Everton’s Scottish forward Duncan Ferguson was red-carded two minutes later for elbowing and Iceland defender Hermann Heirdarsson added Charlton’s second a minute after that.

**Fulham 2 Birmingham City 3**

Birmingham continued their sparkling festive run with a fourth straight win that firmly establishes them in mid-table.

Emile Heskey’s third goal in three games, a left-foot screamer after 25 minutes, put the visitors ahead and they were just taking control when French midfielder Sylvain Legwinski levelled for Fulham in the 34th minute. Darren Carter restored City’s lead just before the break and Welsh midfielder Robbie Savage volleyed a spectacular third. Too late, Tomasz Radzinski got a second for Fulham in stoppage time.

**Liverpool 1 Southampton 0**

It was not Liverpool’s most convincing performance, but a fine strike by forward Florent Sinama-Pongolle earned them a third consecutive league win.

The Frenchman latched on to a defence-splitting pass from Spanish playmaker Xabi Alonso and fired in a low first-time shot in the 44th minute.

Liverpool could have added more after the break, with Norwegian defender John Arne Riise slamming a shot against the bar and Spanish midfielder Luis Garcia seeing his header turned on to the post by Finnish keeper Antti Niemi.

**Manchester City 1 West Bromwich Albion 0**

Kevin Keegan’s City should have done better at home to a promoted side who played for over 70 minutes with 10 men.

West Brom’s Danish defender Thomas Gaardsoe was red-carded after 17 minutes for failing a goalbound Robbie Fowler and French striker Nicolas Anelka finally broke the deadlock with a superfly-stuck free kick on 32 minutes. —MNA/Reuters
Government to generate…

from page 11

Kunchaung project, 30-megawatt Khaubhun project, 40-megawatt Phyuachaung project, 75-megawatt Shweygin project, 25-megawatt Yenwe project and 54-megawatt Kengtawng project under five-year short-term plan. Shweyi project being undertaken in Shan State (North) can generate 400 megawatts. The 120 megawatts coal-fired power station is being built in Tikyit. The Mone Creek power station is the 43th one built by the Ministry of Electric Power.

Chairman of Magway Division Peace and Development Council Col Phone Maw Shwe said dams in Magway Division aimed at irrigating in the region. But Mone Creek Dam is built not only for water supply but also for generating electric power. Irrigated areas and acreage of summer paddy will increase in the division once known as an oil bowl. There will be rice sufficiency in the division due to the government’s assistance with goodwill and extended cultivation of the farmers.

Next, a local spoke words of thanks.

Also present on the occasion were Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Chairman of CITIC Technology Co Ltd Mr Sun Xigo Wan and Li-Gen Ye Myint sprinkled scented water on the stone plaque of Mone Creek hydel power project. The Project was successfully implemented by the Group-8 of the Construction Group of the SPDC Office, the SPDC Office and Magway Division Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint, members of Magway Division PDC, Col Phone Maw Shwe, officials of the SPDC Office, departmental heads, members of Magway Division PDC, Chairman of CITIC Technology Co Ltd of the People’s Republic of China Mr Sun Xigo Wan and officials, departmental officials at Division, District and Department.

Mone Creek Dam is an earthen type. Its main dam is 4320 feet long and embankment is 200 ft high. The dam has a water storage capacity of 674,400 acre ft and will irrigate 108,000 acres.

Township levels of Magway Division, members of Minbu District, Sedoktara and Salin Township Union Solidarity and Development Associations, NGOs, teachers, students and locals at the site inspected time, Lt-Gen Ye Myint unveiled the stone inscription of the Mone Creek Multipurpose Dam. Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint, Minister Maj-Gen Htut and Lieutenant Maj-Gen Tin Htut formally opened the dam.

After the prime minister and party had a documentary photo taken, they inspected the main dam and spillway. Next, they proceeded to Mone Creek hydel power station and the prime minister pressed a button to put the turbine generator into service. Maj-Gen Tin Htut and officials

Progress to be made in cultivation of rubber...

(from page 16)

Perennial Crops Enterprise U Myint Soe submitted reports on rubber plantations. Next, local rubber growers reported on requirements of the works.

Managing Director Col Kyi Win of MPCE presented reports on functions of the enterprise, arrangements for distribution of rubber sappings and technology to be provided to the local growers. The commander also briefed Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than on the plan for growing of 10,000 acres of rubber in Bago Division within three years.

In his address, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than stressed the need to extend cultivation of suitable crops out of 10 main crops in Shweygin Township. Shweygin region is favourable for cultivation of rubber. So, local growers and departmental personnel are to grow rubber in the region. As the State as well as Bago Division plan to extend cultivation of rubber, it is important to expand the cultivation of rubber in Shweygin region in accord with the plan. And, out of three new crops, pepper is a suitable crop for the region.

He also pointed out that fish and poultry farming activities are to be carried out. In building a modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation, it is necessary to do away with lawlessness, disorder, enhancement of economy and development of human resources. Therefore, departmental personnel and locals in Shweygin Township are to participate in implementation of the tasks.

In the afternoon, they proceeded to Thanatpin through Bago-Thanatpin Road. At the model plot of summer paddy at the entrance of the township, Lt-Gen

Khin Maung Than heard reports on cultivation of summer paddy presented by officials and inspected water supply for the new paddy.

Thanatpin Township has completed to put over 21,000 acres of land under summer paddy and over 80,000 acres under pulses and beans. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party inspected extended construction of Bago-Thanlyin Road between mile posts 18/2 and 18/3.

On arrival at Kawa Township, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than met local authorities. He heard reports related to the township and gave necessary instructions to officials. Kawa Township has cultivated 2,305 acres of summer paddy and 82,435 acres of pulses and beans.

Next, they arrived at the site chosen on Kawa bank to construct of Bago River crossing bridge on Indaw-Monywa-Kawa-Othene Road to link Kawa Township and Monywa Village. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than heard reports on matters related to the construction of the bridge presented by Assistant Engineer U Kyaw Lwin of Bridge Construction Project Special Group-1. Deputy Chief Engineer U Kyaw Lwin and the commander gave supplementary reports.

Thanatpin Township has completed to put over 21,000 acres of land under summer paddy and over 80,000 acres under pulses and beans. The bridge will be 508 feet long and 13 feet wide, and it can withstand 20-ton loads.

After inspecting the construction site, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party went back to Bago. — MNA

Gold entrepreneurs association’s meeting to be held at Summit Park View

YANGON, 29 Dec — The second annual plenary meeting of the Myanmar gold entrepreneurs association will be held at 1 pm on 1st January at Summit Park View Hotel in Dagon Township instead of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry in Kyankiada Township. All members of the association are invited to attend the meeting without fail. — MNA

WEATHER

Wednesday, 29 December, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been generally fair in the whole country. Night temperature were (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Kachin, Kayah States, Mandalay, Bago and Taninthayi Divisions, (6°C) below normal in Chin State and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Loilin (0°C), Pinaung and Namsam (3°C), Putao, Mindat, Hakha and Pyin Oo Lwin (4°C) each.

Maximum temperature on 28-12-2004 was 93°F. Minimum temperature on 29-12-2004 was 55°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 29-12-2004 was 73%. Total sunshine hours on 28-12-2004 was (8.3) hours approximately. Rainfalls on 29-12-2004 were nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2004 were 112.28 inches at Yangon Airport, 106.77 inches at Kaba-Aye and 109.68 inches at central Yangon. Maximum speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 5 mph from Northwest at (11:10) hours MST on 28-12-2004.

Bay inference: Weather is partly cloudy in the Southwest Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 30-12-2004: Weather will be partly cloudy in Rakhine State and Taninthayi Division and generally fair in the remaining states and divisions.

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of isolated light rain in the extreme Southern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 30-12-2004: Fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 30-12-2004: Fair weather.

Earthquake Report

(Issued at 08:00 hours MST on today)

An earthquake of slight intensity (3.0) Richer Scale with its epicenter inside of Myanmar about (11) miles South of Kaba-Aye seismological observatory was recorded at (03) hrs (32) min (27) sec MST on 29th December 2004.
Four political objectives
- Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order
- National reconsolidation
- Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
- Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

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

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

Mon State USDA holds discussions on implementation of the seven objectives and nine future tasks adopted by the AGM (2004) and plans in Mon State. — MNA