Document the victories of the Tatmadaw, State service personnel and the entire national races

We will have to document with honour the victories achieved through the harmonious endeavours of the Tatmadaw members, who have restored and safeguarded the independence and who are the offspring of the national people, the State service personnel and the entire national races.

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

Senior General Than Shwe sends felicitations to Republic of Cuba

YANGON, 1 Jan — Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Dr Fidel Castro Ruz, President of the Council of State and of the Government of the Republic of Cuba on the occasion of the Anniversary of the Liberation Day of the Republic of Cuba which falls on 1 January 2005. — MNA

Senior General Than Shwe takes the salute of cadet companies of Defence Services Medical Academy.— MNA

Health, fitness essential requirements for national defence
Conduct joint research on military, medical sciences to discharge duties well in sophisticated future wars

Excerpts from Senior General’s address

* Health is the most basic requirement for development of a human society, because it contributes to enhancing the intellectual level of human beings.
* Generation-by-generation improvement of health, fitness and education standard is a priority task you will have to carry out.
* Biological weapons are being used as a secret weapon of war with the intention of totally wiping out a race from the earth or intimidating the people.

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
PERSPECTIVES
Saturday, 1 January, 2005

Strive with New Year vigour for national development

Now is the auspicious time when the old year, 2004, is out and the new year, 2005, is in. At the auspicious time, progress has been made in political, economic and social sectors of the State. The seven-point Road Map has been laid down and is being implemented for the emergence of a peaceful, modern, developed democratic nation.

Nowadays, the entire national people are making concerted efforts under the leadership of the government for the nation to stand tall among the world nations. In the process, priority is being given to development of border areas and national races.

Central Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races held its meeting No 2/2004 at the Commander-in-Chief (Army)’s Office on 30 December 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.

In his address, Senior General Than Shwe stressed the need for the officials concerned to employ the correct means with righteous attitude in striving for development of border areas and national races, adding that concerted efforts are to be made to ensure that tomorrow’s success of border area development tasks is far greater than today's.

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. Hence, unprecedented progress has been made.

Necessary steps are being taken for ensuring the emergence of an industrialised nation with development of agriculture as the base. With this in view, altogether 169 dams and reservoirs have already been built.

Meanwhile, projects to generate electricity through hydel power stations and to exploit oil and gas, which are of first and foremost importance for national development, have been laid and are being implemented. Political, economic and social sectors also are now making progress based on the national forces.

Relentless efforts are to be made since normal efforts are not enough for the nation to stand shoulder to shoulder with nations of the world.

Based on the good foundations in political, economic and social sectors, the entire national people are urged to strive for development of various sectors under the leadership of the government with renewed vigour in the New Year.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than on inspection tour of Bago Division

YANGON, 31 Dec—Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence, together with Chairman of Bago Division PDC Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ko Ko, senior military officers and departmental heads, attended the handing over of the newly-constructed building in conjunction with the opening of the multimedia classrooms at Indawgaw Basic Education High School in Bago Township on 28 December.

The headmistress and the chairman of the school board of trustees U Khin Soe formally opened the building. Commander Maj-Gen Ko Ko pressed the button to unveil the signboard of the multimedia classrooms.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than viewed the computer application & e-mail room, computer aided instruction room, Electronic Media Language Lab, Electronic Media Video System room, Printed Media Reading Corner, domestic science room, arts room, drawing room and the new school building.

The handing over of the new school building and the presenting of cash and pedagogical aids to the school followed.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than presented a 29-inch colour TV and a DVD set; Maj-Gen Ko Ko, an IBM computer donated by Bago Division PDC; No 1 Basic Education Department Deputy Director-General U Tun Kyi, a 29-inch TV and a DVD cassette; Col Than Soe of Bago Station an IBM computer and K 800,000 donated by local engineers; U Myint Lwin, K 20.3 million; wellwishers, K 2.3 million; and Indagaw Model Village USD A, K 400,000 to the school through official channels.

Member of the school board of trustees U Khin Soe handed over the related documents to Deputy Director-General U Tun Kyi.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than delivered a speech, saying that community peace and tranquility and prevalence of law and order, strong national economy, and development of human resources are the three major factors essential for building up a peaceful, modern and developed democratic nation through the State’s seven-point Road Map.

Now, the entire State is witnessing peace and stability with annual economic development. The government is pouring a huge investment into the drive for human resources development by means of opening a large number of educational institutions across the nation, he said. In conclusion, he called on the teachers to nurture the students to be reliable intellectuals and intelligentsia, and the students to work hard in the studies.

Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspected the structure for supplying water from the Ailawngi Dam via the main canal and gave instructions on timely completion of the project.

They held a meeting with rubber entrepreneurs at Indagaw Research and Proliferation Farm of the Myanma Perennial Crops Enterprise under the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation. Speaking on the occasion, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than called for the growing of rubber on all targeted areas and collective efforts for accomplishment of the rubber project in Bago Division.

They also inspected Bago River Bridge (Kawa) Project.

Cooperative sales centre opened

YANGON, 31 Dec—Kyauk Myat Trading Cooperative Society opened its Sanyapya cooperative sales centre this morning at the centre at the junction of Bo Aung Kyaw Road and Po Yaza Road in Ward 7, Hsinethaya Township attended by Minister for Cooperatives Col Zaw Min, Director-General of the Cooperative Department Col Soe Win, Chairman of Yangon Division Cooperative Syndicate U Ye Aung and Chairman of Kyauk Myat Trading Cooperative Society U Tin Aung formally opened the centre.

The minister and guests viewed the items round the centre.

It is the 17th of the cooperative sales centres opened in the townships of Yangon Division.

MNA
Singapore invites investors to submit concept plans for integrated resort

SINGAPORE, 31 Dec — After several months of hot debate, Singapore on Wednesday invited potential investors to submit their concept plans to build the country’s first-ever integrated resort.

According to a joint statement by the Ministry of Trade and Industry and Ministry of Community Development, potential investors will have up to end February to submit their concepts, and a formal request for proposals will be called only if the concepts received are compelling.

The Singapore Government is now considering the development of an integrated resort to broaden its leisure and entertainment options to enhance the island state’s reputation as a premium “must-visit” destination for leisure and business visitors, said the statement.

The integrated resort will be an iconic lifestyle development with a comprehensive range of world-class amenities which may include hotels, convention facilities, retail and dining, entertainment shows, themed attractions and a casino.

To address possible gambling problems and to protect the community from the negative impact of gambling, the government will unveil a list of minimum social safeguards, which include a minimum age limit of 21 years old for patrons and resort employees, as well as levies for Singaporeans and residents who wish to gamble.

MNA/Xinhua

1,327 US troops killed since beginning of Iraq war

WASHINGTON, 30 Dec—As of Thursday, 30 December, 2004, at least 1,327 members of the US military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,042 died as a result of hostile action, the Defense Department said. The figures include three military civilians, and Latvia one death each.

Since 1 May, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,189 US military members have died, according to AP’s count. That includes at least 933 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military’s numbers.

19 die in eastern Indian state of Bihar cold wave

NEW DELHI, 30 Dec—Nineteen people have died in a cold wave sweeping eastern Indian state of Bihar, the Indo-Asian News Service reported Tuesday.

The deaths had been reported in the 48 hours to Tuesday morning from Vaishali, Samastipur, Muzaffarpur, Saratama, Bettiah, Gopalganj and Madhubani districts.

There have also been reports of deaths in Gaya, Patna, Nawada and Aurangabad districts but exact figures were not immediately available.

The local meteorological office said Gaya was the coldest place in the state, with the mercury dipping to 4.6 degrees Celsius Monday, Patna recorded 6.5 degrees Celsius.

“The mercury will go down further in next two days,” said TN Jha, director of the met office in state capital Patna.

Normal life was affected by the biting cold and icy winds sweeping the state for the last three days. The cold weather has led to a dense fog that has reduced visibility and paralyzed road, rail and air traffic.

The relief and rehabilitation department has directed the district administration to use public buildings for sheltering the poor and homeless at night.

A cold wave in Bihar two years ago claimed over 350 lives.

MNA/Xinhua

China begins second phase of building world’s third largest library

BEIJING, 30 Dec—China started the second phase of construction of its National Library in Beijing Tuesday, which will make the library the third largest in the world with a total floor space of 250,000 square metres.

The phase-two project on the north of the existing library involves a total investment of 1.24 billion yuan (about 150 million US dollars) from the state. It will have eight stories above the ground and three underground, with a total area of 79,899 square metres.

The project will increase the library’s accommodation capacity by 8,000 people a day, according to Ren Jiyu, curator of the National Library.

MNA/Xinhua

Violence against Iraq troops takes toll

WASHINGTON, 30 Dec—Key measures of the level of guerilla violence against American forces in Iraq, numbers of dead, wounded and guerilla attacks, show the situation has gotten worse since the summer.

While those numbers don’t tell the full story of the conflict in Iraq, they suggest insurgents are growing more proficient, even as the size of the US force increases and US commanders succeed in soliciting more help from ordinary Iraqis.

The US military suffered at least 348 deaths in Iraq over the final four months of the year, more than in any other similar period since the invasion in March 2003. The number of wounded surpassed 10,000, with more than a quarter injured in the last four months as direct combat, roadside bombs and suicide attacks escalated. When President Bush declared on 1 May, 2003, that major combat operations were over, the number wounded stood at just 542.

The number of attacks on US and allied troops grew from an estimated 1,400 attacks in September to 1,600 in October and 1,950 in November. A year earlier, the attacks numbered 649 in September, 896 in October and 864 in November.

US commanders insist they are making progress, in part by taking the fight more directly to the guerrillas. Some observers are more doubtful. “The prospects in Iraq are grim,” Dan Goure, an analyst at the private Lexington Institute think tank in Washington, said Thursday. He assessed the conflict as a standoff, with no clear indication that either side will achieve victory in the coming year.—Internet

MNA/Xinhua

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 28 Dec, 2004.—INTERNET

Beijing's first medical waste disposal facility begins operation

BEIJING, 30 Dec—The first medical waste disposal facility began operation early this week in the capital city’s suburban Daxing District, municipal government sources said on Thursday.

The Nangong Medical Waste Disposal Plant, which cost 10 million yuan (about 1.2 million US dollars), will be able to dispose of 15 of the 41 tons of medical wastes the city produces each day.

Ten airight vehicles began transporting medical wastes from more than 200 hospitals to the plant for incineration.

The plant is one of two planned by the city following the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) outbreak last year. The second will be in Chaoyang District.

Vice Mayor Ji Lin said the plant will have a daily disposal capacity of 30 tons after its second phase completes next year. The city also plans to build the Gaotaiqiong disposal plant next year with a designed disposal capacity of 30 tons.

Ji said the two plants will be able to treat all the medical wastes produced by more than 7,000 medical institutions in the city.—MNA/Xinhua
China's highways, waterways transported 16.5b passengers in 2004
BEIJING, 29 Dec— China's highways and waterways transported 16.5 billion passengers in 2004, according to the figures released by Ministry of Communications here on Monday.

Highways transported 16.3 billion and waterways 180 million, a year-on-year increase of 11.3 per cent and 7 per cent respectively.
The freight that highways and waterways transported is 12.2 billion tons and 1.8 billion tons, up 5.6 per cent and 13.8 per cent respectively.
Main ports transported 340 million tons of coal and 110 million tons of crude oil, up 17 per cent and 37 per cent.

Investment in transportation infrastructure constructions reached 500 billion yuan (60 billion US dollars), up 21.2 per cent compared with 2003.

India’s sunshine state Nagapattinam, some 350 km south of Madras recently. India’s sunshine state Goa on the western coast escaped damage and officials there dare hope the tidal wave could benefit the local tourism industry.—INTERNET

Guerillas deliver fatal hits in Iraq
BAGHDAD, 29 Dec— Guerillas killed 19 police officers and at least six other Iraqis on Tuesday in multiple attacks ranging from car bombs to assassinations to the storming of a police station.

Most of the violence occurred north of Baghdad in or near Mosul, Samarra and Baqouba. Those Sunni-dominated communities continue to suffer deadly guerilla attacks despite tougher and more frequent sweeps and raids by US and Iraqi forces. The worst incident occurred between Tikrit and Samarra. Guerillas swarmed into a police station, lined up 12 officers, executed them and then blew up the stationhouse, according to police and military officials.

Iraqi government officials and their American backers say the guerillas’ goal is to disrupt national elections scheduled for Jan 30 and spawn conflicts among Iraqis as a prelude to police and military officials.

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The six crew members from the Freighter died when the helicopter crashed into the Bering Sea in stormy weather shortly before the ship was grounded and broke in half, spilling some of its fuel.

Two Lebanese kidnapped in Iraq
BAGHDAD, 30 Dec— Armed men burst into a house in the upscale Baghdad neighbourhood of Mansour overnight and seized two Lebanese businessmen, police said.

Several foreigners have been snatched in Baghdad in recent months.

In September two Americans and a Briton were kidnapped from their house in Mansour and later beheaded by militants loyal to al-Qaeda ally Abu Musab al-Zarqawi.

British-born aid worker Margaret Hassan, seized in the capital in October, was also later killed. But a Polish woman abducted in Baghdad was freed unharmed last month.

Police say many kidnappings in Baghdad are carried out by criminal gangs seeking a ransom, while others are the work of militants trying to drive US-led forces out of Iraq.

Blair urged to fight global poverty
LONDON, 29 Dec— More than 100 charities, trade unions and campaign groups have joined forces to urge British Prime Minister Tony Blair to fight poverty around the world, the BBC reported on Tuesday.

The groups supporting the campaign said Britain, which is due to hold the rotating G-8 presidency in the coming new year, has done little to stop unfair and undemocratic policies being imposed on poor countries, the report said.

“We know what the problems are, but until now, there has not been the political will to do something about them,” Steve Tibbett from Action Aid said.

The black box was found Tuesday near the freighter wreckage by divers, said Petty Officer Sara Francis. The box and its data will be given to the National Transportation Safety Board, which is investigating the crash.

Philippine Govt allocates money to upgrade weather forecast system
MANILA, 29 Dec— The Philippine Government has allocated 17 million pesos (300,000 US dollars) to upgrade the country’s weather forecasting system, a local newspaper reported on Wednesday.

Defence Secretary Avelino Cruz told Philippine Daily Inquirer that the money from the Department of Science and Technology will be used to link the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) to forecasting centers in Hawaii, China, and Japan.

An information drive would also be launched in coastal communities on what to do in case of either a tsunami or tidal wave warning, Cruz said.

Social Welfare and Development Secretary Corazon Soliman said that her department was coordinating with the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) for the completion of geohazard maps for each region.

An 8.7-magnitude earthquake, followed by gigantic tidal waves Sunday hit several Southeast and Southern Asian countries, including Thailand, Sri Lanka, India, Indonesia, leaving at least 60,000 dead and thousands missing so far.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo earlier said that it was necessary to modernize the country’s forecasting system and link it with international warning networks to avert a repeat of Sunday’s tragedy.

Data recorder recovered from helicopter crash off Alaska
ANCHORAGE (Alaska), 29 Dec— The “black box” data recorder from a Coast Guard rescue helicopter that crashed, killing six people, was recovered as work got under way to remove fuel from a freighter that ran aroind three weeks ago off Alaska’s coast.

The black box was found Tuesday near the freighter wreckage by divers, said Petty Officer Sara Francis. The box and its data will be given to the National Transportation Safety Board, which is investigating the crash.
USDA in cooperation with people making continuous efforts in nation-building tasks under auspices of government

USDA Public Relations and Knowledge Management Course concludes

YANGON, 31 Dec — The Public Relations and Knowledge Management Course No 3, conducted by the Union Solidarity and Development Association, concluded at Pyidaungsu Hall of the USDA Central Training School in Hmawby Township here this morning, with a closing speech delivered by USDA Secretary-General Maj-Gen Hay Ht. It was attended by USDA’s Central Executive Committee members and officials, and others.

In his speech, USDA Secretary-General Maj-Gen Ht said the Association was founded with correct objectives, principles, pledges and responsibilities. It came into existence with the participation of those who will shape a peaceful, developed and modern nation and who will discharge national duties, of those who will strengthen national consolidation, of those who will ensure enforcement of law and regional stability, and of new generation youths who will uplift national prestige.

Now, the Association is playing an active role in the successful implementation of the political, economic and social objectives under the correct leadership of the government while upholding our three main national causes. The Association is striving with added momentum in its management, organizational, economic and training tasks in the interest of the entire people. Now, the membership has swollen as the Association is able to instil its correct stance, objectives and work programmes in the public and has won their trust.

In this context, the Association is doing everything it can to increase the membership and to polish the abilities and skills of its members. The course, which has now concluded, is also included in these measures.

USDA Patron Senior General Than Shwe, in his guidance given at the closing of the Advanced Management Course No 6 for USDA Executives, said there are two parts in developing the skills of the members. It is necessary in the first place to instil in them the love of Myanmar human society, national economy and social and cultural values, and the rule of law. Secondly, it is also necessary to arouse their love of the motherland, national character and responsibility, patriotism and Union Spirit, and the desire to defend and develop the country.

The Association in cooperation with the people are making continuous efforts in nation-building tasks under the auspices of the government. Yet, internal and external distractions in calcots with foreign media are inventing fabricated news. Taking advantage of the technological gap, the neo-colonialists are trying to hold sway over developing countries politically, socially, economically and culturally. Groundless news made some people blur to an extent that they cannot distinguish between right and wrong. This being the case, USDA members are to arm themselves with strong belief, determination and resolution. With strong belief comes firm determination. Therefore, USDA members are to harden their belief and determination.

Furthermore, USDA members are to lend themselves to public welfare tasks and try to win the adulation and trust of the people. It is therefore necessary for USDA members to consolidate themselves as a national force. With the development momentum and the opportune time in hand, USDA members are to work hard actively in the interests of the people and the country.

Next, USDA Secretary-General Maj-Gen Hay Oo cordially met with the trainees. A total of 200 the trainees attended the Public Relations and Knowledge Management Course, which lasted one month.
USDA implementing five ... discussed in accord with the seven objectives laid down by the USDA Annual General Meeting 2004. Representatives from various regions participated in the plenary discussions of respective groups and could lay down nine future tasks.

He noted that over 70 per cent population of the State are residing in the rural areas. Thus, the association has laid down and is implementing five rural development tasks with momentum so as to narrow the gap between rural and urban areas. Patron of USDA Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe very often gave guidance on progress of peace, tranquility and security and development of the country due to realizing the national solidarity which plays the most important role in development of the State.

He asserted the guidance of Senior General Than Shwe that the national solidarity must be safeguarded to have its further strengthening to be able to enhance socio-economy of the State and the people, and harmonious efforts with Union Spirit are to be made for achieving success of the seven-point Road Map of the State. In conclusion, he stressed the need to guard against internal and external destructive elements while taking measures of the national solidarity, peace and stability and sectoral development with momentum which are basic needs for building a democratic nation.

Next, Taninthayi Division USDA Executive U Nay Myo tabled a motion calling for implementation of the seven objectives of the USDA AGM 2004 with full vigour. The motion was seconded by Taninthayi Division USDA Executive U Aung Min and is implementing five future tasks laid down by the USDA.

The prize presentation ceremony followed. Chairperson of Taninthayi Division Supervisory Committee for MCWA Daw Nu Nu Swe, Chairperson of Taninthayi Division Organization Maj Soe Lwin (Retd) and Taninthayi Division USDA Executive U Hla Aye participated in the discussions.

Loss of lives, property in recent earthquakes

YANGON, 31 Dec—Some coastal regions in Myanmar suffered loss of lives and property owing to the aftershocks in the earthquakes that occurred on 26 December with their epicentres in the Adaman Sea.

According to the latest figures collected, the earthquakes claimed 53 lives, leaving 43 injured, while 21 are reported missing. It also destroyed 17 villages and 778 people of 138 households left homeless. It is reported that Ayeyawady Division is the hardest hit.

Slight damage in Cocogyun

As shown by the data, Cocogyun Township was hit only slightly. However, some foreign news agencies estimated that the damage to the region sharing border with the Bay of Bengal might be heavy.

It has been reported in the newspapers, radio and TV that authorities concerned visited there yesterday to see the ongoing regional development tasks. Local people were doing their businesses as before and the township remained calm.

Normal at Ngwehsang, Chaungtha

Similarly, officials made inspection tours of Ngwehsang and Chaungtha beach resorts yesterday and today and provided assistance for development of hotel and tourism industry. It is also reported that the beach resorts were thronged with vacationers including tourists and everything was going well.

Independence Day objectives

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

All national people to unyieldingly strive with might and main for emergence of an existing State Constitution and for building new modern, developed nation

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

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

We, all of us union nationals will get-together and implement the 57th Anniversary Independence Day national objectives.

Independence Chronicle

* This summer, rain and cold, the past
With different reasons, with different season
About Myanmar nation, should not be forgotten
Hence I want to recall.

* In summer’s Tabauung, old leaf Fascist
Dirty colonialist, with patriotic force
Were driven out, yearly this day
Twenty Seventh, at start of summer
This month of March
Has been chronicled for remembrance

* In January on the Fourth
Was the cold season, when dew drops face
Auspicious day, flower of Independence
Bloomed anew, there was rejoicing
At that time, applause sounded
With shouts of joy, was left behind
Summer’s Tabauung, looking forward to good day
Don’t forget, the summer and rain
With new strength, cultivated anew
Flower of Independence, not wither
Its our duty, always forever
Always vigilant
Independence will remain chronicled.

Tekkatho Tin Kha (Tsa)
Development in media coverage of the Ministry of Information

Hailing the 57th Anniversary Independence Day

Progress made in the public relations sector

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<th>Subject</th>
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<td>(c) The New Light of Myanmar</td>
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<td>(g) Sittway</td>
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The opening of self-reliant library on 21 November, 2004 in Panya village, Madaya Township, Mandalay Division.

TV retransmission station in Kongyan, Shan State (North).

Sub-printing house in Myitkyina was opened on 24 March, 2003.
Safeguard independence, build modern nation with unity

Kyaw Zin Nyunt (Advocate)

Myanmar regained independence on 4 January 1948, thanks to the struggle of the nationalities who had faced oppression, torture and exploitation for over 100 years under the colonialist rule. Independence will reach the age of 57 years on 4 January 2005.

So, a 58-year old Myanmar had lived for a year under the colonialist subjugation. People in their seventies and eighties might be the persons who had taken part in the independence struggle as students or youths; and they might have been the persons who had a considerable role in safeguarding the independence in their prime age.

As the colonialists grabbed Rakhine and Taninthayi in 1824, and the Fascists ruled the nation for three years, the national races were able to achieve despite the colonialist attempts to divide them, and with that unity they were able to regain independence.

The colonialists got the idea of dividing Myanmar, as they had seen the unity of Myanmar people, who without anyone’s urging and invitation, armed themselves with any available weapon, and launched historic battles against them in hill regions as well as in the plains the length and breadth of the Union.

The struggle signifies the nationalities’ spirit of never tolerating any form of foreign intrusion into their land.

With their own volition and nationalistic fervour, and their love for the country and race, Myanmar patriots and their leaders in the entire nation fought back the intruders in every part of the Union.

Thus, the colonialists were worried that if the unity of nationalities was left unattended, the Myanmar freedom fighters would soon organize themselves into a consolidated and fearful force to drive them out of the country.

In their records, the colonialists marveled at the courage and military skills of the Myanmar freedom fighters.

The colonialists tried to organize Chin leaders with official positions, and frighten them with powerful guns. But the Chin leaders shook their head and returned to their bases.

Bo Myat Tun, a freedom fighter in the Ayeyawady delta, launched brave struggles against the occupiers, and never yielded to any enticement and coercion of the colonialists.

The colonialists tried to organize Chin leaders with official positions, and frighten them with powerful guns. But the Chin leaders shook their head and returned to their bases.

Bo Myat Tun, a freedom fighter in the Ayeyawady delta, launched brave struggles against the occupiers, and never yielded to any enticement and coercion of the colonialists. Once, the British governor of India wrote a letter to British military officers in the battle field, saying that Bo Myat Tun was not one of the court officials; that he was a hero fighting back the British forces of his own volition and with courage; that if the British captured him or any one of his family, they should not treat him as a... (See page 9)
The secretary of British colonies and the high commissioner for hill regions of Myanmar Lord Bottomley rushed to the conference to drive a wedge between the nationalities, with the proposal to give independence to the Myanmar people and keep the hill regions under the colonialist rule.

The British government officials in London were at ease, with the belief that Myanmar would not be united as they had already divided the nation for over 100 years; and that the Panglong Conference would have ended in failure.

Panglong Conference would have ended in failure. Rays of hope for liberation began to shine and the entire people were happy, when the national race leaders signed the Panglong Agreement on 12 February 1947, with the firm resolve to restore independence of the whole Union. The British government officials were shaken by the news of the agreement.

Nowadays, the united strength of the nationalities is the force for the nation-building task. Every part of the nation is developing in a peaceful environment, thanks to the ardent efforts of the 53 million people comprising over 100 national races of the Union. So, the Myanmar people are enjoying the fruits of independence.

But the evil legacy the colonialists had left behind for us was so terrible. In addition to their economic exploitation, the colonialists introduced the habit of opium addiction in Asia.

The national races are joining hands in rooting out the problem of narcotic drugs started by the colonialists, and reinforced by the Kuomintang troops under the control of the American CIA. The UN is praising Myanmar for her success in her anti-drug drive. Myanmar has declared some border regions as drug free zones.

The nation is striving to eliminate the drug problem with the implementation of alternative crop projects, and has set a target to totally free the nation from the drugs in 2014, the final year of the 15-year drug elimination plan. Myanmar people faced a lot of hardships in freeing the nation from all the consequences of the evil legacy left by the colonialists.

The attempts of the colonialists to divide the national can be seen till now. The colonialists are raising expatriates, fugitives and nation traitors to dominate Myanmar. But the perpetrators are just a handful of persons when their number is compared with the nation’s population of 53 million.

The nation is now going to celebrate the 57th Anniversary Independence Day, and I would like to urge the entire people to safeguard the nation against the neo-colonialists and to build a peaceful, modern and developed nation, with unity, while taking the lessons of history.

(Translation: TMT)

Health, fitness essential requirements for...

(from page 1)

biological weapons are being used as a secret weapon of war with the intention of totally wiping out a race from the earth or intimidating the people. Actually, health, fitness essential requirements for combat ready, as health and fitness are essential requirements for the national defence duty. Generally, military duty concerns the places where the weather is harsh and the transport is difficult, and that are prone to diseases. In this regard, you will have to train and nurture all the Tatmadawmen starting from inexperienced military personnel to have strong resistance to infection and it is the act of transforming the medical science into a lethal weapon. So, you should keep your eyes and ears open wide, while having the farsightedness and constant vigilance. The work of taking precautionary measures constantly and making preparations for an emergency situation are consistent task of the health sector.

In addition, one of the important factors of the health sector is to be free from relying on foreign countries. Thus, you will have to carry out research programmes with greater momentum to promote the traditional medicines and discover the alternative medicines.

The aim of the medical corps is to be ever healthy and fit for combat ready, as health and fitness are essential requirements for the national defence duty. Generally, military duty concerns the places where the weather is harsh and the transport is difficult, and that are prone to diseases. In this regard, you will have to train and nurture all the Tatmadawmen starting from inexperienced military personnel to have strong resistance to infection and spirit. You should have the will to constantly strive for the betterment of the Armed Forces. When the matter comes to privilege, you must always place the sacrificing spirit in the fore. You should have the ability to always ensure unity of the unit under your command; and uphold the 12 noble traditions of the Tatmadaw.

(See page 11)
**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 unite in striving hard for the 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.

**60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Objectives**

- to work in concert with the people to achieve success in implementation of the seven-point Road Map for emergence of a peaceful, modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation.
- to exert energetic efforts in carrying out the five rural development tasks.
- to strive hand in hand with the people for successful realization of the twelve State Objectives while upholding Our Three Main National Causes.
- to build a strong, efficient and modern Tatmadaw.

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**Health, fitness essential...**

(from page 10)

As you are medical practitioners, you must always preserve the dignity of the profession. You must constantly undergo military training and study medical science, especially, to conduct a joint research on both sciences to discharge your duties well in the sophisticated form of future wars.

In conclusion, I would like to urge you to strive to become a gallant soldier and efficient medical professional in accord with the motto — The victorious and gallant medical soldier, to strive to become a model soldier and a good leader winning the trust and reliance of subordinates; to preserve and safeguard the noble traditions of the Tatmadaw; and to take care of the well-being of the people at any place, regarding them as your own parents.

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**Foreign Affairs Minister felicitates Cuban counterpart**

YANGON, 1 Jan — U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cuba, on the occasion of the Anniversary of the Liberation Day of the Republic of Cuba which falls on 1 January 2005. — MNA

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**Hotel services inspected in Ngwehsaung, Chaungtha beaches**

YANGON, 31 Dec — Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Thein Zaw inspected arrangements, for convenient stay of local and foreign visitors at Pathein Hotel in Pathein yesterday.

At Myanmar Treasure Resorts in Ngwehsaung, the minister inspected the facilities of the resort and preparations for the beach facilities.

After inspecting Ngwehsaung, the minister proceeded to Sunny Paradise Hotel and inspected it. He also made an inspection tour of hotel facilities at Palm Beach Hotel, Ngwe Zinyaw Hotel and Yuzana Hotel and met with holidaymakers.

This morning, the minister inspected decoration of Ngwehsaung Beach Hotel (Central). The minister and party proceeded to Chaungtha Beach in Shwethaungyan Town and inspected Hotel Max, Chaungtha Beach Hotel and Ayeya! Hotel.

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**Sports meets to mark 57th Anniversary Independence Day to be held**

YANGON, 31 Dec — The Subcommittee for Organizing the 57th Anniversary Independence Day Commemorative Sports Meets will hold sports meets at the Aung San Stadium, the Sports and Physical Education Institute (Kyaikkasan), the Thuwunna Cycling Training Grounds and the Youth Training Centre (Thuwunna) on 4 January 2005 (the Independence Day).

The sports events to be held at Aung San Stadium from 6 to 8.30 am include marathon, 100-metre, 400-metre, 800-metre and 1,500-metre races, long-jump, shot-put and others whereas the Myanmar Olympic Committee Chairman’s Trophy Volleyball Tournament to mark the 57th Anniversary Independence Day will be held at the same venue from 9 to 10.30 am.

From 7 to 8.30 am at the Sports and Physical Education Institute, there will be 75-metre, 100-metre, 400-metre, 800-metre and 1,500-metre races, net ball, hockey, tug of war, cycling and others. Traditional sports events will be took place at the Thuwunna Cycling Training Grounds from 7 am to 8.30 am. At the Youth Training Centre (Thuwunna), 100-metre, 400-metre, 800-metre and 1,500-metre races, tug of war, greasy pole and others will be held. The prize presentation ceremony for marathon event will be held from 8.30 am to 9 am while the prize presentation ceremony for the 36th Inter-State/Division Sports Meet will be held at 2.30 pm at the Aung San Stadium. — MNA
CIA’s deputy director for intelligence stepping down in new management

WASHINGTON, 30 Dec — The CIA’s deputy director for intelligence is stepping down in the latest high-level departure in the shake-up under the US spy agency’s new management, a US intelligence official said on Wednesday.

“I can confirm that she did notify her workforce yesterday that she’s leaving that position,” said the official who spoke on condition of anonymity. No further details were provided.

The New York Times reported on its web site that Jami Miscik was leaving that position, citing a former intelligence official.

Miscik, 54, has led the Central Intelligence Agency’s non-military operations agency since 2002, the New York Times said.

The New York Times said Miscik told subordinates in a message on Tuesday that she plans to step down on Friday. The report said a copy of the message obtained by the newspaper, Miscik described her departure as part of a “natural evolution” and that every intelligence chief “has a desire to have his own team in place to implement his vision and to offer him counsel.”

Miscik has headed the Central Intelligence Agency’s analytical branch since 2002, the newspaper said. The unit is responsible for making important judgments about events around the world and prepares a highly classified brief for the President each morning.

The project aims to improve the province’s public health emergency response system and help train medical staff at disease prevention and control institutions.

China plans to build an effective, rapid and accurate emergency response system and a public health information network across the country next year.

Experts believe that public health incidents such as the outbreak of SARS and bird flu make it imperative to improve the public health emergency response system.

Liaoning to improve health infrastructure with loans from Japan

Shenyang, 30 Dec — Northeast China’s Liaoning Province has just launched a project to improve its public health infrastructure with $336 million yen (about 20.15 million US dollars) in loans from Japanese Government.

Japan reached an agreement with the Chinese Government to provide the loans in June 2003 when China was severely hit by Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS).

According to sources with the local government, the project covers 32 medical institutions at provincial and municipal levels.

Four killed in traffic accident in southern Nigeria

LAGOS, 30 Dec — A total of four persons have been feared killed and four others injured in a traffic accident in Nigeria’s southern state of Enugu, the official News Agency of Nigeria reported Wednesday.

An eyewitness was quoted as saying the accident occurred on Tuesday when a BMW sedan collided with a Mercedes at Amaechi Junction on the Enugu-Port Harcourt Expressway.

The eyewitness said the driver of the BMW, carrying a family of four and heading toward Enugu, capital of Enugu State, lost control and hit the Mercedes travelling from the opposite direction, killing the driver and injuring three others. Three of the occupants of the BMW, including the owner’s wife, son and a house help died on the spot, while the driver was rushed unconscious to a nearby hospital.

Bank Holidays

All Banks will be closed on 4th January (Tuesday) 2005, Independence Day and 10th January (Monday) 2005, Kayin New Year Day being public holidays under the Notifiable Instrument Act.

Central Bank of Myanmar

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV QING CHUN MEN VOY NO (107)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV QING CHUN MEN Voy No (107) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 2-1-2005 and that cargo will be discharged in the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the charge into the premises of A.W.P.T which will lie.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: MS INTERASIA LINE

Phone: 256098/378316/376797

Vietnamese photographers honoured in Japan

HANOI, 31 Dec — Vietnamese photographers won 20 prizes at the 65th International Photo Contest, Vietnam News Agency reported Tuesday.


Among the winners, a report from Vietnam’s newspaper has won a gold medal for his work “Meet Again”.

The contest was launched by Japan’s Photoagous Association and Asahi Shimbun newspaper. The organizer selected 130 out of 6,554 entries from 41 nations to present at the contest. The 130 winners will be revealed in May 2005.

LIAONING TO IMPROVE HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE WITH LOANS FROM JAPAN

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The project aims to improve the province’s public health emergency response system and help train medical staff at disease prevention and control institutions.

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54 factories in Bangladeshi EPZ to come under tax net

Dhaka, 28 Dec—Fifty-four industrial units in the Dhaka and Chittagong export processing zones (EPZ), including 40 owned by foreign companies, will have to start paying income tax soon as they have completed the 10-year tax holiday period.

The New Age on Tuesday quoted sources in the revenue department as saying that the National Board of Revenue has already issued an office order on Sunday, asking tax circle offices in Dhaka and Chittagong to assess the tax files of the industrial units.

The government of Bangladesh issued a statutory regulatory order on August 17, 1989, that industrial units in all the EPZs in the country would enjoy tax holiday for 10 years from the day they had been established.

Inclusion of the 54 EPA units in the tax net will help generate more than 600 million takas (10 million US dollars) in the next fiscal year, revenue officials said.

Two hundred and three industrial units are now in operation in the two EPZs in Chittagong and the rest in Dhaka.

One hundred and fifty-three units belong to foreign companies and the rest to local entrepreneurs.

The total investment in the two EPZs is 784.49 million dollars. The Chittagong EPZ was established in 1983 and the Dhaka EPZ in 1993. Both EPZs have some 140,000 local workers on their payroll.

The revenue officials said they did not expect any negative impact of the decision to bring the 54 units into the tax net work on export growth as the owners had been aware of the government’s position at the time of investment.

China’s natural gas pipeline to start commercial run

Beijing, 29 Dec—China’s 4,000-kilometre natural gas pipeline, linking natural gas-rich Xinjiang in the northwest with East China’s Shanghai, will officially start commercial operation Thursday, an energy official said on Monday.

“Opening of the pipeline would greatly increase energy supply in East China,” said Xu Dingming, head of the energy bureau of the National Development and Reform Commission. The east-west natural gas transmission project, a landmark project in China’s mammoth western development drive, has a designed capacity of 12 billion cubic metres, but Xu said the state would strive to lift the volume to 17 billion or 18 billion cubic metres as soon as possible.

The state has also built a natural gas-fired power plant in the region to alleviate electricity shortages in east China.

The state has also increased gas imports from Minnelli’s address around 4 am. had confirmed that they received a medical call about an unconscious female from Minnelli’s address around 4 am. The report said Minnelli, 58, was taken to New York Hospital. A spokeswoman at the hospital declined to confirm the report and Minnelli’s spokesman could not immediately be reached for comment. People magazine said an Emergency Medical Services spokesman had confirmed that they received a medical call about an unconscious female from Minnelli’s address around 4 am.

The revenue officials said they did not expect any negative impact of the decision to bring the 54 units into the tax net work on export growth as the owners had been aware of the government’s position at the time of investment.

China’s primary and middle schools will be invited to produce a news programme at China Education Television (CETV), beginning January 1, 2005, according to the Ministry of Education.

The news programme is aimed to help children see the world with their own perspective, and express their views in their language style, said CETV’s director Kang Ning.

Chinese children journalists to produce TV news programme

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The news programme is aimed to help children see the world with their own perspective, and express their views in their language style, said CETV’s director Kang Ning.

Wildlife officials say animals can sense disaster

Colombo, 30 Dec—Sri Lankan wildlife officials are stunned — the worst tsunami in memory has killed around 22,000 people along the Indian Ocean island’s coast, but they cannot find any dead animals.

GIANT waves washed flooded waters up to 2 miles inland at Yala National Park in the ravaged southeast, Sri Lanka’s biggest wildlife reserve and home to hundreds of wild elephants and several leopards.

“The strange thing is we haven’t recorded any dead animals,” HD Ratnayake, deputy director of the national Wildlife Department, told Reuters on Wednesday.

“Naked elephants are dead, not even a dead hare or rabbit,” he added. “I think animals can sense disaster. They have a sixth sense. They know whereabouts are happening.”

At least 40 tourists, including nine Japanese, were drowned.

Final figures of weekend N America box office

Los Angeles, 29 Dec—Hollywood comedian actor Ben Stiller’s latest hit “Meet the Fockers” debuted atop the Christmas weekend box office in North America, according to final studio figures released on Monday.

The Universal/DreamWorks comedy, also starring Hollywood big names including Robert De Niro, Dustin Hoffman and Barbra Streisand, grossed 46.1 million US dollars between Friday and Sunday, according to box office tracker Exhibitor Relations.

And since its opening last Wednesday, the sequel to the 2000 hit “Meet the Parents” has grossed 70.5 million dollars, higher than the Sunday studio estimates.

It established records for the biggest Christmas day gross ever (19.5 million dollars), and the largest box office gross for the day after Christmas (19.4 million dollars), according to Universal Pictures.

Last week’s leader, “Lemony Snicket’s A Series Of Unfortunate Events,” slipped to second place, earning about 12.6 million dollars.

“Fat Albert” came in third, earning 10 million dollars in its two-day debut, followed by the opening of “The Avatar” (8.6 million dollars) and “Ocean’s Twelve” (8.4 million dollars).

Jiang signs decree on advance study of military equipment

Beijing, 29 Dec—Jiang Zemin, chairman of the Central Military Commission of the People’s Republic of China, recently signed the Provisions on the Advance Study of Equipment of the Chinese People’s Liberation Army (PLA), a PLA spokesman said.

The decree, which comprises eight articles and 45 clauses, deals with research activities prior to the study of new military equipment, which is aimed at providing technical support to the study of new equipment, so as to reduce risks in the research work.
**Tiger Cup semifinal postponed due to Tsunami**

**Tokyo, 31 Dec** — The second leg of a Tiger Cup semifinal has been postponed after the weekend’s deadly Asian tsunami, Southeast Asian soccer officials said on Thursday.

Malaysia and Indonesia, both hit by the devastating tidal waves that swept the Indian Ocean on Sunday, were scheduled to meet in Kuala Lumpur on New Year’s Day.

However, the match will now be played 48 hours later, on Monday, as a mark of respect for the victims following a plea from Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

The tsunami, triggered by a huge underwater earthquake off Indonesia, killed more than 87,000 people and the death toll is expected to rise further.

Over half the victims were in Indonesia and more than 60 people lost their lives in Malaysia. — MNA/Reuters

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**Brazil’s Luxemburgo takes over as Real coach**

**Madrid, 31 Dec** — Real Madrid are set to name Vanderlei Luxemburgo, coach of Brazilian champions Santos, as their third new coach this season.

Spanish media reports said on Thursday.

Former Brazil coachLuxemburgo was travelling to Madrid on Thursday and will replace Mariano Garcia Remon on the Madrid bench, the website of sports daily Marca and of newspaper El Mundo said.

A Real Madrid official would neither confirm nor deny the news but said the club was holding a board meeting later on Thursday which would be followed by a news conference.

Brazilian media quoted Santos Vice-President Norberto Moreira da Silva as saying: “He (Luxemburgo) told us he had an offer he could not refuse and asked to be freed from his commitment to Santos. It was his dream so we thought it best to let him go.”

Garcia Remon, at the helm for just three months, has been under heavy pressure after the star-studded team’s recent poor performances which has seen them slump to fifth in the Primera Liga. 13 points behind pace-setters

Santos won the Brazilian championship for the second time in three years.

Luxemburgo won the title for the second year in a row, having led Cruzeiro to the championship last year for the fifth title of his career. He also won the competition with Palmeiras in 1993 and 1994 and Corinthians in 1998.

Luxemburgo was coach of Brazil between 1998 and 2000.

**MNA/Reuters**

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**Mourinho expects to get through holiday schedule with no more injuries**

**Chorham (England), 31 Dec** — Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho’s aim is to get through the Premier League’s packed holiday schedule with no more injuries and a clear lead at the top of the table.

Coming from Portuguese and Spanish football, Mourinho is used to having a break over Christmas and New Year’s Day. English crowds traditionally enjoy a feast of football, however, with Premier League clubs playing four fixtures in nine days.

“We started this period with a five-point lead and it would be great for us if we get through five, three or two points in front,” the Portuguese coach said on Thursday after training for a tough encounter with Liverpool at Anfield on Saturday.

Chelsea are missing four players through injury or illness and have ground out victories in their first two games of the festive season, 1-0 over Aston Villa and 2-0 at Portsmouth, without their customary free-flowing panache.

The results have left them with 49 points and a comfortable lead at the top ahead of Arsenal, on 44 points, and Manchester United and Everton, who both have 40.

“If we can finish the game against Middlesbrough (on January 4) still top it will be a fantastic achievement — there are still six points to discuss.

“Afer that some of the players will for sure get a holiday — three days off.”

Mourinho has let out-of-favour wing back Celestino Babayaro transfer to Newcastle and with injuries to central defenders Ricardo Carvalho and Robert Huth, his options at the back are limited.

He praised his defenders for their versatility, after using both William Gallas and Paulo Ferreira in unaccustomed left back positions.

On Saturday, Chelsea will also be without midfielder Alexi Smertin who has a virus and long-term midfield casualty Scott Parker, whose broken foot is likely to keep him out until early March.

“We are going through a difficult time (for injuries) but every club lives time (for injuries) but every club lives.

Mourinho said he would make no forays into the transfer market in January, apart from a possible midfield signing to cover Parker, because the squad was working so well as a unit.

“I have 16 outfield players fit and that’s the minimum I need,” he said, adding he expected Smertin, Huth and Carvalho to return to fitness in the next week or so.

The Portuguese described Liverpool as a good team with a good manager that needed to win. The match, he said, would pit two world-class midfielders in Chelsea’s Frank Lampard and England teammate Steven Gerrard, whom Chelsea tried to recruit last July, against each other.

“I think he’s one of the best, but I don’t think he’s better than Frank Lampard. Frank is one of mine,” Mourinho joked.

Mourinho has enjoyed a spectacularly successful year, winning the Champions League and domestic league with Porto and taking Chelsea into the knockout stage of the Champions League and to the top of the Premier League.

“It would be impossible to have another year the same,” he said.

“It’s a year to remember and at the same time to forget and to look forward, because if you thought too much about it you might lose your desire.”

**MNR/Reuters**

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**Rooney’s charge shows FA’s new disciplinary system completely flawed**

Manchester United’s Wayne Rooney, shown here in action in September 2004, was hit with a three-match ban after admitting a charge of violent conduct.

**INTERNET**

**Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson said on Thursday after training for a tough encounter with Liverpool at Anfield on Saturday.**

The referee took no action for over-reacting.

“Ben Haim has also been charged with improper conduct for over-reacting. The referee took no action against either player. The violent conduct charge bemuses me because every man and his dog would agree it was not violent conduct,” Ferguson said.

“If it is violent conduct why are they charging Ben Haim? I can’t understand it. He (Ben Haim) is being charged so they therefore believe he is guilty of diving and bringing the game into disrepute.”

The FA consulted widely before bringing in its new system this season which is intended to speed up the handling of disciplinary cases.

Rooney has until 1800 GMT on Thursday to deny his charge or accept an immediate three-match ban.
Egypt to reopen Khafre’s pyramid after two years of restoration
Cairo, 31 Dec — Khafre’s pyramid, the second largest of the three great pyramids of Giza, is due to be reopened on Saturday after two years of restoration, the Egyptian antiquities authorities said on Thursday.

“This is the third time to restore Khafre’s pyramid since 1995,” said Zahi Hawass, secretary-general of the Egyptian Supreme Council of Antiquities (SCA).

The restoration work was carried out by skilled Egyptian restorers from the SCA and the project started from the main doorway and reached the burial chamber, said Hawass.

At the beginning, the restoration efforts focussed on some cracks which had appeared on the inner walls of the pyramid, Hawass explained.

Workers then removed graffiti left by tourists on walls of the burial chamber and the corridor, and they restored the granite sarcophagus along the pyramid’s inner wooden steps and floors, he said.

He said that the lighting and ventilation systems have been upgraded in order to stop physical and chemical pollution inside the pyramid and the closed circuit TV system inside the pyramid has also been upgraded.

Meanwhile, Egyptian Minister of Culture Farouk Hosni announced the pyramid of Menkaure, the smallest of the three great pyramids, would be packed up for restoration.

MNA/Xinhua

Wind power resources to be explored in China’s Boyang Lake
Nanchang, 31 Dec — Blackout became a common phenomenon in quite a few areas, particularly the economically developed eastern part of China this year.

To meet mounting demand for electricity from both civilian and industrial users, thermal power projects are being built by localities.

However, experts suggested that more efforts should be focused on new and clean energy.

Xiong Jiachen, an electricity generating specialist and vice-general manager with the Jiangxi Power Company, believed that Boyang Lake, China’s largest freshwater lake, is a right place to explore clean and new power energy.

Located in east China’s Jiangxi Province, the lake, covering a total area of 5,100 square kilometres, boasts rich wind power resources, which can be exploited to ease the power shortage, Xiong said.

Data acquired through years of observation and research prove that the wind power resources in the Boyang Lake are as rich as that in coastal areas and is of a high exploitation value, according to Xiong.

According to statistics released by the Weather Research Institute of Jiangxi Province, the area that is suitable for developing wind power in the Boyang Lake totals 19,245 square kilometres.

The institute estimated that the wind power resources at 26 billion-kilowatt-hours in the lake, of which 11.3 billion is workable.

It is imperative to rev up the development of the wind power in Boyang Lake and stress more on clean energy to ease the electricity strain, Huang Yicheng, power expert and former Secretary of Energy Department of China, proposed.

It is also feasible to explore wind power resources in the Boyang Lake, Xiong said.

MNA/Xinhua

WEATHER

Friday, 31 December 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:00 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been generally fair in the whole country. Night temperatures were 3°C to 4°C below normal in Shan and Kayin States, Magway, Bago and Taninthayi Divisions (5°C) below normal in Chin State and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were 0°C in Namsun, Lolith and Hakha each (4°C) in Pyin Oo Lwin.

Maximum temperature on 30-12-2004 was 91°F. Minimum temperature on 31-12-2004 was 55°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 31-12-2004 was 91%. Total sunshine hours on 30-12-2004 was (8.4) hours approx. Slogan: Rainfall on 31-12-2004 were nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfall 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 7 mph from West at (15:30) hrs MST on 30-12-2004.

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Isolated light rain are possible in Kachin State, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions and weather will be generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (49%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Isolated light rain are possible in Northern Myanmar areas. Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 1-1-2005: Generally fair.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 1-1-2005: Fair weather.

Weather outlook for first weekend of January 2005: During the coming weekend, weather will be generally fair in Yangon and Mandalay Divisions.

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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

YANGON, 31 Dec — Chairman of State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing attended a dinner to mark the graduation of the 6th intake of the Defence Services Medical Academy held at the Convocation Hall of the Academy today.

Also present on the occasion were SPDC Vice-Chairman Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife, Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann and wife, Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win and wife, Secretary-1 of the SPDC Lt-Gen Thein Swe and wife, Senior General Than Shwe and wife, Members of the SPDC Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, Lt-Gen Maung Bo, Quartermaster-General Lt-Gen Thihin Tin Aung Myint Oo, Chief of Armed Forces Training Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein and their wives, Yangon Division PDC Chairman Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe and wife, senior military officers, ministers, deputy ministers, senior military officers of Mingaladon Station, departmental heads, the rector of Defence Services Medical Academy and advisers, professors, graduating officers and their parents and relatives.

After the ceremony, those present were entertained with songs and dances by artistes of Myawady Music Troupe, Myanmar Music Asiayon and Myawady Anyeint Troupe to the accompaniment of Myawady Music Troupe.

MNA

USDA implementing five rural development tasks with momentum so as to narrow gap between rural and urban areas

YANGON, Dec — Taninthayi Division Union Solidarity and Development Association held the 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 Taninthayi Division, at the gymnasium in Shwepay Village of Myeik, Myeik District, on 27 December morning.

Before the meeting, the participants saluted the State Flag. Next, USDA member youths sang the song titled ‘Eternal Union’ to hail the meeting.

Taninthayi Division USDA Secretary U Kyaw Kyaw Htay made a speech, saying that accomplishments of the association at different levels were

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In their records, the colonialists marvelled at the courage and military skills of the Myanmar freedom fighters.