Love, friendship and unity are a must

Our nation is the Union where various national groups live together and each and every region is also like a small union where different nationalities reside. As we have been living together so long that we are inseparable, love and friendship and unity are a must for all of us.

Senior General Than Shwe
Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council
Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services
(From guidance given to trainees of the Primary Teachership Course No 35)

Some border areas achieving sustainable development
Anti-drug drive covers regional progress and improvement of locals’ economy, living standard

YANGON, 30 Dec — Central Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races held its meeting No 2/2004 at the meeting hall of the Commander-in-Chief (Army)’s Office this afternoon with an address by Chairman of the Central Committee for DBANR Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe.

Senior General Than Shwe said the lofty aims of the Central Committee are a common knowledge for all.

The Government has held negotiations with armed groups to pave the way for them to return to the legal fold, as it has the genuine wish to strive for national development and peace and stability in cooperation with all the nationalities.

(See page 4)

Excerpts from Senior General’s address

* Government has held negotiations with armed groups to pave the way for them to return to the legal fold, as it has the genuine wish to strive for national development and peace and stability in cooperation with all the nationalities.
* A large number of good foundations in various sectors including transport, health, education and economic sectors have been built for improvement of the social standard of the local people.
* The Government’s lofty aims in launching the border areas development drive is to develop their health, education, economy and social foundations in a proper equitably compared with the rest of the nation and to narrow the gap between the two.
* Priority should be given to the regions where the pace of progress of education, health, transport and economy is still slow.
* Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs is to work hard in harmony with other related ministries to realize the goal.

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

Friday, 31 December, 2004

**Expose destroyists and bring them to justice**

The Information Committee of the State Peace and Development Council held a press conference at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Information on 28 December.

At the conference, Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan explained the acts of unscrupulous persons that left innocent students and people dead or wounded and activities of destructive elements within and without who mastermind machinations.

The motive of these destructive elements is to destabilize the nation and to cause panic among the public and, in doing so, they make use of foreign broadcasting stations and Internet Websites and spread rumours and provocative letters.

Moreover, they are now synchronizing their provocative acts with destructive activities of some insurgent groups.

Some insurgent groups are in cahoots with destructive elements in the nation to instigate people from all walks of life including monks while a certain group of insurgents in the border area are giving some youths training in the use of explosives.

And it is reported that these destructionists are hatching up a scheme to destroy infrastructures for national development. Their main targets are roads and bridges, airports and irrigation facilities.

Under the circumstances the authorities concerned have to beef up security for the safety of government buildings as well as that of public lives and property.

Thanks to these security measures, people can live and work in peace and some destructive acts could be nipped in the bud and prevented.

But there were some cases in which some innocent students and people were killed or wounded. Steps are being taken to expose those involved and take action against them.

We would like to call upon the entire people to conscientiously lend themselves to the measures being taken by the government to expose the destructionists and bring them to justice.

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**11th Annual Plenary Meeting of MFPTMA held**

**Yangon, 30 Dec**—The 11th Annual Plenary Meeting of the Myanmar Forest Products and Timber Merchants Association took place at the International Business Centre in Hline Township yesterday.

Present on the occasion were Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung, heads of the Forest Department and Myanmar Timber Enterprise under the Ministry of Forestry, the president of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and CEC members, the chairman of MFPTMA and CEC members, and members and guests.

Chairman of the MFPTMA U Aung Lwin extended greetings and Minister Brig-Gen Thein Aung made an opening speech. Afterwards, President of the UMFCCI U Win Myint made a speech. Next, General Secretary of MFPTMA U Aye Lwin read out the reports submitted to the meeting and financial statements and sought the approval of those present.

General Secretary of UMFCCI U Sein Win Hlaing read the names of 24 MFPTMA members elected including Chairman U Aung Lwin and General Secretary U Aye Lwin for 2005-2006.

Next, the meeting ended with concluding remarks by the chairman of UMFCCI. — MNA

**Director-General Col Myo Myint of the Development Affairs Department inspects newly-opened Koethaung-Aungsanpyithaya Road in Pyay Township on 28-12-2004. — MNA**

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**Respect-paying ceremony of YTU held**

**Yangon, 30 Dec**—The first respect-paying ceremony in conjunction with the get-together of the old students of Yangon Technological University, organized by Myanmar Engineering Society took place at Myanmar Convention Centre, here, this morning.

At the ceremony, the old students paid respects to the retired faculty members and presented cash and kind to them.

The retired teachers gave advice to the old students.

In the evening, a dinner was hosted in their honour at Dusit Inya Lake Hotel. — MNA

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**New road opened in Pyay**

**Yangon, 30 Dec**—As a gesture of hailing the 57th Anniversary Independence Day, Koethaung-Aungsanpyithaya Road was opened in Pyay Township, Bago Division (West), on 28 December, attended by Director-General Col Myo Myint of the Development Affairs Department under the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs.

On the occasion, Executive officer U San Maw Khin of Pyay Township Development Affairs Committee reported on the construction works and a local people expressed thanks.

Afterwards, Director U Soe Lwin of Bago Division (West) Development Affairs Committee and Pyay District Peace and Development Council Chairman Lt-Col Tun Aye formally opened the road. The tar road is 4,900 feet long and 12 feet wide at a cost of K 7,779 million. As a result of the completion of this road, it can provide better transport for the people living in Koethaung and Aungsanpyithaya wards. — MNA
Shanxi pipes 25b kwh of electricity to north, east China

TAYYUAN, 30 Dec— China’s leading coal producing Shanxi Province has piped 25 billion kilowatt-hours (kwh) of electricity to the other parts of the country this year, the provincial electric power company said Wednesday.

The country’s leading northern section of the landmark project, four are under construction in Shanxi with a total generation capacity of 4.6 million kwh, according to Niu, the province’s energy official.

According to Niu, at least a quarter of all the Chinese capital’s electricity comes from Shanxi, which means one out of every four lamps in Beijing is lit with electricity generated by the province.

The province has installed and put into operation seven new generators this year, to generate 1.3 million kwh of electricity for itself and an additional 1.1 million kwh for China’s landmark west-to-east electricity transmission project.

Of all the six power plants designed in the

Explosives-ripped house kills 30 during Iraq police raid

BAGHDAD, 29 Dec— Thirty people were killed when a house exploded with all home residents inside during a police raid on guerillas, in the latest calamity to befall Iraqi security forces a month ahead of national elections.

The blast followed the killing of 43 Iraqis Tuesday, many of them police and national guard, as guerillas flexed their muscle against Iraqi security forces who are expected to report polling stations on election day.

Police raided a home in Baghdad’s saddal western Ghazaliya district late on Tuesday, and were still inside when a massive blast levelled the house, an interior ministry official said.

Officials said police fell into a trap set by a Sudanese who drew them towards the house by firing at neighbours.

However, an eyewitness said the Sudanese had actually threatened to blow up the house if the police entered.

Interior ministry spokesman Adnan Abdul Rahman said, “our experts believe that, given the damage, the house was booby-trapped and the person who set it up tried to attract police to ensure the maximum possible number of deaths in their ranks.

“It was a trap and its author had stepped up attacks against residents with the aim of drawing in the police,” Abdul Rahman said, adding that women and children were among the casualties.

But neighbour Mohammed Ali Hassan Awad, 21, said the Sudanese man “climbed to the roof and threatened to blow up the house if they entered”, suggesting the Iraqi police were aware of the danger.

Thirty people died, six of them police, the ministry said. Another 25 were wounded, including four policemen, and four police were listed as missing.

Flight that was taking soldiers home from Iraq hit by ground fire

MILWAUKEE, 29 Dec— A plane operated by an Air Force Reserve wing based in Milwaukee was struck by enemy ground fire seven weeks ago shortly after picking up 57 soldiers heading home after their tour of duty in Iraq, crew members say.

“I noticed a lot of fire coming out of the No 1 engine—the motor pretty much exploded,” said Master Sgt James Grigsby, 41, of Brodhed, told the Milwaukee Journal Sentin nel in an interview published Wednesday.

The members of the 440th Airlift Wing based at Mitchell International Airport are part of a group of 180 people deployed from the 440th that rotated in and out of the Southwest Asia Central Command area of operations.

The ground fire punched a large hole in one of the engines of the C-150, and severed fuel lines.

The crew took the plane to a small nearby airfield that had been used by the Iraqi air force which had been heavily damaged and was being repaired.

Medics take care of injured Iraqi National Guard officers caught in a road side bomb and explosion southeast of Baquba, 60 kms northeast of Baghdad on 29 Dec, 2004. —INTERNET

NASA builds redesigned space shuttle tank

MIAMI, 29 Dec— NASA has finished building a redesigned space shuttle fuel tank that was reconfigured to eliminate the debris problem that doomed the shuttle Columbia and its seven astronauts, agency officials said on Tuesday.

Project managers called the step a major step in returning the US space program to manned flight after the shuttles were grounded when Columbia broke apart over Texas on 1 February, 2003.

The first reconfigured tank is to be shipped by Friday from a NASA facility near New Orleans to the Kennedy Space Center in Florida as the space agency prepares for shuttle Discovery’s launch in May or early June. —MNA/Reuters

Vietnam Airlines to open more int’l routes in 2005

HANOI, 29 Dec— Vietnam Airlines, the country’s national flag carrier, plans to launch new routes to Japan, Germany, the United States, India, Indonesia and Russia next year, according to local newspaper Transport on Tuesday.

The carrier is expected to open a direct route to the German city of Frankfurt and another to the western region of the United States in late 2005 or early 2006. It will also inaugurate a domestic flight between Hanoi capital and Buon Ma Thuot City in central highlands Dak Lac Province next year.

Vietnam Airlines has so far this year transported 5 million passengers and 88,600 tons of cargoes, reaping revenues of nearly 17.4 billion Vietnamese dong (1.1 billion US dollars). Its seat occupancy stands at 65.4 per cent in 2004.

The carrier, which now conducts international flights to 25 cities, including Paris, Los Angeles, Sydney, Bangkok and Guangzhou, targets to serve 5.7 million passengers and over 94,800 tons of goods, and make revenues of 19 trillion Vietnamese dong (1.2 billion dollars) next year.

By 2005, Vietnam Airlines will possess and lease 40 planes, including eight Boeing 777s, four Boeing 767s, ten A320s, seven A321, nine ATR 72s and two Fokker 70s, of which 18 will be owned by the carrier. It plans to increase its fleet to 75 aircraft, hoping to serve 10 million passengers and 190,000 tons of cargoes by 2010.—MNA/Xinhua

A Shanghai coal dock. China’s state economic planners have set an 8.0 percent ceiling on coal price rises for electric power generation in 2005 as energy demand continues to outpace supply.—INTERNET
Some border areas achieving...

(from page 1)

The Government is striving to develop the border areas, free the national races of the areas from general backwardness, and improve their living standard, while building mutual trust among all the nationalities in its drive for emergence of a consolidated Union where amity prevails among the national people.

The government founded the Central Committee, and also the work committee responsible for materializing the policies and programmes laid by their superior. Thanks to the committees and their accomplishments, border areas development drive is gaining ground on its aims, and love and understanding among the national races are further strengthened.

Besides, peace and stability is prevailing in the border areas that are achieving solid foundations for regional development. A large number of good foundations in various sectors including transport, health education and economic sectors have been built for improvement of the social standard of the local people.

At the same time, the Government has been launching the anti-drug drive to root out the practice of cultivating poppy for opium and the business of producing narcotic drugs, the colonialists’ troublesome evil legacy in border areas, in conjunction with the border area development drive.

As the anti-drug drive involves the tasks of ensuring regional progress and improvement of locals’ economy and living standard, it is achieving success due to greater participation of the nationalities depending on the degree of its accomplishments in the regional development undertakings.

The Government’s lofty aims in launching the border areas development drive is to develop their health, education, economy and social foundations in a proportionate ratio with the rest of the nation and to narrow the gap between the two.

Hence, the border areas are developing with added momentum. The drive has achieved sustainable development at present. However, it is still necessary to make momentous efforts in the development tasks of border areas to ensure that the whole country enjoys equitable development.

Priority should be given to the regions where the pace of progress of education, health, transport and economy is still slow. The development of the whole country depends on that of border areas. Only then will there be consolidation among the entire nation.

From 1980 to date in border areas, the government has constructed 3,093 miles of earth roads, 1,861 miles of gravel roads and 326 miles of tar roads, re-paired 3,162 miles of roads, built 47 large, 696 small and 16 suspension bridges.

Therefore, the Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs is to work hard in harmony with other related ministries to realize the goal.

In doing so, they are to keep the right track with righteous attitude. Concerted efforts are to be made to ensure that tomorrow’s success of border area development tasks is far greater than today’s.

Also present on the occasion were Vice-Chairman of the Central Committee for DBANR Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, the Central Committee member for DBANR member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Show Mann, member of the Central Committee for DBANR Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win, Secretary of the Central Committee, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, members of the Central Committee Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, a group of General Ye Myint, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, Lt-Gen Maung Bo, Lt-Gen Tha Tha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and Lt-Gen Kyaw Win, Joint-Secretary of the Central Committee Minister for Progress of Border Areas.

Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo reports on management matters for border areas development.— MNA

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein reports on accomplishments of border areas and national races.— MNA

Scientifically, the Government has constructed 3,093 miles of earth roads, 1,861 miles of gravel roads and 326 miles of tar roads, re-paired 3,162 miles of roads, built 47 large, 696 small and 16 suspension bridges.

Seventy-two basic education high schools, 61 BEMSs and 657 BEPSs have been built in the far-flung areas and now 7,381 high school students, 32,036 middle school students and 108,621 primary school students are pursuing education this academic year.

The number of the students has surged 70 times, compared to that in 1989.

and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt, ministers, deputy ministers, the Director-General of the SPDC Office and heads of department.

The Secretary-1 in his speech said that now the border areas development undertakings are in full swing in a short time thanks to the supervision of the Work Committee and combined efforts of sub-committees and regional work committees and local brethren adhering to the policies adopted by the meetings of the Central Committee.

In line with the guidance of the chairman of the Central Committee, efforts are being made with added momentum for the building of economic and social infrastructures, and basic productive forces for progress of border areas that lagged behind in development, while implementing the plans for elimination of narcotic drugs. As a result, some border areas have enjoyed fruitful results better than expected in social and economic sectors. And the poppy production is now on the significant decrease, he said.

From 1989 to date in border areas, the government has constructed 3,093 miles of earth roads, 1,861 miles of gravel roads and 326 miles of tar roads, re-paired 3,162 miles of roads, built 47 large, 696 small and 16 suspension bridges.

It has built small and medium hydropower plants in eight border towns, installed 256 generators in 190 villages. The border areas have been facilitated with 47 post offices, 42 telegraph offices and 80 auto exchanges.

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The number of the students has surged 70 times, compared to that in 1989.

Similarly, there have been constructed 17 dam projects under way, five canals and 11 tractors stations.

The two colleges have produced 256 graduates, and a total of 552 students are learning arts and science and AGTI lectures at these two educational facilities. In order to deter young women in the border areas from going to the neighbouring nation for earning money in case they may fall into victims, 18 vocational training centres for women have been opened in border areas, and two Nationalities

Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung submits reports on conservation of forests.— MNA

Youths Resources Development Degree Colleges in Yangon and Mandalay.

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There have been 46 dams constructed or under construction, 17 dam projects under way, five canals and 11 tractors stations.

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It has established 19 livestock farms, 41 live stock and veterinary centres, and distributed 111 pedigree cattle and horses to local people, he said.

So far, the government has established seven forest nurseries, four forest reserves, and four planting forest reserves and 12 sawmills to ensure supply of forest products for local people.

From 1989 to date, the border areas development fund has spent K 30,856 million and respective ministries, K 29,422 million on the mining sector to explore mineral resources, and to identify job opportunities for the national race people.

The 10-year project for transforming slash and burn system to highland cultivation system has been implemented since 2003-2004 for certainty of the life of hilly regions dwellers. Now, altogether 11,659 out of 111,900 targeted acres have been reclaimed, he said.

In line with the guidance of the Head of State, 26 nationalities youths development training centres and 18 vocational training centres for women have been opened in border areas, and two Nationalities
Some border areas achieving…

(from page 4)

compared to that in 2002, and 73 per cent, compared to that in 1996, he said.

From 2001 to 2004, the government has provided the farmers who had given up poppy cultivation with 19,300 bags of rice, cash assistance, 5,000 viss of salt and K 196.5 million worth saplings and seeds of poppy-substitute crops. Besides, starting from August 2004, a total of 4,650 bags of rice is provided monthly for projected regions, in which poppy-cultivation eradication measures are being taken, he said.

Steps are being taken effectively to prevent and control illegal smuggling of raw materials and precursor chemicals from neighbouring nations via borders. Plans are well under way for designating such border towns as Tachileik, Myawady and Kawthoung as drug-free zones. The Wa Alternative Development Project (WADP) is being implemented jointly by the UNODC and the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control with the assistance of US$ 11.623 million in Mongpauk and the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control (WADP) is being implemented jointly by the UNODC and the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control.

Next, Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt reported on measures to be taken against deforestation triggered by the ‘slash and burn’ method. Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein reported on the development of livestock breeding tasks being carried out at border areas.

Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Oo, Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe, Deputy Rear-Admiral Soe Thein, accompanied by Yangon Commandant Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo, Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe, Deputy Rear-Admiral Kyaw Myint, senior military officers and officials, held a meeting with local authorities and departmental officials at Cocogyun Township this morning.

The commanding officer of the local station and the chairman of Township PDC reported on the conditions of the region, saying that there was thriving though the region was lightly damaged, it saw no casualties after the earthquake that jolted on 26 December.

The Commander-in-Chief (Navy) inspected Cocogyun Dam and fulfilled the requirements. They visited the Inja Marazein Pagoda, a replica of the Shwedagon Pagoda, and the Sasana Pala Dhamma Rakhiha Dhammayon and offered alms to Township Sangha Nayaka Committee Chairman Sayawd U Koviadaara. (See page 15)

YANGON, 30 Dec—Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Rear-Admiral Soe Thein, accompanied by Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Yangoon Commandant Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo, Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe, Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint, senior military officers and officials, held a meeting with local authorities and departmental officials at Cocogyun Township this morning.

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Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut submitted reports on improvement of small-scale hydel power projects in border areas. — MNA

Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein reports on development of livestock breeding tasks. — MNA

Minister for PBANRDA Col Thein Nyunt presents reports on implementation of the minutes of the previous meeting. — MNA

Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Ohn Myint reports on reclamation of highland cultivation. — MNA

Infrastructures, the ministry is carrying out development works in conjunction with related ministries.

Under the ten-year plan for reclamation of highland farms from 2003-2004 to 2012-2013, the ministry will reclaim a total of 111,900 acres in cooperation with farmers. Now, 11,659 acres in total have been reclaimed.

Moreover, the ministry is also carrying out road construction and expansion works in cooperation with private social organizations and NGOs in the country.

Likewise, the ministry in line with the guidance of the Head of State has increased the number of the nationalities youth development schools. As a result, the number has now stood at 6.

The ministry is also making plans to enable qualified students to attend the B.Tech course at Mandalay University of Technology.

Next, Deputy Minister U Ohn Myint presented supplementary reports on systematic measures for reclamation of highland farms. Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Maung Maung Aung reported on measures to be taken against deforestation triggered by the ‘slash and burn’ method. Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein reported on the development of livestock breeding tasks being carried out at border areas.

Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut reported on the development of small-scale hydel power projects being implemented at border areas.

After hearing the reports, Senior General Than Shwe gave concluding guidance, pointing out the continuity of development tasks at border areas to be undertaken with added momentum.

The Senior General also said as the social advancement of local people depends on the adequate supply of their food, clothing and shelter needs, it is necessary to undertake simultaneously agriculture, livestock, transport, education and health in their regions.

Efforts are to be made to create and develop human resources in border areas for their long-term prosperity so that they can enjoy the fruitful results one generation after another. In doing so, arrangements are to be made to conduct courses on arts and crafts and open vocational training schools, which will be of great help for development of the society.

The advent of human resources capable of promoting the society is essential since these are the only instrument that can promise the sustainable development of the human society in the long run.

Afterwards, the meeting was brought to a conclusion. — MNA
Shan State (South) USDA holds discussions on implementation of the seven objectives and nine future tasks adopted by AGM 2004 and plans for Shan State (South). — MNA

Meeting on 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 Shan State(South), at the city hall in Taunggyi, on 26 December morning. Present on the occasion were USDA members, townswlders, members of War Veterans Organization, MWAF, MCWA, Red Cross and Auxiliary Fire Brigades, members of social organizations and outstanding youths.

Upholding of Our Three Main National Causes as national policy discussed at Shan State (South) USDA Meeting

YANGON, 30 Dec — Shan State (South) Union Solidarity and Development Association held the meeting on implementation of the seven objectives and nine future tasks adopted by AGM 2004 and plans for Shan State(South). — MNA

First, the participants at the meeting saluted the State Flag. USDA member students sang the songs in flourishing democratic nation. And, the seven objectives of the USDA Annual General Meeting that the Government firmly believes that better foundations for national solidarity came together

with development. The Government has laid down and practised Our Three Main National Causes in the interest of the State and the entire people. The Government firmly believes that national solidarity is foundation of the tasks for development of the nation and its people, peace and modernization and building a democratic State. And then, the strength of the national people plays the most important role in development of the State. In conclusion, he noted that plans concerning the seven objectives and nine future tasks adopted at the AGM are to be drawn and implemented.

Next, Shan State (South) USDA Executive U Kyaw Soe Hlaing tabled a motion calling for implementation of the seven objectives of the USDA AGM 2004 with might and main, and Shan State (South) USDA and Shan Executive U Khun Than Htoo seconded the motion.

Shan State (South) USDA Executive U Sai Thaha submitted the plans to be carried out in Shan State (South). Taunggyi District USDA Executive Daw Khin Thanda Oo, Loilem District USDA Joint-Secretary U Yi Than (See page 15)

Participants chanting slogans at the conclusion of Shan State (South) USDA Meeting in Taunggyi. — MNA

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Participants chanting slogans at the conclusion of Shan State (South) USDA Meeting in Taunggyi. — MNA

Poem

Be ever alert

* In ancient times, when we were subjugated
They took us to battle, and won
They took into custody, our monarch
Enslaved the people, and as such
The enslavement, was very apparent.
* These days, when subjugation is intended
They take a blurred, different form
Fomenting disunity, among the people
Scheming to get them disunited
To disintegrate the Union, totally
Then interfering, they'll be savours
With those trained, to do as bid
Adopted sons, to grab power
With governance, as prescribed
To push into, mire of slavehood
With people, not realizing immediately
Unknowingly, commit to slaveryhood.
* Not to realize, being enslaved unknowingly
For that not to happen, brethren blood brothers
To know who's who, among us
What kind of people, with various means
Mingle and mess up, divide us
With our own design, our life
Let’s build it beautifully.

Meru (Trs)

Hailing the 57th Anniversary Independence Day

O My!
Our destruction acts are not as good
as we thought because
all the nations are united.

With people, not realizing immediately
To push into, mire of slavehood
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O My!
Our destruction acts are not as good
as we thought because
all the nations are united.
Development in the rail transportation sector in the time of the State Peace and Development Council

Hailing the 57th Anniversary Independence Day

The above photo shows a train passing through Punchaung Bridge built by Myanma Railways on Shwenyaung-Taunggyi-Punchaung-Namsan railroad in Shan State (South).

Newly built Thilawa station and a passenger train in Thanlyin Township, Yangon Division.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Railroad section</th>
<th>1988</th>
<th>2004</th>
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<td>2793.86</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mileage</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Station</td>
<td></td>
<td>487</td>
<td>775</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bridge</td>
<td></td>
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<th></th>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
<td>36.689</td>
<td>56.667</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passenger/mile</td>
<td></td>
<td>1870.125</td>
<td>2678.988</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goods(ton)</td>
<td></td>
<td>1.269</td>
<td>2.877</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goods/mile</td>
<td></td>
<td>196.579</td>
<td>599.480</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Parami overpass built by Myanma Railways was commissioned into service on 16 September, 2004. The facility is 48 feet wide and 1175 feet long.
The evil of losing independence and the virtue of regaining it

**Beware of the Tricks of Colonialism**

The First Anglo-Myanmar War broke out in 1824. It was an aggressive war of the British. Myanmar national races bravely fought against the British. At the end of the war, the colonialists seized Rakhine and Taninthaiyai regions.

Similarly, Myanmar leaders fought against the British colonialists with unyielding spirit. Leaders of Chin national race who waged war against the British colonialists without being organized and instructed. It was a fine characteristic of Myanmar.

There are sayings which go 'Blood is thicker than water' and 'Be always ready in times of emergency'. And this overwhelming sense has instilled into those who live in the far-flung hilly and plain regions. That means they have patriotic spirit.

With anti-colonialist sentiment and nationalistic fervour, Shan, Kayah, and Wa patriotic nationals from Chin hills, Kachin hills and Shan plateau, as well as Rakhine, Kayin, Mon and Bamar national races fought against the colonialists without being organized and instructed. It was a fine characteristic of Myanmar.

There are sayings which go 'Blood is thicker than water' and 'Be always ready in times of emergency'. And this overwhelming sense has instilled into those who live in the far-flung hilly and plain regions. That means they have patriotic spirit.

Launching armed resistance against the imperialists with patriotic spirit is serving our national cause.

Myanmar lost her independence on account of the British superior weapons. But, Myanmars showed great courage to the British. It was also partly due to disunity within the court. It can also be taken into account the fact that some elements within the court, yeamed for the British. But their expectations from the British proved to be wrong.

Normally, disunity in the court and inequality of firepower did not mean the fall of the country’s servitude under the British rule. When industrial productive forces were thriving in western Europe, capitalists gained power in bourgeois revolution by undermining monarchy and feudalism. The power can be said democratic power because it was gained through voting system. Capitalist parliamentary system was beautifully dubbed parliamentary democratic system. Capitalists won democratic parliamentary elections by means of wealth.

About half a dozen European countries where capitalist industry was booming invaded and colonized other countries like pirates by using their superior firepower and military might with the intention of getting raw materials, fuel energy and labour for industrial production and seeking market for their finished goods (See page 9).

There are sayings which go ‘Blood is thicker than water’ and ‘Be always ready in times of emergency’. And this overwhelming sense has instilled into those who live in the far-flung hilly and plain regions. That means they have patriotic spirit.

resisted the British aggressive war in 1852 but had to relinquish the Lower Myanmar to the British colonialists. In 1885, the colonialists again intruded Myanmar but they had to encounter the strong resistance of all the national people of Myanmar including hilly and plain regions.

The third war the British waged on Myanmar was also an aggressive one by using their firepower and manpower. In the whole three wars, leaders of all national races in Myanmar bravely fought against the British with unyielding spirit. It was a milestone in history. Even the British colonialists had to appreciate and mention the stiff resistance put up by the leaders of the national races in their writings.

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About half a dozen European countries where capitalist industry was booming invaded and colonized other countries like pirates by using their superior firepower and military might with the intention of getting raw materials, fuel energy and labour for industrial production and seeking market for their finished goods (See page 9).
In the whole struggle for independence, Myanmars exercised national politics with national spirit. With the shared political stance they became united. After independence, Myanmar again experienced the imminent loss of national unity due to party political and sectarian divides in the nation which were caused by the instigations of elements inside and outside the nation. That was why national unity or national consolidation collapsed.

Long before Myanmar was under colonial rule in 1885, the British had coveted Myanmar's rich natural resources such as precious stones, crops and paddy, teak and prospects of oil. After annexation of Myanmar, Britain started opening Bombay Burma Co, Burma Corporation, Steel Brother Co and Bulinger Pool Co to exploit Myanmar's teak, mineral resources, oil and crops and paddy.

As their acts were unbearable, Myanmar national races put up strong resistance against the British from 1885 to the 1900s. Myanmars formed YMBA in 1906 and GCBA (Later known as Bama Tatmadaw, Bama Asiayon) in 1900s. Myanmars formed BIA, Bama Tatmadaw, Pha-ta-pala and Pha-hsapala (AFPFL), with the strength of unity, essayed to regain Myanmar's total independence.

As a result, Myanmar regained her independence and sovereignty on 4 January, 1948. And Myanmar was in a position to enjoy her rich natural resources again. Myanmar was able to establish a sovereign nation after Panglong Conference had been held in February, 1947.

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The evil of losing independence and the virtue of regaining it

Hand in hand with the people, the Tatmadaw, the strong national force, had to protect the country during these political upheavals. It is only the Tatmadaw and people who always safeguard the State and its sovereignty. This national force as such is striving to transform the nation into a peaceful, modern and developed one. That means efforts are being made to be able to value the virtues of independence by removing the evils of losing it.

(Translation: ST) Myanma Alin, Kyemon: 30-12-04

Daipha Duwa was among the leaders of Kachin nationals who fought against colonialists.
Development of energy ...

From page 16: Aung Than Hut, Brig-Gen Htay Aung of Magway Station, Chairman of Magway Division Peace and Development Council Col Phone Maw Shwe, senior military officers and departmental officials.

In the briefing hall, the Deputy Minister presented reports on the aims of implementing the project, construction matters and its progress, completion of installing machines, production and requirements of raw materials.

The Managing Director reported on arrangements for building the feeder canal. Chairman Maj-Gen Ye Myint briefed the Prime Minister that the project is being implemented to be able to irrigate 15,000 acres of paddy and other crops from Ayeyawady River. Water of Ayeyawady River will be supplied to the areas, at least 62 feet in height and 35 feet in depth, through the 8 feet by 8 feet main canal measuring 48,500 feet long and 4 feet by 4 feet 12 tributary canals.

Afterwards, they proceeded to Tanyaung River Water Pumping Project of Water Resource Utilization Department being implemented near Letahagon Village of Tanyaung Village in Salin Township.

In the briefing hall, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo reported to the Prime Minister that the project is being implemented and it is scheduled to operate production works in February 2005.

The Prime Minister inspected water pumping tasks. The plan is under way to irrigate 2,000 acres of summer paddy and 2,000 acres of cotton with the use of water facilities of Tanyaung River Water Pumping Project coming summer.

The Prime Minister and party flew to Chauk-Lanywa Oilfield of Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise via Chauk.

In the briefing hall near Well No 1154, the Prime Minister heard reports on the area of Chauk-Lanywa oilfield measuring about 10 miles in length and about one mile in breadth, facts about the oilfield, the monthly statement for average daily production (See page 11)

Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win hears reports on matters concerning Chauk-Lanywa oilfield by Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi.— MNA

Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win inspects tasks of Tanyaung river water pumping project in Salin Township.— MNA

Myanmar Motion Picture Award Winners ...

Chairman and executives of MMPA, academy award winners and guests.

First, Chairman MMPA U Sein Tin explained on the purpose of holding the ceremony. Next, Chairman U Sein Tin, Vice-Chairman-1 U Kyee Myint and Vice-Chairman-2 Paggi U Soe Moe presented souvenirs to 11 outstanding film technicians. Afterwards, best actor award winner Kyaw Hein and best supporting actress award winner Cho Phone expressed thanks.

After the ceremony, dinner was hosted to Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein and party and guests.

Myanmar Motion Picture Asiayen Vice-Chairman-2 Paggi U Soe Moe presents gifts to Academy Award winner Tun Eindra Bo.— MNA
Development of energy sector urged...

(from page 10)

of crude oil and natural gas in 2004-2005 financial year, drilling of Oil Well No 1154 and nationwide production of oil and gas presented by Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi.

The Prime Minister gave instructions on development of the energy sector.

Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi conducted the Prime Minister and party round the drilling site of Oil Well No 1154. The drilling of the well was started on 15 September 2004. So far, it has been drilled 6,043 feet in depth.

On arrival at the Natural Gas Filling Station in Chauk, Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi reported to the Prime Minister that about 1,500 vehicles have been prepared to NGVs in Paleik, Chauk, Yenangyoung and Yangon. Now, six CNG filling stations have been opened.

The Prime Minister inspected machines of Pwintbyu Textile Factory (Project) — MNA

Bayinnaung, Thakaya, Dagon Myothit, Danyingon and North Okkalapa Township, and the stations will be opened beginning 2005 one after another. And, arrangements are being made for building more 11 CNG filling stations.

The Prime Minister gave necessary instructions. Next, they arrived at Bagan-NyaungU from Chauk.

On 29 December, they attended the opening ceremony of Mone Creek Multipurpose Dam in Sedoktara Township. After the ceremony, the Prime Minister and party arrived back in Bagan-NyaungU.

At the guest house, Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win inspected lining made of natural pozzolan and cement to be placed at the tributary canals of the river water pumping projects.

Next, the Prime Minister and party arrived back here in the afternoon.

On 28 December, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Huu Oo inspected functions of Ngathayauk river water pumping project in NyaungU District — MNA

and Irrigation Maj-Gen Huu Oo and Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein who accompanied the Prime Minister inspected Kyawzi River Water Pumping Project near Kyawzi Village in Taungtha Township.

The Director-General of WRUD and officials reported on the projects. Minister Maj-Gen Huu Oo inspected tasks of the project. Kyawzi River Water Pumping Project will benefit 8,000 acres of land.

The ministers proceeded to Ngathayauk River Water Pumping Project near Ohnhnee-chang Village in NyaungU Township.

Officials reported on pro-gress of project tasks. Ngathayauk River Water Pumping Project will benefit 8,700 acres of land.

Similarly, the ministers inspected Thu-gaungti River Water Pumping Project which will benefit 6,000 acres of land, in Thu-gaungti region of NyaungU Township.

Objectives of 57th Anniversary Independence Day

— All the national people to collectively safeguard the national independence and sovereignty of the State and ensure non-disintegration of the Union and national unity

— All the national people to unitedly strive with might and main for emergence of an enduring State Constitution and for building a new modern and developed nation

— All the national people to work in concert for success of the seven-point Road Map of the State with Union Spirit and nationalist spirit

— All the national people to make concerted efforts for building of a new discipline-flourishing democratic nation

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win looks into sale of fuel at stations

YANGON, 30 Dec — Chairman of the Supervisory Committee for Utilization of Power and Fuel, Member of the State Peace and Development Council, and Chief of Armed Forces Training Lt-Gen Kyaw Win inspected the sale of petrol and diesel at the stations of the Myanma Petroleum Products Enterprise and efficient use of electricity at the offices this afternoon.

In his inspection tour, he was accompanied by Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, Vice Chief of Armed Forces Training Maj-Gen Win Myint, Deputy Minister for Transport Col Nyan Tun Aung, Vice Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Col Maung Pa and officials.

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and party went to the station No 0226 in Tamwe Township and No 0232 in Yankin Township and looked into the sale of fuel and gave instruction to officials.

They also went to the Ministry of Mines, the Ministry of Forestry in Yankin Township and Ministry of Industry-2 on KabaAye Pagoda Road and inspected the efficient use of electricity there.

Cash and kind provided to victims of tidal waves in Kawthoung

YANGON, 30 Dec — Chairman of Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Coastal Region Command Maj-Gen Ohn Myint, accompanied by Brig-Gen Khin Zaw Win of the local station and departmental officials, met local people at Basic Education Primary School in Awgy Village of Kawthoung Township on 30 December.

The commander explained arrangements on relief and resettlement to be carried out for victims of tidal waves triggered by a strong earthquake jolted on 26 December.

Next, on behalf of the wellwishers, the commander presented cash and kind to the officials of the respective villages. The donations of the wellwishers, ministries and local authorities amounted to K 60 million, various kinds of clothes and foodstuff including 180 bags of rice worth K 1.54 million.

Chairman of Kawthoung District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Tin Soe reported on relief matters, and Brig-Gen Khin Zaw Win of the local station and Executive Director of Myanmar Red Cross Society Col Aung Than gave supplementary report.

In Chaungwa Village, the commander and party cordially greeted those who were hit by the tidal waves and presented relief items to them. Next, the commander and party inspected damages at the places hit by tidal waves. — MNA
Heroin hidden in oranges seized on train from Kunming

YUAN, Dec 29 — A young man was caught after police found 362 grammes of heroin that he hid in oranges on a train from Kunming to Xi'an, the public security department of Xi'an railway administration announced on Monday. Police said they found 27-year-old Xi Bo was uneasy when they were conducting a routine safety examination around 7 a.m. on 18 December in a sleeper cabin of a train from Kunming, capital of southwestern Yunnan Province, to Xi'an, capital of northwestern Shaanxi Province. Later, they found 46 little heroine “sticks” in four big oranges in the young man’s luggage. Xie, a drug addict from southwestern Sichuan Province, told the police that a drug dealer in Yunnan asked him to give the heroin to a man in Chengdu, provincial capital of Sichuan. Further investigation to the case is still underway, according to the department. Yunnan, a province with over 4,000 kilometres of border line, easily falls victim to drug dealing and has been designated by Chinese authorities as a target area for cracking down on the influx of drugs.

China lacks 40b cubic metres of water every year

BEIJING, 29 Dec — China's Minister of Water Resources on Monday would have an average water shortage of 40 billion cubic metres, if it stopped over-tapping groundwater. Wang made the remarks in a report on water resources, economization, protection and utilization of China’s top legislature, the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress (NPC). More than 400 of the 669 Chinese cities are facing water shortages, and an average of 20 million hectares of farmland are hit by drought every year, Wang said. Waterpollution is also severe in the country, he said, as just 38.1 per cent of its river water is drinkable. In 2003, the country discharged 68 billion tons of sewage, double its amount from 1980.

Russia to stop giving US astronauts free rides into orbit

MOSCOW, 29 Dec — Russia’s cash-strapped space agency said on Tuesday it would stop giving US astronauts free rides into orbit in the future. Russia has single-handedly serviced the International Space Station, a $55-billion US-dollar lab with a habitating laboratory, for almost two years since the United States grounded its shuttles after the fatal Columbia accident in 2003. A secret of the financial pinch it has felt from having to launch joint US-Russian manned missions and cargo ships to the Station, saying its space budget is a mere fraction of NASA’s resources. Space agency chief Anatoly Perminov has told the United States early next year with a proposal, a Roskosmos spokesman said. “From 2006, we will put US astronauts into orbit only on a commercial basis,” ITAR-TASS news agency quoted Perminov as saying. As NASA officials were not available for comment. Roskosmos said it had not received any response to the proposal yet. The United States has often funded Russian cosmonauts’ trips to the Station on its shuttles and since the Columbia tragedy Russia has done the same for US astronauts. Under the new proposal, the United States would write off debts of more than $100 million that Russia owes for work carried out on the station in exchange for Russia launching its astronauts. When the Station was built participants from 16 nations agreed money and expertise they would put into the project. Russia still owes some of its agreed input, some of which would be written off if the United States agrees to the plan. It was the latest in a string of money-saving plans devised by Russia to alleviate its financial woes. It has launched two space tourists, who enjoyed over 10 days in space for 200 million US dollars tickets, and has plans to send up more amateurs. Perminov, who headed ITAR-TASS, said two foreign space tourists could be launched in 2006.

Asia’s first “China Culture Centre” inaugurated in Seoul

SEOUL, Dec 29 — The first China Culture Centre (CCC) in Asia was inaugurated here on Tuesday, which will provide South Koreans with Chinese language teaching service and information about China and Chinese culture. The CCC in Seoul, the sixth of its kind in the world set by the Chinese Government, will also introduce China to South Koreans through holding exhibitions, seminars and other activities, said visiting Chinese Vice Cultural Minister Meng Xiaoshi who inaugurated the Seoul CCC together with South Korea’s Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, has a library, several classrooms and rooms for exhibitions and functional activities. Telephone inquiries flooded in since the CCC’s setting up was announced in February, asking when it would be opened to public and the services would begin. ‘More and more South Koreans are eager to study Chinese and learn more about China,” Chinese Ambassador Li Bin told Xinhua Monday in an interview, “It is not only because that Chinese and South Korean cultures are very close, for the long history of bilateral cultural exchanges and geographic closeness, but the full-scale development of bilateral relations in recent years.” He said China became South Korea’s top investment and travel destination, as well as the biggest trade partner this year. Chinese language and culture studies are also getting popular in South Korea. It is called ‘a blow of Chinese Wind’ in South Korea, in parallel with the Chinese saying “the flow of South Korean Stream” which shows the influence of South Korean culture in China. “The setting up of CCC in Seoul meets the needs of many South Koreans to study Chinese and learn Chinese culture,” Li said. “It is also helpful for Chinese culture to be introduced to other countries in the world, including South Korea.” China has set up two CCs in Mauritius and Benin in 1980s and another three in France, Egypt and Malta during the past three years. Around 100,000 people attended activities held by CCs in these five countries in 2004, according to a Press release from Chinese Culture Ministry.

Trade Mark will be dealt with.

The (28) Apartments and Assets of the Myanmar Associates Ltd will be sold in one Lot by Myanmar Associates Ltd. No.41, Nawady Street, Dagon Township, Yangon. Phone No. (0951) 243605, (0951) 541495. The Tender is open to the conditions of the Tender and make bids for the following -

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2004 a banner year against drugs and crime

MANILA, 30 Dec — The Philippine national police has named 2004 a banner year in the country’s anti-drugs and crime campaign, local media reported on Wednesday.

Philippine National Police (PNP) Chief Director-General Edgar Aglipay said in his year-end report that the PNP’s anti-drug campaign led to the arrest of 23,194 financiers, pushers and users and the filing in court of 16,385 cases.

A total of 15 shabu laboratories and warehouses were also dismantled, he said.

According to the police, the total value of seized drugs for this year alone increased by 215 per cent from 3.7 billion pesos (66.07 million US dollars) from January to November 2003 to 11.7 billion pesos (208.93 million dollars) during the same period this year.

Police Deputy Director-General Ricardo F de Leon, commander of the PNP anti-illegal Drugs Special Operations Task Force (AIDSOTF), also vowed to relentlessly continue the anti-drug campaign with integration of all anti-drug operations nationwide to facilitate better coordination and timely exchange of information.

“We are also looking at our own backyard, to cleanse our ranks of drug users, coddlers and protectors,” de Leon stressed.

The PNP chief noted that kidnap-for-ransom incidents, bank vehicle robberies, car theft and petty street crimes also registered a remarkable decrease this year. He also called attention to the arrest of 119 of the country’s most wanted persons.

China to continue boosting agriculture in 2005

BEIJING, 30 Dec — China’s central authorities pledged to continue agriculture-friendly policies, to stabilize upward trends in grain production and to increase farmers’ income in 2005 at a central working conference on agriculture in Beijing over the last two days and attended by Vice-Premier Hui Liangu.

At the meeting, participants discussed the draft of a resolution on agricultural issues by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and the State Council.

The meeting concluded that in 2004, China maintained positive trends in economic and social development and made remarkable progress in agricultural and rural development.

This year, China experienced increased grain production, a relatively fast growth in farmers’ income and big strides in rural reforms.

China should analyze and recognize its rural situation in an overall and accurate way, as there are both achievements and problems. The year 2005 is of great importance for the country to accomplish the tasks for the tenth Five-Year Plan (2001-2005) for National Economy and Social Progress, according to the participants.

In the new year, the government should further reduce agricultural taxes, increase financial subsidies to farmers, invest more money in rural infrastructure and increase financial assistance to main grain-production counties,” the participants agreed.

New gunship successful in first flight in Jiangxi Province

NANCHANG, 28 Dec — The armed-type Zhi-11, a new type of China-made gunship, made its first flight successfully in Jindezhen City, Jiangxi Province, East China, Monday, marking a latest progress for China’s efforts to upgrade its gunship products.

The first flight was conducted at the Luneng Airstrip, which is located in Jindezhen, where the Changhe Aircraft Industry Group, a major gunship manufacturer in the country, is located.

The armed-type Zhi-11 is a light-type gunship and it has been independently developed by Chinese on the basis of the Zhi-11 series of helicopter, according to company sources.

The Zhi-11 family, which passed official appraisal in December 2000 and entered into batch production since then, has been well sold at home and abroad. Early this year, the company began studying the armed type of Zhi-11 helicopter.

Wang Bin, chairman of the board and general manager, addressed the first-test-flight ceremony, pledging that his company will continue the efforts to improve the internal and outer quality of their products.

SAARC summit not be affected by earthquake

DHAKA, 28 Dec — There is no possibility of derailing the upcoming South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) summit scheduled for January 9-11, 2005, despite Sunday’s earthquake that left a colossal loss of life and property in some member countries.

According to the private news agency United News of Bangladesh, the SAARC summit will be held on schedule, since Bangladesh Government has not received any request from any affected country like Sri Lanka or Maldives to defer the dates, said Foreign Secretary Shamsurer Mobin Chowdhury on Monday.

Chowdhury further said preparations are in full swing to host the summit on schedule, adding high commissioners representing SAARC countries here have expressed their satisfaction over the preparations.

China willing to strengthen military ties with India

BEIJING, 29 Dec — China on Monday expressed willingness to further strengthen its bilateral military ties with New Delhi in line with the development of Sino-Indian relations in other fields.

Welcoming Indian Chief of Army Staff General N C Vij, Deputy Chief of Staff of Chinese People’s Liberation Army, General Xiong Guangkai, described his visit as “a big event for the militaries of our two countries” and said China was willing to make concerted efforts to promote cooperation between the two armies.

The two sides exchanged views on the international and regional situation, bilateral relations and armies, Xinhua news agency reported. Xiong said Chinese and Indian armies, with constant development in bilateral ties, had further strengthened their relations, and the Chinese side would continue to enhance relations with the Indian Army in line with the consensus reached by leaders of the two countries.

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Olympiacos maintain top spot in Greek 1st Division

ATHENS, 30 Dec — Despite the absence on holiday of Brazilian midfielder Rivaldo, Olympiakos Piraeus eased to a 3-0 win against Kerkyra on Wednesday to maintain top spot in the Greek First Division.

Olympiakos, who have 30 points after 13 matches, hold a one-point lead over champions Panathinaikos, who came from behind to beat PAOK Salonica 2-1 at home.

AEK Athens, 3-2 winners at Ionikos, are third with 27 points.

With Rivaldo enjoying an extended Christmas break at home in Brazil, Olympiakos were rarely troubled by struggling Kerkyra.

The hosts took the lead after just 14 minutes when Giorgos Anatolakis scrambled the ball home from close range.

Grigoris Geogiatos added a second in the 29th minute with a superb long-range volley and Giovanni provided the third in the second half with his eighth goal of the season.

After Ionikos had levelled, Alessandro Soares put AEK ahead with his eighth goal of the season. After Ionikos had levelled, Alessandro Soares put AEK ahead with his eighth goal of the season. After Ionikos had levelled, Alessandro Soares put AEK ahead with his eighth goal of the season. After Ionikos had levelled, Alessandro Soares put AEK ahead with his eighth goal of the season. After Ionikos had levelled, Alessandro Soares put AEK ahead with his eighth goal of the season. After Ionikos had levelled, Alessandro Soares put AEK ahead with his eighth goal of the season. After Ionikos had levelled, Alessandro Soares put AEK ahead with his eighth goal of the season. After Ionikos had levelled, Alessandro Soares put AEK ahead with his eighth goal of the season.

Shevchenko voted top player in former Soviet Union

MOSCOW, 30 Dec — Andriy Shevchenko, named European Player of the Year this month, has been voted the top player in the former Soviet Union in a poll conducted by Russian daily Sport-Express.

The newspaper said on Wednesday that the Ukraine and AC Milan striker was the unanimous choice among sports journalists in the 15 countries of the former Soviet Union. Shevchenko was also shortlisted for the World Player of the Year award by world governing body FIFA this month.

The 28-year-old was the top scorer in Serie A last season helping Milan to the Italian title in 2004 and the Champions League crown the previous year.

He also put his national side on the brink of reaching their first major finals. He scored four goals in Europe’s 2-0 victory over Russia in the World Cup in South Africa.

Unbeaten Ukraine lead European Group Two with 11 points from five matches after crushing 2002 World Cup semifinalists Turkey 3-0 in Istanbul last month.

Vieira gives Arsenal 1-0 win at Newcastle

LONDON, 30 Dec — English Premier League champions Arsenal won 1-0 at Newcastle United on Wednesday through a superbly struck volley by skipper Patrick Vieira to keep the pressure on leaders Chelsea.

Chelsea won 2-0 at Portsmouth on Tuesday to go eight points clear with 49 points from 20 matches. Arsenal reduced the gap to five points taking their tally to 44 points from 20 games. Manchester United, who won 1-0 at Aston Villa on Tuesday, are third on 40 points from 20 matches. Everton lay 2-0 losers at Charlton, also on 40 points in fourth place. Arsenal wrapped up their third successive league win with Vieira scoring in stoppage time at the end of the first half after reacting first to a loose, bouncing ball.

His 20-metre volley which took a slight deflection, gave goalkeeper Shay Given no chance in the United goal and despite some spirited attacks, Newcastle failed to score and have now gone six games without a league win.

"It was a fantastic team performance" Vieira told Sky Sports News. "If we keep playing like that and get results like that we will be there or thereabouts at the end of the season."

On Tuesday Chelsea required late goals from Dutchman Arjen Robben and Joe Cole to earn a 2-0 win at Portsmouth while resurgent Manchester United beat Aston Villa 1-0 to register their seventh win in eight league games and move to third.

Middlesbrough beat Norwich City 2-0 with goals from Cameron Crowe and Joseph Desire Job to stay fifth on 35 points, one ahead of Liverpool, who edged Southampton 1-0 with a winner from French forward Florent Sinama-Pongolle.

Everton suffered their first league defeat for nearly two months in a pulsating final eight minutes at Charlton, conceding two goals and having Scottish striker Duncan Ferguson sent off.

Birmingham City won 3-2 at Fullham and Blackburn Rovers moved further away from the drop zone with a 1-0 win at struggling Bolton Wanderers, who have now lost six on the trot.

Tottenham Hotspur were denied a sixth consecutive league win by Andrew Johnson in a 1-1 draw with Crystal Palace, while an 85th-minute own goal by Manchester City defender Richard Dunne cost them a 1-1 draw with 10-man West Bromwich Albion.

Rooney charged with improper conduct

LONDON, 30 Dec — Manchester United striker Wayne Rooney was charged with violent conduct on Wednesday following his clash with Bolton Wanderers defender Tal Ben Haim during Sunday's Premier League match at Old Trafford.

The English Football Association said on its official website that Israeli Ben Haim had also been charged with improper conduct over the incident.

Television pictures showed 19-year-old England international Rooney pushing his hand into Ben Haim's face in the first half of United's 2-0 win although the incident was missed by the referee.

United manager Alex Ferguson later criticized Rooney. "I was a bit embarrassed when I over-reacted by falling to the ground in apparent agony after then incident."

Under the FA's new disciplinary system Rooney has until 1700 GMT on Thursday to respond to the charge.

Dynamo Moscow midfielder voted top player in nationwide poll

MINSK, 30 Dec — Dynamo Moscow midfielder Maxim Romashchenko has been voted Belarus' top player in a nationwide poll of the country's soccer experts conducted by the sports daily Pressbol. The 28-year-old was the national team's top scorer this year with four goals in Belarus' three 2006 World Cup qualifiers.

His goals, including a double in a 4-3 away defeat by Italy in October, helped put the former Soviet state in contention to qualify for their first major finals. VfB Stuttgart midfielder Alexander Glob, who won the award for the last two years, finished second while Lokomotiv Moscow defender Sergei Gurkenko, the 1999 winner, was third.

Central Connecticut State's DeMario Anderson (11) goes up for a rebound against Charlotte players, including Justin Martin (11), second from bottom, and Mitchell Baldwin (20), during the first half of the championship match of the Cable Car Classic in Santa Clara, Calif, on 29 Dec, 2004.—INTERNET

MNA/Reuters

Olympic swimming champion Laure Manaudou has been named as France's sports personality of the year by L'Equipe newspaper.

MNA/Reuters
**Upholding of Main ...**

(from page 6)

**Our Three ...**

and Langkhio District USDA Joint-Secretary U Sai Kyaw Htay participated in the discussions.

Daw Win Win Nu, Chairperson of Shan State (South) Supervisory Committee for MCWA wife of Commander of Eastern Command Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint, Chairperson of Shan State (South) Women’s Affairs Committee Daw Mya Mya Lwin and Secretary of Shan State (South) Supervisory Committee.

USDA members saluting Union Flag at Shan State (South) USDA Meeting in Taunggyi.—MNA.

**Assistance provided for ...**

(from page 5)

They also inspected Township hospital and the basic education high school and provided medicines and medical equipment for the hospital and teaching and learning aids to the school.

Member of the Panel of Patrons of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Maj-Gen Myint Swe, USDA Secretary-General Maj-Gen Htay Oo and CEC Member Maj-Gen Thein Swe met local USDA members and elaborated on regional development undertakings. Maj-Gen Myint Swe presented 70 bags of cement and K 150,000 for installation of a satellite disc antenna.

The Commander-in-Chief (Navy), the Yangon Command Commander and the Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation briefed those present on the plans for regional progress and carrying out the five rural development tasks in line with the guidance of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe.—MNA.

**Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Rear-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe and ministers inspect Cocogyun Township Hospital.—MNA.**

**Control of Money Laundering Law & Rules Book appears**

YANGON, 30 Dec—Book on “The Control of Money Laundering Law and Rules” published by the office of the Attorney-General came out this month.

The copies cost K 800 each and are available at the book shop of the Office of the Attorney-General, Irwa Book Shop and book shop of News and Periodicals Enterprise.

MNA

**WEATHER**

Thursday, 30 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 (5 °C) to (6 °C) below normal in Chin and Eastern Shan States, Magway and Bago Divisions, (3 °C) to (4 °C) below normal in Kachin State, upper Sagaing and Mandalay, Taninhtayi Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were (0 °C) in Loilin, (3 °C) in Panlon, (4 °C) each in Putao and PymDo,win.

Maximum temperature on 29-12-2004 was 92°F. Minimum temperature on 30-12-2004 was 58°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 30-12-2004 was 82%. Total sunshine hours on 29-12-2004 was (8.3) hours approx. Rainfalls on 30-12-2004 were nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2004 were 112.28 inches at Yangon Airport, 106.77 inches at Kaba-Aye and 109.68 inches at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 5 mph from West at (15:30) hours MST on 29-12-2004.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 31-12-2004: Weather will be partly cloudy in Kachin State, Yangon and Taninhtayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. State of the sea: Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters.

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

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 31-12-2004: Fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 31-12-2004: Fair weather.

**Earthquake Report**

(Issued at 10:00 hours MST on today)

An earthquake of moderate intensity (5.1) Richter Scale with its epicenter inside of Myanmar about (179) miles North of Kaba-Aye seismological observatory was recorded at (07) hrs (40) min (22) sec MST on 30th December 2004. MMA.

R 489 Published by the News and Periodicals Enterprise, Ministry of Information, Union of Myanmar. Edited and printed at The New Light of Myanmar Press, No 22/30 Strand Road at 43rd Street, Yangon. Cable Newlight, PO Box No. 43, Telephones: Editors 296115, Manager 296864, Circulation 297093, Advertisement 296843, Accounts 296545, Administration 296161, Production 297032 (Office) /297028 (Press).
Four political objectives
- Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order
- National reconsolidation
- Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
- Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

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

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

Development of energy sector urged
Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win tours Magway Division

YANGON, 30 Dec — Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win together with member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint, ministers, deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and departmental heads, arrived at Magway on 28 December morning.

The Prime Minister and party were welcomed at Magway Airport by Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint, Commander of No 88 Light Infantry Division Brig-Gen. The Prime Minister and party then proceeded to visit Magway Division Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads of the Ministry of Information, members of the panel of judges of Myanmar Motion Picture Promotion and Scrutinizing Board, officials of the Film and Video censor boards, and departmental heads of the Ministry of Information.

Myanmar Motion Picture Award Winners honoured

YANGON, 30 Dec — Families of Myanmar Motion Picture Award winners for 2003 at its building on Wingaba Street, Bahan Township, this evening.

Present on the occasion were Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, ministers, the Yangon Mayor, deputy ministers, senior military officers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads of the Ministry of Information, members of the panel of judges of Myanmar Motion Picture Promotion and Scrutinizing Board, officials of the Film and Video censor boards, and departmental heads of the Ministry of Information.

Reminder about possible earthquake

YANGON, 30 Dec — It has been reported in the newspapers since 27 December that no country in the world can predict the earthquakes.

However, in response to a foreign media which aired recently that Indian Government had warned its people in the coastal regions to take precautionary measures against possible dangers of tidal waves triggered by the earthquake, Myanmar people stayed in the fields like football grounds, leaving their homes, considering the possible after-shocks of the earthquakes.

Respective experts have therefore advised the people that staying at home is safer.