Non-disintegration of national solidarity
political solution given by history

In the history of our country, the strength of the nation was strong when there was solidarity among national races. When the national races were not united, they had to try to end their conflict even though there was no invasion from outside. In consequence, the State lagged behind in development and it usually became weak in all sectors. So political solution given by history for our country is non-disintegration of national solidarity. If we face such grave situation, sovereignty will be lost one way or another.

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

(From address delivered at the graduation parade of 3rd Intake of Defence Services Medical Academy)
**Look after the people in all aspects**

Health is the most basic requirement for development of a human society. The healthy and fit people are the ones who are able to build and safeguard their societies.

The generation-by-generation improvement of health, fitness and education standard is a priority task, for health, fitness and education are interrelated.

Health contributes not only to enhancing the intellectual level of human beings but also to ensuring the development of human resources. Thus, priority is being given to development of health and education sectors.

It is important for the health sector to be free from relying on foreign countries. Therefore, more and more research work is to be carried out in combination with military traditional medicines.

Meanwhile, research on medical science is to be carried out in combination with military science to be able to discharge duties well in the sophisticated form of future wars. The graduation parade of No 6th Intake of Defence Services Medical Academy took place at the parade ground of the academy in Yangon on 31 December morning, with an address by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe.

In his address, Senior General Than Shwe said that biological weapons are being used as a secret arm of war with the intention of totally wiping out a race from the earth or intimidating the people. So, he said, the graduating cadets should keep their eyes and ears open wide, while having the farsightedness and constant vigilance. The work of making precautionary measures constantly and making preparations for an emergency situation are permanent tasks of the health sector, he noted.

It is imperative for those, who are going to discharge the national defence duty, to be ever healthy and fit. They must not lose sight of the latest developments and are to study the latest form of future wars in which sophisticated weapons may be used.

The government opened medical universities and medical institutes to keep pace with changes and developments. Moreover, it has been making efforts for development of Myanmar medical science to ensure better health care services of the people.

At a time when Myanmar medical science is in its prime, the Tatmadaw medical officers are to strive for the emergence of a medical science of international level to provide the people with better health care services, reviewing the latest development of political, military and social sectors.

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**USDA Secretariat member explains implementation of five rural development tasks**

**YANGON, 1 Jan —** Members of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee led by Vice-Chairman Sayadaw Abdihaja Maha Rattha Guru Bhaddanta Arcinnabhiyamsa, accompanied by Director-General of the Religious Affairs Department Dr Myo Myint and officials, left Sittway Airport by air for Bihar State of the Republic of India on a pilgrimage to Samvejaniya four places on 25 December.

The Sayadaws were welcomed by staff of the Myanmar Embassy led by Myanmar Military Attaché to India Brig-Gen Kyaw Kyaw and wife Daw Thida Nyunt. The members of Sangha went to Maha Bodhi Pagoda and consecrated the Buddha images at the pagoda. On 26 December, they visited Banares in Uttar Pradesh State. On 27 December, members of the Sangha arrived at Lumpini region in Nepal where they were welcomed by Myanmar Ambassador to Nepal U Myint Swe and wife Daw Myint Ohn and staff.

On 28 December, they paid homage to Lokamanicula Pagoda built in the Myanmar Shwekyaung Monastery compound and visited the Lumbini Park. Myanmar Ambassador U Myint Swe and wife offered ‘Soon’ to the Sayadaws. Next, the Sayadaws proceeded to Angara Pagoda in Uttar Pradesh State, and paid obeisance to the Buddha image at Maha Parinibbana Pagoda. On 29 December, they consecrated Maha Suhkadamda Chanthagyi Pagoda and visited Vaishnavon region where the second Buddhist synod was held. On 30 December, the Sayadaws went to new Nalanda University in Patna and went sightseeing of religious buildings and places in Patna. On 31 December, they proceeded to Gaya Airport after visiting Mount Urvela where the Lord Buddha practised Dukaraçarita.

The Sayadaws were seen off at the airport by Myanmar Military Attaché Brig-Gen Kyaw Kyaw and wife Daw Thida Nyunt and embassy staff, the Secretary Sayadaw of Myanmar Maha Bodhi Association and officials of Aung Chan Tha Pilgrimage Service.

The Sayadaws arrived back here yesterday evening.

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**Sayadaws tour four places of Samvejaniya in India, Nepal**

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China Telecom to boost Internet TV in 2005

BEIJING, 31 Dec— China Telecom, one of China’s major telecommunications operators, announced that it plans to launch large-scale promotion of Internet Protocol Television (IPTV) in 2005 on its broadband web site.

“We’ll open IPTV in most Chinese cities in 2005,” said Liu Zhiyong, an official in charge of IPTV business with China Telecom. Made possible by the growing popularity of broadband Internet connections, IPTV enables people to access TV programmes through their computers or other Internet terminals.

Earlier, China Telecom had already started IPTV service in Shanghai, with TV programmes coming mainly from existing TV stations.

Liu said China Telecom does not offer real-time TV programmes, but only TV programmes that have already aired. It should be taken as a value-added business of broadband service providers and “is absolutely legal.” The service will be available through their site at www.vnet.cn.

Another major Chinese telecommunications operator, China Netcom, is also stepping up development of IPTV.

Surveys show video materials are the most popular among Chinese broadband Internet users. But the current supply falls far short of the demand.

MNA/Xinhua

UAE witnesses rare snowfall, heavy rain

ABU DHABI, 31 Dec— The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has witnessed snowfall, heavy rain and a dropping temperature this week for the first time, the official WAM news agency reported Thursday. The snow fell on the mountainous areas of Ras Al Khaimah, one of UAE’s seven emirates and the northernmost one, as the temperature in the area dropped as low as to minus 5 Celsius.

After two days of heavy nighttime snowfall which ended Wednesday night, Al Jees mountain cluster in the area, which stands 5,700 feet (about 1,737 metres) above sea level, was capped with a white blanket.

Meanwhile, temperatures fell to 12 degrees Centigrade in Dubai with a heavy rain lasting until Tuesday night, quite a rare occurrence in the desert area. Rain continued to fall heavily on the east coast of the federation Wednesday, swelling underground water stores and reducing soil’s salinity.

Two people were killed and nine wounded in more than 400 accidents reported in Dubai due to the rain, according to WAM.

The snow, rain and low temperatures were caused by an area of low pressure that reached the UAE this week after passing over Kuwait.

MNA/Xinhua

1,328 US troops killed since beginning of Iraq war

WASHINGTON, 31 Dec— As of Friday, on 31 Dec, 2004, at least 1,328 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 Defence Department said. The figures include three military civilians. The department did not provide an update Friday.

The British military has reported 76 deaths; Italy, 19; Poland, 16; Spain, 11; Ukraine, nine; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary and Latvia one death each.

Since 1 May, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,190 US military members have died, according to AP’s count.

Vietnam sees slight increase in seafood export

HANOI, 1 Jan— Vietnam earned nearly 2.4 billion US dollars from exported seafood, mainly shrimps, cattle, squids and octopuses, this year, up 6 per cent over last year, according to the Ministry of Trade on Thursday.

In 2004, while exports to the United States slowed down due to impacts of the shrimp lawsuit, values of the local products going to the European Union (EU) and Japan soared 89.7 per cent and 30.9 per cent, respectively. Vietnam’s seafood is now available in 80 countries and regions with its biggest markets being the United States, Japan, the EU and China.

Vietnam, home to 395 seafood-processing establishments, has invested some 1.5 trillion Vietnamese dong (95.5 million US dollars) in the last two years.

This year, the country recorded total seafood output of nearly 3.1 million tons, a year-on-year rise of 7.7 per cent. Its aquaculture acreage now stands roughly 903,000 hectares.

MNA/Xinhua

A US soldier died in a car bomb attack in Mosul

MOSSUL, 31 Dec— A US soldier died in hospital on Wednesday from wounds sustained in a car bomb attack on a patrol in the city of Mosul, the American military said on Thursday.

Troops in Mosul came under sustained attack on Wednesday afternoon, with two suicide bombers and dozens of gunmen attacking a combat outpost and patrols in the city.

The US military called in air support to fend off the attacks and says it killed about 25 guerrillas.

MNA/Reuters

Singapore calls for urgent ASEAN Summit on tsunami relief

SINGAPORE, 31 Dec— Singapore’s Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong on Thursday called for an urgent summit meeting of the Association of the South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) to coordinate relief efforts for the tsunami-hit areas.

Speaking at a news conference on the impact of the recent disasters in Indian Ocean countries, Lee said the meeting should request the United Nations to establish a special emergency fund for relief and reconstruction and a special representative to coordinate international relief efforts.

Lee proposed that the meeting also include countries outside ASEAN such as China, South Korea, Japan, the United States, Australia, New Zealand and India, as well as international organizations such as the United Nations, the World Bank and the World Health Organization.

Lee expects the meeting to be convened next week while foreign ministers are discussing about the details. Lee also announced that the government will raise its relief contribution from 2 million Singapore dollars (about 1.2 million US dollars) to about three million US dollars as the demand changes.

He confirmed that seven Singaporeans had been found dead in the tsunami while another 18 were still missing and 227 unaccountable up to 5 pm of Thursday.

The government has set up contact centres in Singapore and Phuket to provide help and updated information to family members who are eager to find their missing relatives.

On the same day, Education Minister Tharman Shanmugaratnam at a separate event urged schools and students to take part in the national efforts by raising funds and collecting or packing relief items when the new semester begins next week.

So far, Singapore has deployed altogether 700 personnel, eight helicopters, a C-130 in the region as part of the international relief efforts and a landing ship tank with a team of engineers who will depart for Indonesia on Friday.

The deployments, which are initially expected to last for two weeks based on the logistics they brought with them, will cost about 12 million US dollars.

MNA/Xinhua

The New Light of Myanmar Sunday, 2 January, 2005

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MNA/Xinhua

A fighter takes up position in a street in Mosul, 370 kms north of Baghdad on 30 Dec, 2004.
China, Sri Lanka vow to further traditional friendship

BEIJING, 30 Dec — China and Sri Lanka have pledged to further their traditional friendship and develop new initiatives “to inject fresh vigor and vitality to their bilateral relations.”

In a joint Press communiqué issued here on Wednesday by Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing and his Sri Lankan counterpart Lakshman Kadirgamar, the two sides agreed to keep the momentum of their high-level visits and to enhance the multi-tiered exchanges between the parliaments, political parties, non-governmental organizations, corporate sectors and youths.

They agreed that their mutually beneficial cooperation, based on the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, had advanced steadily over the 47 years since the two countries forged diplomatic relations.

Emphasizing the significance of enhanced economic cooperation, the two sides expressed their readiness to explore and develop new channels to deepen cooperation.

The two sides promised to expand their coordination and cooperation in regional and international affairs, and work closely in the United Nations, the Asia Cooperation Dialogue, the Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation and other organizations.

The two sides exchanged views on the situation in South Asia and in East Asia and expressed their shared commitment to peace, stability, cooperation and prosperity in the regions. — MNA/Xinhua

China passes amendment to solid waste pollution prevention law

BEIJING, 30 Dec — The 13th session of the Standing Committee of the 10th National People’s Congress (NPC) on Wednesday approved an amendment to the law on solid waste pollution prevention to resolve the serious challenges caused by mounting solid waste.

The draft amendment was once submitted for the first deliberation to the 12th meeting of the 10th NPC Standing Committee held from October 22 to 27.

“Encouraging the circulation of solid waste and clarifying the responsibility of the polluters are the major principles of the revision,” said Mao Ruibei, chairman of the Environment and Resources Protection Committee of the NPC.

The current law stipulates relatively clear responsibility clauses during the production process, but lacks clauses after sale and during disposal. These have been added in the amendment.

The amendment also defines the responsibilities of different parts if the former waste producers were divided, transferred, combined with others. — MNA/Xinhua

GCC needs integrated industrial plan

KUWAIT CITY, 31 Dec — An official report calls for drawing up an integrated industrial plan for the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states, Kuwait’s official KUNA news agency reported on Wednesday. Such a plan could best serve the interests of the GCC states which engage in coordinated and integrated industrial production based on each state’s resources and capabilities, the latest report by the Kuwaiti Public Industry Authority stated.

Thus an industrial plan for the region is required to distribute base industries among the states to best fit resources and in a manner that yields best results in the next two decades, the report said. It also called for the just distribution of returns and benefits and establishment of institutions capable of assessing, promoting and providing what is necessary for industrial opportunities — capital, work forces, expertise, markets or technology.

The report indicated that GCC states still do not agree on a clear framework or draft for such a plan, which led to repetition of products and projects. — MNA/Xinhua

Beijing airport expansion project in full swing

BEIJING, 30 Dec— Urban construction officials said the expansion project of Beijing Capital International Airport is in full swing and 5.7 billion yuan (about 690 million US dollars) has been spent so far.

Expansion of the pivotal airport started in March, 2004 as part of the Chinese capital’s endeavours to prepare for Beijing Olympic Games in 2008. A key state project listed by the State Council, or the Chinese Cabinet, the enlarged airport will be able to accommodate 60 million passengers and handle 1.8 million tons of cargo each year.

The expansion project includes the construction of a third runway, a new terminal building covering 420,000 square metres, 100 new aprons, a cargo zone and some auxiliary facilities. The expansion involves an input of 19 billion yuan (some 2.3 billion US dollars) and will be finished before 2008.

The airport presently has two runways and two terminals with a combined capacity to handle 35 million passengers a year.

An official forecast shows the peak monthly passenger arrival at the airport is to hit 5.56 million during the 2008 Olympiad, which is equivalent to the normal transport volume predicted for 2015. — MNA/Xinhua

Hooch tragedy toll in Mumbai City rises to 26

NEW DELHI, 30 Dec — With more people dying Tuesday, the toll in the hooch tragedy at a shantytown in Mumbai City in western Indian state of Maharashtra has risen to 26, the Indo-Asian News Service quoted local police as saying.

While seven people had died after drinking the brew Monday, more died later in the night and in the early hours of Tuesday, police said.

Altogether 40 people have so far been admitted to hospital after they drank hooch. Police have arrested a woman for supplying the liquor.

Police said she operated from her hovel just 500 metres from the nearest police station.

Initial reports say methyl alcohol was added to fermented oranges, discarded peels and other inputs to accelerate the fermentation process. — MNA/Xinhua

A worker of LG Card talks with his mobile phone at the headquarter of LG Card in Seoul, on 29 Dec, 2004. LG Group, the former parent of LG Card Co said on Wednesday it could offer a maximum 264 billion won (US$ 253 million) for an additional bailout of the troubled card issuer. — INTERNET

EU Foreign Policy Chief to visit Colombia

BOGOTA, 30 Dec — European Union Foreign Policy Commissioner Javier Solana will visit Colombia in early January, during which he will hold talks with Colombian President Alvaro Uribe, officials said here Wednesday.

The meeting will focus on the statement issued two weeks ago by the 25 countries of the European bloc, pledging political and economic support for the peace process between the Colombian Government and the paramilitaries.

Nevertheless, the EU has asked Colombia to adopt as soon as possible “a global legal framework” for the peace process with the United Self-Defence Forces of Colombia (AUC) and with the other illegal armed groups. — MNA/Xinhua

Philippines

MANILA, 30 Dec — At least 46 passengers were rescued after a boat ran aground in central Philippines, a local radio reported Wednesday.

Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) spokesman Arman Balilo told radio dzMM that search and rescue personnel are still looking for more passengers on boat MV Yellow Rose, which ran aground off Nasuan Island near Cordova, Cebu.

Three children were among the passengers, the PCG said.

Passengers told the radio that the boat sailing from Bohol to Cebu was supposed to dock at 12:30 am in Cebu but ran aground near the island at 11:30 pm Tuesday. — MNA/Xinhua

Year of the Chicken: Chicks for young children to pet are kept at the country’s largest amusement park in Yongin, near Seoul, as Koreans prepare the “Year of Chicken” in 2005.—INTERNET

46 rescued after boat runs aground in central
Draft policy adopted to curb satellite TV channels in Bangladesh

DHAKA, 29 Dec — The Bangladeshi Government is taking stringent measures to control satellite television channels in an effort to cut down on the “adverse impact of foreign culture” on religious and social values.

According to the Daily Star on Tuesday, the Cabinet Committee on Revisi-on of the Cable Television Network Policy on Monday adopted a draft policy to this end at a meeting held in the Ministry of Information.

Information Minister M Shamsul Islam was quoted as saying the draft will be finalized as early as possible. No cable operator will be allowed to distribute satellite channels without permission from the Information Ministry, a source attending the meeting said.

Every cable operator will have to pay annual fees to obtain an operating licence, which will be vetted according to three operator types—multi-system operators, cable operators and feed opera-tors, as well as last line service providers to end-users.

Another committee will approve prices and subscription fees for pay channels, which currently lack regulation, according to the draft.

The draft policy empha-sizes the need to set priorities for local culture and literature, and also calls for state-owned Bangladesh Television (BTV) and BTV World to be transmitted in the top ten prime bands.

The policy will also control the transmission of both foreign and local advertisements on satellite channels. In the absence of a policy, the country has been draining out millions of hard-earned foreign currencies for foreign entre-tainment pay channels, sources in media industry said, adding the country annually spends some 11 million dollars (700 mil-lion taka) on such foreign channels.

The Cable Operators Association of Bang-ladesh (COAB) has hailed the government initiative to approve the draft policy on cable television net-work.

“We congratulate the government as the policy is on the way to taking shape,” COAB President SM Anwar Parvez was quoted as saying.—— MNA/Xinhua

Final six months of 2004 deadliest ever for US forces in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 31 Dec— The last six months of 2004 proved the deadliest period for US forces in Iraq despite the formal end of the US-led occupation in June, with a total of 503 soldiers killed, figures showed.

Rather than deflating the insurgency, the first half of the US-backed interim government saw a surge in bloodshed. The deadliest month was November when 141 troops were killed, reflecting the heavy combat in the Sunni Muslim bastion of Fallujah where US troops battled rebels in the street in some of the heaviest fighting ever in Iraq. In December, a total of 75 soldiers were killed, 14 of them in last week’s unprecedented suicide bombing of a US army base in the northern city of Mosul — the deadliest single strike ever on Americans in Iraq.—— Internet

Humvees linked to 1 in 5 US deaths in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 31 Dec — In the earliest days of the war in Iraq, an enemy grenade destroyed the Humvee carrying Army Pfc Jessica Lynch and four other soldiers caught in an ambush in Nasiriya.

Though Lynch was spared, the others died. Last week, nearly two years later, Army 1st Lt Christopher Barnett, 32, of Baton Rouge, La., was killed on a patrol mission in the outskirts of Baghdad when a roadside bomb eviscerated his Humvee.

Throughout the 21-month war, no other piece of military materiel has been associated with so many US fatalities. According to a Scripps Howard News Service study, at least 1 in 5 of the 3,202 fallen American troops have died in incidents involving the ubiquitous vehicles. Hundreds more have been wounded in them. No other piece of war equipment has been the focus of as much criticism, as well.

When Congress returns in January, high on its agenda will be hearings into what some lawmakers, frustrated troops and anxious families say have been the needless deaths and maimings of GIs — particularly early in the war — while traveling in vehicles unduly vulnerable to roadside explosions.

Based on official Pentagon casualty reports, news accounts and interviews, the Scripps Howard study found at least 275 troop deaths have been associated with Humvees. By far, most of those fatalities came when a Humvee crossed paths with a roadside bomb planted by guerrillas and often detonated by remote control. On 3 Dec for instance, that was the fate of Army Staff Sgt Henry Inzarry, 38, of the Bronx, a father of five who was killed by an explosion that blew him out the right side of his Humvee in Taji.—— Internet

Japanese Princess to marry childhood friend

TOKYO, 30 Dec — Japan’s Princess Sayako, the only daughter of Emperor Akihito, will marry Yoshiki Kuroda, a friend of hers from childhood and a civil servant at the Tokyo metropolitan government, after next summer, Grand Steward Toshio Yuasa of the Imperial Household announced on Thursday.

Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko issued celebratory remarks saying, “It is encouraging that the young couple has decided to spend their life together almost after two years of friendship,” according to Yuasa.

The princess, 35, popularly known as Princess Nori, and the 39-year-old Kuroda, still have some traditional ceremonies to go through before officially declaring their marriage in accordance with Imperial House Law.

The announcement of the engagement finally came after twice being delayed. It was originally intended for November but was postponed out of consideration for the victims of the major earthquakes in northeast Japan’s Niigata Prefecture in October.

In addition, a Press conference scheduled for December 18 was cancelled after Princess Takamatsu, a great aunt of Princess Sayako and aunt of Emperor Akihito, died of blood poisoning earlier in the day.

Princess Sayako, the youngest of three children of Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, will be the last to marry.

Princess Sayako and Kuroda have known each other for a long time as he is a friend from childhood of Prince Akishino, the younger of Princess Sayako’s two elder brothers.

Kuroda and Prince Akishino were classmates at Gakushu University in Tokyo.—— MNA/Xinhua

Iraq’s neighbours to meet January 6 in Amman

CAIRO, 31 Dec — Foreign ministers of Iraq’s neighbouring countries will meet in Amman on 6 January to discuss Iraq’s democratization process ahead of the January 30 elections, Reuters news agency reported Thursday.

After Iraqi interim Prime Minister Iyad Allawi met Arab envoys in Amman on Wednesday, Jordan invited the foreign ministers of Iraq, Jordan, Turkey, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait but it was unclear whether Syria or Iran would attend because both are accused by Baghdad of aiding the guerrillas.—— Internet
Only when entire people are absolutely ...  

In conclusion, he noted that only when the entire people are absolutely united in implementing the State’s seven-point Road Map including successful convening of the National Convention, will the goal be achieved smoothly in a short time.

Next, Magway Division USDA Executive U Kyaw Thu presented a motion on speedy implementation of the nine future tasks; and Executive U Than Swe, on the plans to be carried out by the seven objectives; the nine future work programmes that can effectively serve the interests of the nation, respective regions and the people.

At the AGM (2004), representatives of respective USDAs passed resolutions of the seven objectives and nine future work programmes that can effectively serve the interests of the nation, respective regions and the people. Afterwards, Joint-Secretary of Division Maternal and Child Welfare Association Supervisory Committee Daw Tin Tin Htwe, Member of Division Organization for Women’s Affairs Daw Kyu Kyu Khaing and Secretary of Division War Veterans Organization U Soe Tint presented gifts to the outstanding youths.

Those present approved of continued efforts to see to the seven objectives, the nine future tasks and the plans. The meeting ended, shouting the slogans. — MNA

Rural development tasks inspected in Budalin, KhinU, Shwebo

YANGON, 1 Jan — Deputy Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Tin Ngwe inspected Kanthit-Aungchantha rural road measuring one mile long and 12 feet wide being built with assistance of the State in Budalin Township on 29 December.

Col Tin Ngwe also inspected completion of Budalin-Maungtaung rural gravel road.

In KhinU, the deputy minister unveiled the signboard to mark the supply of drinking water programme in the whole KhinU Township. Next, the deputy minister inspected KhinU Market with 304 shops and gave instructions on preparations to be made for the opening of the market.

Similarly, Col Tin Ngwe attended the ceremony to put into use tubewell in Khuntaungnge Village of Shwebo Township. Chairman of Shwebo District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Win Naing and Executive Officer U Kyaw Thu formally opened the tubewell which can pump out 1,800 gallons of water per hour to supply it to 483 villagers. — MNA

40th anniversary of CICS held

YANGON, 1 Jan — The 40th anniversary of the Central Institute of Civil Service (Phaunggyi) was held at the Institute in Hlegu Township this morning attended by Chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board Dr Than Nyun and members, Rector Col Win Maung, officials and guests.

Dr Than Nyun and officials formally opened the ceremony, and Maj-Gen Khin Ohn (Retd), who served as Principal with the institute from 1964 to 1967, formally unveiled the signboard. Next, prizes were awarded to those with over 25, 30 and 35 years of service. The guests viewed Nawarat Hall where booths were displayed to hail the anniversary. At the paper reading session, eight papers on history of the institute were submitted. To hail the anniversary, a track and field competition was held on 30 December and a dinner hosted yesterday evening at the parade ground-1. — MNA

The British colonials enslaved Myanmar and gave us the bad legacy of hard drugs.

The British colonials enslaved Myanmar and gave us the bad legacy of hard drugs.

Westerners brought bad legacy and got us to cultivate opium poppy, produce opium, allowed opening of registered opium dens and also eating and smoking of opium.

Quite a dirty act, that was.

We fought and won, and its values must be remembered and respected.

We fought and won, and its values must be remembered and respected.

If twice bitten, it’s one’s fault next time around, it shouldn’t happen.

If twice bitten, it’s one’s fault next time around, it shouldn’t happen.

Not easily won

Not easily won

Must be remembered highly and maintained. — MNA

To fight the bad colonial legacy, the Myanmar Government laid down the 15-year project and has been waging the war on drugs.

I believe the Government is also counter-acting with the cultivation of opium-substitute crops.

That’s right. At the end of this 15-year period, our country will be rid of hard drugs — that’s our target.

Not easily won

Because it was not readily won

It has to be safeguarded.

Not easily won

It has to be safeguarded.

With the vow that it would be long-lasting

Because it was not readily won

But exchanged with life and blood

Must be remembered highly and maintained.

We fought and won, and its values must be remembered.

And from its fires, must be wrested 'Tis “once bitten, twice shy”

With great care, must be discerned Toward intended objective, toward a straight course

Next time around, it shouldn’t happen

With correct steps, in solidarity

And from its fires, must be wrested 'Tis “once bitten, twice shy”

Unitedly shall we continue journey forward.

Yan Naing Oo ( Trs )

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Not easily won

It has to be safeguarded.

With the vow that it would be long-lasting

Because it was not readily won

But exchanged with life and blood

Must be remembered highly and maintained.

* To be enslaved is not difficult

But to regain it, life and blood

Of immense value must be sacrificed

* Not because it was given out of pity

Because it was not readily won

It must always be remembered

* Because it was not readily won

It must always be remembered

It must be valued highly and maintained.

* Not because it was given out of pity

Because it was not readily won

It must always be remembered

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* To be enslaved is not difficult

But to regain it, life and blood

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Tikyit coal-fired power plant being built in Pinlaung Township, Shan State (South) will generate 120 megawatt.

Hailing the 57th Anniversary Independence Day

Yeywa Hydel Power Project

Yeywa Hydel Power Project being implemented in Kyaukse Township, Mandalay Division will generate 790 megawatt.

Generating Capacity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Kilowatt/hour (million)</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Kilowatt/hour (million)</th>
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<tr>
<td>1988-89</td>
<td>2264.5</td>
<td>1996-97</td>
<td>3370.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1989-90</td>
<td>2494.44</td>
<td>1997-98</td>
<td>4550.46</td>
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<td>1990-91</td>
<td>2643.05</td>
<td>1998-99</td>
<td>4139.44</td>
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<td>1992-93</td>
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<tr>
<td>1994-95</td>
<td>3631.84</td>
<td>2002-2003</td>
<td>5064.20</td>
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<td>1995-96</td>
<td>3762.33</td>
<td>2003-2004</td>
<td>5391.48</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Electric power projects implemented from 1988 to 2004

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Capacity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Hydel power station</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>162.346 megawatt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Natural gas-powered power plant</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>398.6 megawatt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Plant under construction</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>2000.00 megawatt</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Independence was thus safeguarded

Ye Wunt Thu

In fighting against internal insurgents, the entire people providing assistance to Tatmadawmen on the frontline. was vividly seen that there were always external interferences behind.

In the internal insurgency which was born together with the independence, Captain Vivian and Major Tulock of Colonialist Army, mercenaries Alexander Campble, Bouldwin and Seegravee flared the internal conflicts. At the same time, the minion KMT intruded into Myanmar and interfered her internal affairs. After intruding into Myanmar, the KMT enticed and abetted the national races to grow poppy. At the height of the the KMT started invading Mongyan region in January 1950. As they had taken a foothold and were active in Myanmar territory up to 1953, Myanmar Tatmadaw had to drive them out of the territory, sacrificing much blood, sweat and lots of lives.

On 2 March 1954, the Myanmar Tatmadaw launched major attacks the Bayintaung Operation on three KMT outposts.

During the period of one-and-a-half months, the KMT suffered heavy

(See page 9)
Independence was thus safeguarded

The Tatmadaw in cooperation with the people waged military command-wise major battles such as the Shwevinyon Operation, the Moehlein Operation and the Shiwelawin Operation on the internal insurgents. With those battles, the Tatmadaw was able to drive out the invaders.

The Tatmadaw also fought and drove off the BCP who had taken a foothold in the delta and the Shweinmon Operation in 1971.

Likewise, the Tatmadaw conducted operations such as the Farod, Maw and Yangyiaung Operations from 1974 to 1988 to defend the independence of the country.

What brightens up the national and racial aspirations is the fact that the Tatmadaw has been able to drive out the KMT's military forces. The Tatmadaw in conjunction with the national people who were against the invasion and did not accept the colonialists at all. The Tatmadaw provided all the necessary assistance for the Tatmadaw to drive out the invaders.

The Tatmadaw and the national people allowed the Tatmadaw to defend the independence and sovereignty of the State. Similarly, the Tatmadaw in cooperation with the people waged important battles such as the Shwevinyon Operation, the Moehlein Operation and the Shiwelawin Operation on the internal insurgents. With those battles, the Tatmadaw was able to drive out the invaders.

During that period, the Tatmadaw was able to drive out the insurrectionists who entered the delta region with the aim of disintegrating the Union through the Haupawng Operation.

The Tatmadaw also fought and drove off the BCP who had taken a foothold in the delta region. Moreover, the Tatmadaw had been able to drive out the expatriate insurgents who entered the delta region with the aim of disintegrating the Union through the Haupawng Operation.

The Haupawng Operation was a heavy loss of lives and leaving behind the bodies of their men. The Tatmadaw in conjunction with the national people operated from 1974 to 1988 to defend the country with the consolidated achievements. The Tatmadaw and the national people have continued their destructive acts at every opportune time. They also stir up dissension through propagandist media to destabilize the country and keep minions to commit misconduct on a greater scale.

The Tatmadaw and the national people are the political and racial backbone of the country. The Tatmadaw and the national people are the political and racial backbone of the country.

In short, the sovereignty of the country had been faced with the encroachment of the colonialists in the past. Internal insurgencies erupted following the restoration of independence. A variety of destructionists attempted in various ways and means to destroy the country and crack the unity.

Heavy weapons and ammunition seized during the Operation Mekhong in 1961

* * *

(Translation: TS+KTY)
Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe attends harvesting of Mya Sein Yaung paddy strain in Hlegu

**COMMANDER MJ GEN MYINT SWE ATTENDS HARVESTING OF MYA SEIN YAUNG PADDY STRAIN IN HLEGU**

**YANGON, 1 JAN —** The harvesting of paddy at Mya Sein Yaung Farming Educative Camp of the Ministry of Commerce in conjunction with the ceremony to demonstrate operating power of small rice mills was held at the camp in Hlegu Township this morning.

Present were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, departmental heads, authorities, chairmen of Myanmar Rice Millers’ Association, Myanmar Rice and Paddy Wholesalers Association, Myanmar Pulses and Beans and Sesame Merchants Association and local farmers.

Minister Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein extended greetings. Managing Director U Min Hla Aung of Myanmar Agricultural Produce Trading reported on per-acre yield of paddy strain, transferring of technology, and explained harvesting and winnowing of Mya Sein Yaung monsoon paddy.

The commander delivered an address. Next, the commander, the minister and guestsviewed rice mill of Thaung Win Industry, small rice mills of MAPT, sample paddy and rice of Mya Sein Yaung paddy strain, spare parts and rubber rollers, agricultural equipment and vehicles of Yangon East District Industrial Zones, CNG fired pump of Yangon Command, CNG saloon cars and TE assembled by MAPT and pumps displayed at the farm. **— MNA**

**INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH EXHIBITION AND PAPER-READING SESSION COMMENCE**

**YANGON, 1 JAN —** The Industrial Development Research Exhibition and Paper-reading Session began at Yangon Technological University in Gyagon, here, this morning.

Deputy Minister for Science and Technology Dr Chan Nyein explained the purpose of holding the research exhibition and paper-reading session.

Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin, Minister for Science and Technology U Thaung and Minister for Education U Than Aung formally opened the exhibition. Minister Maj-Gen Saw Lwin unveiled the signboard of the exhibition and paper-reading session. Next, they viewed round the booths at the exhibition.

The paper-reading session was held at the meeting room-1. General Manager U Hlaing Thein of No 1 Automobile Factory of the Ministry of Industry-2, Lecturer Dr Win Naing of the Ministry of Science and Technology, Lecturer Dr Shwe Zin Aung, Naing Naing Sein Hixon and party of Yangon University, Associate Professor Dr Cho Cho Oo of YU and Lecturer Daw Yi Yi Myint of YU presented papers to the session.

The paper-reading session continues till 3 January.

At the Industrial Development Research Exhibition, CNG engine, CNG system lathe, DRO system lathe, DRO Milling, Sport welding machine and machinery manufactured by the Ministry of Industry-2 are displayed at the Ministry of Industry-2 booth on the ground floor, parts of train, 1200 hp and 1600 hp diesel engine cylinders and others produced by Myanmar Railways at the booth of Myanmar Railways, production of biogas, usage of U-Fghue and generating of solar power at the booth of the Ministry of Science and Technology and booths of the Ministry of Science and Technology, the Ministry of Education and companies on the first floor. **— MNA**

**MOU ON CONSTRUCTION OF BAMBOO PULP FACTORY SIGNED**

**YANGON, 1 JAN —** A ceremony to sign the MoU on construction of the bamboo pulp factory was held at the Ministry of Industry-1, here, this afternoon.

Managing Director U Than Shwe of Myanma Paper and Chemicals Industries and Vice President Mr Shen Yue Ming of China Yunnan Corporation for International Techno-Economic Cooperation (CYC) signed the MoU related to the factory which can produce 100-ton bleached bamboo pulp per day to be built in Kaleinuang region of Dawei District. Next, they exchanged the documents. **— MNA**

**MYANMA GEMS EMPORIUM IN MARCH**

**YANGON, 1 JAN —** The Myanma Gems Enterprise under the Ministry of Mines is making arrangements to organize the 42nd Myanma Gems Emporium in March 2005 in the interests of the nation as well as local gems entrepreneurs.

Lots of gems will be sold by auction at the emporium. The Myanma Gems Enterprise is now coordinating with related departments and organizations at home and abroad to invite local and foreign gems merchants.

Those local gems entrepreneurs interested may contact the Myanma Gems Enterprise (Head Office) to have their gems registered and fixed floor prices starting from 5 January. **— MNA**

**HEALTH COMMUNICATION FORUM HELD**

**YANGON, 1 JAN —** The Health Communication Forum organized by the Department of Health Planning was held at the National Health Museum on Thiri Mingala Road yesterday afternoon.

Director (Health Education) Dr Daw Khin Than Oo of DHP gave an opening address. Deputy Director (Health Education) Dr Khin Maung Lwin explained facts about the forum with the use of audio-visual aid.

Eden group and Deputy Director (Worksite Health) Dr Than Htut recounted their experience on serving disabled children and International Arsenic Association.

Also present at the forum were officials of INGO, UN agencies, local NGOs and mediapersons. **— MNA**

**TRADITIONAL FOODS SALES ON 3-4 JAN**

**YANGON, 1 JAN —** For the purpose of cementing friendly relation of national races, Yangon Division Organization for Women’s Affairs will hold the Traditional Foods Sales at National Races Village in Thakayta Township on 3 and 4 January.

Traditional foods of national races and various kinds of foodstuffs will be sold by members of division, district and township organizations for women’s affairs and private entrepreneurs. In addition, those present can enjoy music entertainment of vocalists and film and video actors. Those wishing to know facts about the Sales may dial 370507, 370508, 056-21105 and 0950-17268. **— MNA**

**MAYOR’S CUP FLORICULTURAL SHOW AND CONTEST HELD**

**YANGON, 1 JAN —** As a gesture of hailing the 57th Anniversary Independence Day, the 13th Mayor’s Cup Floricultural Show and Contest was held at Mindhamma Grounds at the corner of Mindhamma and Tawwin Roads in Mayangon Township this morning.

Members of the Panel of Leading Patrons of the Myanmar Floriculturists Association Daw Khin Than Nwe, wife of Lt-Gen Tin Oo, Daw Khin Lay Thet, wife of General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence, Daw Than Than Nwe, wife of Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win, Daw Khin Khin Win, wife of Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and Daw Khin Thet Hlay, wife of Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe formally opened the show and contest and viewed round fruits and flowers displayed at the show.

At 10 am, Daw Khin Than Nwe, Daw Khin Lay Thet, Daw Than Than Nwe, Daw Khin Khin Win and Daw Khin Thet Hlay presented prizes to the winners.

Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin also awarded championship trophy to U Aung Zaw Oo and cash prize to Vice-Chairperson of the association Daw Nu Nu Yi. **— MNA**
Regional development undertakings inspected in Taninthayi Division

YANGON, 1 Jan—Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Maj-Gen Ohn Myint held a meeting with local authorities, service personnel, members of social organizations and townswomen on 24 December in Bokpyin Township.

On the occasion, officials reported on geographical facts about the region and precautions taken for local food security. In response, the commander elaborated on regional development undertakings, and rendered assistance for the region.

In his inspection tour of Bokpyin Township People’s Hospital, the commander presented K300,000 donated by Peace and Development Council; and well-wisher U Mandal presented K300,000 donated by Peace and Development Council.

The commander inspected progress of construction of a monastic education school building in the compound of Bokpyin Maung Maung Monastery. Daw Khin Soe (Annawo Soe) donated K1 million to the school.

Next, the commander inspected Bokpyin Basic Education High School, construction of Kawkhowe Bokpyin-Myeik Road, oil palm farms along the road, and the oil palm farm of Hoo Co Ltd.

On arrival at Taninthayi Township, the commander met local authorities and departmental officials at the BEHS. Officials reported on points about the region and work progress for regional development. District PDC Chairman Lt-Gen Khin Maung Kywe gave a supplementary report. The commander gave instructions on the tasks.

The commander attended the opening of multimedia classrooms of the BEHS and opened them.

He inspected Township People’s Hospital and donated K1 million to the funds of the hospital.

In addition, he inspected construction of Mingala Kandaw Township MCWA office and the site chosen for construction of the City Hall.

Minister inspects hotel services in Ngapali

YANGON, 1 Jan—Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Thim Zaw inspected arrivals of tourists from abroad and travellers at home at Ngapali Airport this morning.

The minister went to Amazing Ngapali Hotel and inspected the lobby, swimming pool, restaurant and rooms.

The minister also inspected Sandoway Resort where U Aung Myat Kyaw and party reported on construction of single room, restaurant and swimming pool. He cordially met local and foreign guests at the resort.

The minister proceeded to Ngapali Amata Hotel and inspected hotel services and greeted local and foreign guests on the beach.

The minister inspected Ngapali Beach Hotel and told officials to renovate the hotel. Director-General of Directorate of Hotels and Tourism U Htay Aung reported on Ngapali Beach Development Master Plan. The minister also inspected Ngapali Treasure Beach Hotel, Jade Marina Resort and Thande Beach Hotel projects being undertaken for development of Ngapali beach.

The minister also greeted local and foreign guests at Ngapali Bay View Hotel. Tourists and local travellers are on holiday on coastal regions such as Ngapali, Chaungtha and Ngwehsaung.

Myanmar Gold Entrepreneurs Association holds annual meeting

YANGON, 1 Jan—The second annual meeting of Myanmar Gold Entrepreneurs Association was held at Summit Parkview Hotel on Ahlon Road in Dagon Township this afternoon.

Present were Patron of the association Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo, Director-General of MFP Brig-Gen Khin Yi, Director-General U Myat Ko of GAD, Director-General Col Aung Saw Win of BSL, President of UMFFCCI U Win Myint, Chairman of the MGEA U Thu Daw, executives and guests.

Minister Maj-Gen Maung Oo and UMFFCCI President U Win Myint gave speeches. Later, UMFFCCI General Secretary U Sein Win Hlaing read the list of the association that U Thu Daw was elected as the chairman and U Kyaw Win as Secretary.

Prizes awarded to students of Dagon BEHS No 1

YANGON, 1 Jan—The prize presentation ceremony for 2003-2004 academic year of Dagon Basic Education High School No 1 was held at Dagon Thiri Hall of the school yesterday morning.

Daw Khin Than Nwe, wife of Lt-Gen Tin Oo presents prize to a student who stood eighth in Matriculation Examination in the entire nation.—MNA

Papers to mark School Family Day submitted

YANGON, 1 Jan—Chairman of Leading Committee for Observance of School Family Day Minister for Education U Than Aung, Deputy Minister U Myo Nyunt and officials attended paper reading session in commemoration of the School Family Day at Yangon University this afternoon.

Assistant Lecturer of Zoology Department of U Daw Aye Aye Myint and Lecturer of Botany Department of Pauy University Daw Cho Cho submitted papers.

The minister observed the laboratory of Chemistry Department of U. Lecturer of Chemistry Department of Sittway University Daw Nwe, wife of the Minister for Education also submitted papers.

The minister and party observed research at the butterfly garden of Zoology Department. They were conducted round by Professor/Head of Department Daw Cho Cho.

MICt anniversary and ICT Week on 21-27 Jan

YANGON, 1 Jan—Myanmar Information and Communication Technology Anniversary and ICT Week will be held at MICT Park in Hlaing Township from 21 to 27 January. Computer accessories, software, hardware and technologies will be on display at 200 booths of the ministries, local and foreign ICT firms.

Workshops such as natural language processing, capacity building and outsourcing model, information security and competitions of programming, web development and network games will also be held during ICT Week. Firms from home and abroad and contest-ants may contact MICT Park dialling 652272-3-4 not later than 10 January.—MNA
China puts debt moratorium for tsunami-hit Asian countries

OTTAWA, 31 Dec—Canadian Foreign Minister Pierre Pettigrew announced Thursday that Canada is freezing debt repayments for South and Southeast Asian countries that were hit by a deadly earthquake, subsequent tsunami and other natural disasters.

“Canada will not demand repayment of debts owed by countries that have been affected by natural disasters,” said Pettigrew.

“The government of Canada will work with our friends and allies to find ways to reduce their burdens and the financial costs of recovering from losses sustained from earth- quake, tsunami, flood, or other natural disasters,” he said.

Canada will give debt relief to countries that have lost more than 50 per cent of their GDP and will also forgive some of the debts owed by countries that have been affected by natural disasters.

Pettigrew added that Canada will work with international organizations to help countries recover from natural disasters.

He said that Canada will continue to support countries that have been affected by natural disasters and will work with them to rebuild their economies.

Health problems a major concern in Aceh as death toll passes 45,000

JAKARTA, 31 Dec—Health problems have become a major concern in Aceh where over 45,000 people have been confirmed dead in an earthquake-triggered tsunami that swept through the Indonesian province on Sunday.

Most of the deaths were due to the four-day-old body of a woman who was buried in a house in Banda Aceh, where at least 15,000 people were killed in the massive-scale disaster.

To make things worse, medical workers and relief supplies failed to immediately reach survivors due to infrastructural damages and fuel shortage.

“Medicines cannot reach hospitals because there is no vehicle, no gaso- lene, no electricity,” said Zinchenko.

He added that the new administration will seek to boost cooperation with Russia in such fields as energy and economic development.

“Russia has been no outbreak re- ported by the state authori- ties to the health and fam- ily welfare regional of- fices,” the Health Minis- try said in a statement is- sued here Thursday.

“The central team of epidemiologists currently are en- quiring into reports re- garding outbreak of diar- rhea diseases in the dis- trict,” the statement said.

Along with experts, the Health Ministry is taking additional mea- sures to ensure safety of people in disaster-hit ar- eas in consultation with international agencies like the World Health Organiza- tion (WHO).

No disease outbreak in tsunami-hit areas in India

NEW DELHI, 31 Dec—There are no official reports from tsunami-hit areas of any outbreak of disease, but the Indian Health Ministry is looking into unofficial reports of a possible diarrhea outbreak, according to Indo-Asian News Service (IANS).

“We are on the look- out for any early warning of an outbreak of epidemic in the affected areas and are ready to cope with any situation,” Director-General of Health Services S. Prabhakar said in New Delhi.

A 70-member team comprising epidemiolo- gists and other experts are ready in Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry, the Andaman and Nicobar Is- lands, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh to assist the local health authorities.”

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Devastation confronts aid teams in Asia’s isolated tsunami-hit areas

BANGKOK, 31 Dec — Scenes of total devastation confronted aid teams as they arrived in Asia’s isolated tsunami-hit areas on Thursday with entire towns destroyed and up to 5 million people in desperate need of food and water.

Aid groups said not only were they struggling to supply immediate medical relief for thousands of injured, many of whom have not eaten since the tsunami hit on Sunday killing nearly 80,000, but they now faced the massive task of rebuilding thousands of towns and villages from Indonesia to Sri Lanka.

“Entire villages have been washed away,” said Rod Volway, programme manager for CARE Canada’s Emergency Response Team which was one of the first aid groups into Indonesia’s northern Aceh Province, the worst-hit area.

“Clean water is the most urgent need right now. But we need to make sure that there is an immediate focus on rehabilitation. Everything from roads to schools need to be rebuilt,” he said. “This isn’t just a situation of giving out food and water. Entire towns and villages need to be rebuilt from the ground up. Everything has been destroyed.”

But as hundreds of tons of medical supplies pour into Asia from around the world, very little was reaching the most devastated areas, as aid groups raced to prevent outbreaks of diseases that could double the death toll.

“We are doing very little at the moment,” UN Emergency Relief Coordinator Jan Egeland acknowledged in New York, as aid workers reached most of the stricken areas.

“It will take maybe 48 to 72 hours more to be able to respond to the tens of thousands of people who would like to have assistance today — or yesterday, rather,” he said. “I believe the frustration will be growing in the days and the weeks ahead.”

In just three days, up to 60 nations have donated or pledged more than 220 million US dollars in cash and about the same amount of in-kind contributions and extensive logistical support.

Indonesia has suffered the biggest number of victims, with 45,268 known dead, although the toll could rise to 80,000 in Aceh alone, the province closest to the quake’s epicentre.

The UN plans to airlift emergency shelter into Aceh for up to 100,000 people. “Much of Aceh, which was closest to the epicentre of the earthquake, has been levelled and the local population urgently needs shelter and basic living supplies,” said UN High Commissioner for Refugees Ruud Lubbers.

The tsunami, which travelled at up to 310 miles per hour, not only washed away tens of thousands of people and hundreds of villages and towns but also polluted vital water wells — some for years to come.— MNA/Reuters

China makes public facilities for minors

BEIJING, 1 Jan — China will halt any projects that do not have plans to build play grounds, entertainment sites and other public facilities reserved for minors’ recreation, said sources with the Ministry of Construction (MOC) on Thursday.

Government agencies in charge of urban planning should enhance the monitoring of city planning projects, in a bid to ensure recreation centres for kids be incorporated into the future plan and meet relevant national standards, according to MOC’s senior official, who refused to be named.

According to a circular jointly issued by the ministries of Construction and Civil Affairs early this month, public facilities for minors should be built when part of a city is under reconstruction or a new zone is being developed.

In a residential area with a population between 7,000 and 15,000, an area of 40 to 60 square metres has to be reserved to build public recreational facilities for per thousand people. — MNA/Xinhua

Visitors arrive in HK in November sets record

HONG KONG, 1 Jan — The visitors arrival in November set another record for Hong Kong by topping the 1.69 million mark in the same month last year by more than 260,000 or 15.8 per cent, the Hong Kong Tourism Board said Thursday.

There were some 19 million arrivals in the first 11 months of the year, a 43.5-per-cent increase on the same period in 2003 and 32.4-per-cent growth on the 2002 figure.

Since then, the 20 million landmark was reached on 5 December. It looks certain that total arrivals for 2004 will surpass the board’s target of 21.36 million.

A number of important source markets have already passed their best ever full-year performances, including South Korea, Australia, India and South Africa. Arrivals from the United States and New Zealand are also on track to reach all-time records by the end of December, according to the board.

The board’s Executive Director Clara Chong said that December arrivals looked likely to be even higher than those of November.

“There will understandably be some immediate postponements of vacations in the region, but it’s too early to assess the longer-term implications,” she added.

All market regions except Taiwan showed double-digit growth over their November 2003 performance. Arrivals from Chinese Mainland grew 11.9 per cent, passing the million mark for the fourth time in five months to reach some one million.— MNA/Xinhua

Philippine tourism records highest tourist arrivals in 2004

MANILA, 1 Jan — The Philippine tourism industry has recorded the highest number of tourist arrivals in the past six years, the Department of Tourism (DOT) said Friday.

According to the DOT statistics, the Philippines has also seen a hefty 1.61 billion US dollars in tourism revenue in 2004 although a number of travel advisories were issued against the country.

Tourism Secretary Joseph Durano said that data from the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) showed a total of 2,233,921 international arrivals from January to December 27. “The figure easily surpassed the 2.22 million US dollars arrivals recorded in 1997,” he said. In 2004, the United States, Japan, Australia and Britain have issued the travel advisories against the Philippines for security threat in the country.

However, DOT has recorded a 32.39-per-cent growth in tourism earnings from 1.22 billion US dollars in 2003.

“The growth in tourist receipts clearly reflects the tourism industry’s potential of becoming a major dollar earner and a job provider for the country,” he said. DOT said that the growth in tourist arrivals is expected to continue and hit 2.68 million US dollars next year and tourism receipts to increase to 4.59 billion US dollars by 2010. — MNA/Xinhua

Prestigious Fudan University to embrace centennial year

SHANGHAI, 1 Jan — China’s prestigious Fudan University in Shanghai is scheduled to hold a range of celebrations events in honour of its centenary from January 1, 2005, said an official with university authority on Friday.

A series of activities to mark the grand event include the celebration ceremony, academic forums, international conventions, and student society activities.

Qin Shaoede, a principal leader of Fudan, said that the progress and expansion of Fudan University epitomizes the development process of higher education in China.

Fudan University was established personally by Father Ma Xiangbo in 1905, and it was then named “Fudan College”. The two Chinese character “Fu Dan” were picked up from a famous verse in an old book named “History about Shang-Yu Xia”, that implies that “The sun and the moon shine forever, alternating day and night”. — MNA/Xinhua

Visitors promenade during Tokyo’s first snowfall for winter at Japan’s Imperial Palace on 29 Dec, 2004.—INTERNET

Australian Navy ship HMAS Kanimbla, an amphibious landing ship, maneuvers in Sydney harbor amongst pleasure craft waiting for New Year celebrations on 31 Dec, 2004.—INTERNET
Iraqi coach walks out of nat’t team

TOYOKO, 1 Jan—Iraqi coach Adnan Hamd has walked out on the national team after his home was destroyed.
Hamd, who took Iraq to the Asian Cup quarterfinals and the last four of the Athens Olympics this year, quit just three weeks after being named Asian coach of the year.
“I was hoping that I could continue... but there are a lot of security problems in Iraq,” Hamd was quoted by FootballAsia.com on Friday.
“I have just received a call that my home was destroyed... this situation is very hard for me.”
Hamd’s resignation comes a week after the end of the 2004 Gulf Cup in Doha, where Iraq suffered a first-round exit.
In Qatar, Hamd had denied he would quit but the continuing violence in war-torn Iraq meant his job was fraught with problems and danger to both coach and players.

WADA make great strides in fight against doping in ’04

BERLIN, 1 Jan—The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) made great strides in its fight against doping in 2004, but athletes who miss doping tests should be immediately disqualified in future, IOC president Jacques Rogge said.
In an interview in Friday’s Sueddeutsche Zeitung newspaper, the International Olympic Committee head said: “We need strict punishments on athletes who fail to appear for tests,” he said. “They should be disqualified, period.
“Anyone not available should have at most an hour or two. But no more exceptions for those who miss three, four or five tests.”
Rogge applauded an eight-year suspension recently handed to US sprinter Michelle Collins.
“That would have been impossible earlier,” he said. “I welcome this change in mentality.”
Rogge said the efficiency of tests had improved considerably even in the last six months and would get even better.
“What’s most effective is the unannounced tests,” he said. “We’ll show up at seven in the morning or eight in the evening and knock on the door and say ‘we want a test’,” he said.

Kenyan runner strides to victory in Sao Silvestre road race

SAO PAULO, 1 Jan—Kenya’s Robert Cheruiyot strode to victory in the annual 15-km Sao Silvestre road race for the second time in three years on Friday amid unprecedented security.
Cheruiyot broke away as the runners passed the Municipal Theatre, 2.5 kilometres from the finish, and then made light of the punishing 1,500-metre Brigadeiro hill to finish 23 seconds ahead of Ethiopia-born Australian Sisay Bezabeh. The Kenyan finished the race
flanked on both sides by an army of motorcycle and bicycle-riding police as organizers went out of their way to avoid a possible repeat of the Olympic Games marathon incident, when Brazil’s Vanderlei de Lima was attacked by a former Irish priest as he led the race. De Lima recovered to win bronze. Organizers said they received e-mails warning of a possible revenge attack if a non-Brazilian athlete was leading.
Brazil’s hopes, already diminished by de Lima’s decision not to take part and an injury to defending champion Marilson Ramos dos Santos, ended when Romulo Wagner da Silva dropped away from the leaders after nine kilometres.
An estimated 13,000 runners took part in the race which has been run through the streets of Latin America’s largest city every New Year’s Eve since 1925.
Advisory firm predicts high growth for Asian “IT” spending in 2005

The International Data Corporation (IDC) said in its latest forecast that the IT market in Asia-Pacific Region (excluding Japan) will maintain the growth momentum and will grow by 10 per cent in 2005, a leading IT advisory firm predicted on Thursday.

The IDC also published its other top predictions for the market in Asia and Pacific for 2005:

— Wireless services market will overtake fixed-line services in Asia and Pacific.
— Semiconductor market will correct in 2005, registering a 2-per cent dip in worldwide revenues.
— Consolidation and commoditization of IT hardware infrastructure will accelerate industry realignment.
— Security remains on top of CIO agenda.
— Linux will expand within server operating environments.
— Offshore services and software outsourcing will accelerate.
— Enterprise Solutions Platforms will reshape the application software business.

— Digital home will establish a foothold in developed markets in the region.
— Emerging technologies will be on the verge.

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, Telephone: Editors 296115, Manager 296864, Circulation 297093, Advertisement 296843, Accounts 296545, Administration 296161, Production 297032 (Office) 297928 (Press).

British house prices drop in December

LONDON, 1 Jan — British property markets fell for the second time this year as average house prices declined by 0.2 per cent in December following a 0.9 per cent gain the previous month, the Nationwide building society said Thursday.

The country’s second largest mortgage lender said the price drop brought the annual housing market increase down to the lowest level in three years at 12.7 per cent, down from 15 per cent in November.

One factor that hurt prices this month was a shortage of newcomers to the housing market, Nationwide said. “The recent slowdown in monthly house price growth and the falls in housing market activity, in part, reflect the changing economic backdrop,” said Alex Bannister, Nationwide’s group economist.

“Indications are that following the downward shift in activity and price growth during the late 2004, the housing market may be beginning to stabilize,” he added.

Pentagon reportedly to offer cut in the billions

WASHINGTON, 1 Jan — The Pentagon is planning to retire one of its 12 aircraft carriers, buy fewer amphibious landing ships for the Marine Corps and delay the development of a costly Army combat system of high-tech arms as part of 60 billion US dollars in proposed cuts over the next six years, a report in Thursday’s The New York Times said.

The proposed reductions, the details of which are still being fine-tuned and which would require Congressional approval, result from White House orders to all federal agencies to cut their spending requests for the 2006 fiscal year budgets, which will be submitted to lawmakers early next year.

The White House has been under growing pressure since the November elections to offset mounting deficits and at the same time pay for the unexpectedly high costs of military growth during the late

Sunday, 2 January

Tune in today:

8.30 am Brief news
8.35 am Music: I only want to be with you
8.40 am Perspectives
8.45 am Music: Take your chance
8.55 am National news/Slogan
9.05 am Music: Queen of your fantasy
9.10 am International news
9.15 am Cultural Images of Myanmar: Love really hurts without you
11.00 am Miss you finally
1.30 pm News/Slogan
1.40 pm Story/children
1.50 pm Songs/children
9.00 am Independence Day Song/Festival
9.10 pm Music
9.15 pm Article
9.25 pm Music
9.45 pm New/Slogan
10.00 pm VEL

WEATHER

Saturday, 1 January, 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 temperatures were (4°C) above normal in Shan State, (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Chin and Kayin States, Bago, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and above normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were (1°C) in Hakha, (2°C) in Namsam, Heho each (3°C) in Pinlaung and Kyaukme. Maximum temperatures on 31-12-2004 was 93°F. Minimum temperature on 1-1-2005 was 55°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 1-1-2005 was 82%. Total sunshine hours on 31-12-2004 was 8.1 hrs approximate. Rainfalls on 31-12-2004 were nil at Yangon Airport, Kabataung and central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were nil at Yangon Airport, Kabataung and central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon Airport was nil from Northeast at (11.50) hours MST on 31-12-2004.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 2-1-2005: Weather will be partly cloudy in Taninthayi Division and generally fair in the remaining states and divisions.

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Generally fair in the whole country. Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 2-1-2005: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 2-1-2005: Fair weather.

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, Telephone: Editors 296115, Manager 296864, Circulation 297093, Advertisement 296843, Accounts 296545, Administration 296161, Production 297032 (Office) 297928 (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
- Paddy plantations of Yangon Command inspected

YANGON, 1 Jan — Accompanied by departmental officials, Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe visited the 83-acre plantations being undertaken by the Yangon Command near Yangon-Bago Highway at the border between Mingladon Township and Hlegu Township this morning. There he inspected supply of water to the plantations by use of a 40-horse power pump, thriving crops and vegetables, digging of canals, cultivation of paddy strains such as Dagon Thiri, Emahtasaw and Yesin-3. U Kyaw Thien, Director of the Water Resources Utilization Department, reported on all-year cultivation of paddy on 1000-acre farmland in Bala Region and plans to supply water for cultivation. Next, the commander gave instructions, saying that as enough water is being provided to irrigate the plantations, officials are to supervise the tasks to extend the cultivation of paddy and other crops. He later urged them to systematically use the advanced cultivation methods and fertilizers.

MNA

### 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, 1 Jan — The tidal waves caused by the recent earthquakes with their epicentres in the Adaman Sea hit some regions along the coast of Myanmar.

According to the data collected today, out of 21 people who were reported yesterday missing, six were confirmed dead and 12 returned their homes. Up to now, three victims are still missing. The death toll due to the earthquakes rose to 59, while 43 were injured.

As shown by the figures, 592 houses of 17 villages were destroyed, and 3,205 people of 638 households homeless.

MNA

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**Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe** inspects supply of water to farmlands between Mingaladon and Hlegu Townships — YANGON COMMAND

**Construction Minister inspects bridges, roads in Ayeyawady Division**

YANGON, 1 Jan — Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, accompanied by Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Myint Thein and officials of Public Works, this morning arrived at Twantay Bridge construction project site and gave instructions on worksit safety.

The bridge crossing Twantay Canal is being built near Phayangokto Village in Twantay Township. On completion, better transport service can be facilitated between Hlinethaya and Dalla-Twantay.

Next, he inspected maintenance of Dedaye-Pyapon Road.

At Pyapon Bridge construction project site, the minister inspected prepreations for installation of frames at the main bridge. The bridge is situated on Pyaypon River near Pyapon Town.

On completion, local people can easily visit from Pyapon to Bogale, Kamakalu, Kyonkadun and Seikma regions. Furthermore, the bridge will provide access to Yangon-Nyaungdon-Maubin-Kyaiklat-Pyapon-Dedaye-Kungyangon-Dalla Road.

The minister and party made an inspection tour of maintenance tasks on Maubin-Kyaiklat-Pyapon Road.

MNA

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**Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun** inspects installation of iron frames at Pyapon Bridge — CONSTRUCTION