Uphold Our Three Main National Causes
Safeguard sovereignty for its perpetuity

For our country to endure, we have always upheld Our Three Main National Causes—Non-disintegration of the Union, Non-disintegration of national solidarity and Perpetuation of sovereignty. Glancing back at our history, we find there were frequent threats of disintegration of the Union. To avoid such dangers there must be unity among nationals. If the Union collapses, independence and sovereignty will be lost. That is why we have shed so much blood and sweat and sacrificed lives to protect the Union from disintegration.

Senior General Than Shwe
Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council
Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services
(From address delivered at the 56th Anniversary Armed Forces Day)

Government striving to transform nation into modern, developed discipline-flourishing democratic one
Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein meets leaders of national race organizations

YANGON, 2 Jan — Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, accompanied by Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Aung Htwe of the Ministry of Defence, Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt, Deputy Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Aung Tun, Deputy Minister for Education Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo, senior military officers and officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, yesterday arrived in Heho by air.

They were welcomed at the airport by Chairman of Shan State Peace and Development Council Commander of Eastern Command Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Win Myint, Commander Brig-Gen Thet Oo, senior military officers, members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association and social organizations.

Next, the Secretary-1 and party proceeded to Taunggyi by car.

At the Eastern Command, the Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and party met with the national race leaders of Pa-O National Organization, Shan State Nationalities (See page 10)

INSIDE

The emergence of the new State constitution is the national concern of entire citizenry.

(Page 9)  MYINT WAI HLAING

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Ward off neo-colonialists with constant national awareness

Throughout the course of history, Myanmars were able to preserve and promote their dignity and integrity by daringly warding off all foreign aggression and encroachment with unyielding spirit.

Although Myanmar had suffered the loss of sovereignty and independence for a certain period of time in history, the entire people were able to regain independence, based on their strong patriotism, national spirit and Union Spirit.

When the independence was regained, the neo-colonialists were meddling in Myanmar’s internal affairs at every opportunity, breeding their minions.

In the message sent by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe on the occasion of the 84th Anniversary National Day, it was stated that because of the rapid advancement in scientific and technological fields, the neo-colonialists are employing new means, trying to encroach on, dominate and manipulate others through social, economic and cultural spheres and the media and information industry, instead of old and obvious methods such as expansion of their territory resorting to the use of force or hegemonism.

Hence, we must have constant national awareness to ward off their perpetration, while relying on patriotism and Union Spirit as our fundamental strength.

At present, minions of colonialists are perpetrating destructive acts on a greater scale with the effective use of media and destructive elements to jeopardize peace and stability of the State.

At such a time, those machinations are to be warded off with constant vigilance for perpetuation of the independence.

Moreover, the entire national people need to be equipped with patriotism and nationalistic spirit. Therefore, the government has laid down and is implementing the national education promotion programmes for the emergence of qualified human resources.

At a time when science and technology is in its prime, the entire national people are to ward off the neo-colonialists, who are going to intrude into Myanmar resorting to various ways and means, with patriotism and Union Spirit for perpetuation of sovereignty.

Robes and provisions donation ceremony held

USDA Secretariat Member U Aung Thaung and family offer alms to a Sayadaw at Mahabodi Monastery in Kyaukka Village of Taungtha Township.— MNA

The opening ceremony of Amaya Road and Kyansittha Road in progress in North Okkalapa Township on Saturday. — MNA

New roads opened in North Okkalapa Township

WARD in Industrial Zone of North Okkalapa Township, attended by Yangon City Development Committee Chairman Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa.

Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Vice-Chairman Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa and Patron of MDG Co Ltd U Mya Thein formally opened the roads and inspected along the roads.

The new roads — Amaya Road with the length of 375 feet and width of 22 feet and Kyansittha Road with the length of 832 feet and width of 22 feet were built at the cost of K 7.8 million from YCDC and K 22.2 million from MDG Co Ltd. The new roads can contribute towards better transport for the people living in the Industrial Zone in North Okkalapa Township.

Industrial Development Research Exhibition and Paper-reading session continue

The second-day programmes of the Industrial Development Research Exhibition and Paper-reading session continued at the Yangon Technological University this morning.

Pro-Rector Dr Daw Mya Mya Oo presided over the paper-reading session.

Director U Win Tint of Myanmar Machine Tool & Electrical Industries, Lecturer Dr Myat Thin Ko and Lecturer Dr Mi Mi Cho Htwe of the Ministry of Science and Technology, Lecturer Daw Hlaing Hlaing Oo and Assistant Lecturer Daw Yin Yin Tun of YU presided over the session.

The opening ceremony of Amaya Road and Kyansittha Road in progress in North Okkalapa Township on Saturday. — MNA

The Ministry of Science and Technology, Lecturer Daw Hlaing Hlaing Oo and Assistant Lecturer Daw Yin Yin Tun of YU presided over the session.

Lecturer Dr Win Sana of the Ministry of Science and Technology, Lecturer Dr Chaw Su of the Ministry of Science and Technology, Senior Researcher Dr Khun Khin Win Aung of the Ministry of Science and Technology, Professor Dr Pancy Kyaw Hla of YU and Senior Researcher Dr Aye Aye Than of the Ministry of Science and Technology read out their papers.

At the Industrial Development Research Exhibition, Myanmar Railways, the Ministry of Science and Technology, Universities’ Science Research Department of YU, Physics Department of YU, YU, Suntac Technology and Fame Pharmaceauticals displayed their products.

The Industrial Development Research Exhibition and Paper-reading session continue tomorrow from 9 am to 5 pm. Admission is free. — MNA

Monday, 3 January, 2005

PERSPECTIVES

WARD off neo-colonialists with constant national awareness

Monday, 3 January, 2005

Ward off neo-colonialists with constant national awareness

Throughout the course of history, Myanmars were able to preserve and promote their dignity and integrity by daringly warding off all foreign aggression and encroachment with unyielding spirit.

Although Myanmar had suffered the loss of sovereignty and independence for a certain period of time in history, the entire people were able to regain independence, based on their strong patriotism, national spirit and Union Spirit.

When the independence was regained, the neo-colonialists were meddling in Myanmar’s internal affairs at every opportunity, breeding their minions.

In the message sent by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe on the occasion of the 84th Anniversary National Day, it was stated that because of the rapid advancement in scientific and technological fields, the neo-colonialists are employing new means, trying to encroach on, dominate and manipulate others through social, economic and cultural spheres and the media and information industry, instead of old and obvious methods such as expansion of their territory resorting to the use of force or hegemonism.

Hence, we must have constant national awareness to ward off their perpetration, while relying on patriotism and Union Spirit as our fundamental strength.

At present, minions of colonialists are perpetrating destructive acts on a greater scale with the effective use of media and destructive elements to jeopardize peace and stability of the State.

At such a time, those machinations are to be warded off with constant vigilance for perpetuation of the independence.

Moreover, the entire national people need to be equipped with patriotism and nationalistic spirit. Therefore, the government has laid down and is implementing the national education promotion programmes for the emergence of qualified human resources.

At a time when science and technology is in its prime, the entire national people are to ward off the neo-colonialists, who are going to intrude into Myanmar resorting to various ways and means, with patriotism and Union Spirit for perpetuation of sovereignty.

Robes and provisions donation ceremony held

USDA Secretariat Member U Aung Thaung and family offer alms to a Sayadaw at Mahabodi Monastery in Kyaukka Village of Taungtha Township.— MNA

The opening ceremony of Amaya Road and Kyansittha Road in progress in North Okkalapa Township on Saturday. — MNA

New roads opened in North Okkalapa Township

WARD in Industrial Zone of North Okkalapa Township, attended by Yangon City Development Committee Chairman Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa.

Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Vice-Chairman Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa and Patron of MDG Co Ltd U Mya Thein formally opened the roads and inspected along the roads.

The new roads — Amaya Road with the length of 375 feet and width of 22 feet and Kyansittha Road with the length of 832 feet and width of 22 feet were built at the cost of K 7.8 million from YCDC and K 22.2 million from MDG Co Ltd. The new roads can contribute towards better transport for the people living in the Industrial Zone in North Okkalapa Township.

Industrial Development Research Exhibition and Paper-reading session continue

The second-day programmes of the Industrial Development Research Exhibition and Paper-reading session continued at the Yangon Technological University this morning.

Pro-Rector Dr Daw Mya Mya Oo presided over the paper-reading session.

Director U Win Tint of Myanmar Machine Tool & Electrical Industries, Lecturer Dr Myat Thin Ko and Lecturer Dr Mi Mi Cho Htwe of the Ministry of Science and Technology, Lecturer Daw Hlaing Hlaing Oo and Assistant Lecturer Daw Yin Yin Tun of YU presided over the session.

Lecturer Dr Win Sana of the Ministry of Science and Technology, Lecturer Dr Chaw Su of the Ministry of Science and Technology, Senior Researcher Dr Khun Khin Win Aung of the Ministry of Science and Technology, Professor Dr Pancy Kyaw Hla of YU and Senior Researcher Dr Aye Aye Than of the Ministry of Science and Technology read out their papers.

At the Industrial Development Research Exhibition, Myanmar Railways, the Ministry of Science and Technology, Universities’ Science Research Department of YU, Physics Department of YU, YU, Suntac Technology and Fame Pharmaceauticals displayed their products.

The Industrial Development Research Exhibition and Paper-reading session continue tomorrow from 9 am to 5 pm. Admission is free. — MNA
Malaysia PM urges people to face challenges in New Year

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan — Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi Friday evening urged the people to be prepared to face the various challenges and opportunities that the year 2005 has in store for the country, and its efforts to fight corruption and enhance the efficiency of the public administration in 2004.

Abdullah said all Malaysians were sad over the tragedy that had claimed lives and destroyed property, including houses and fishing boats.

“I express my condolences and sadness to those who have lost members of their family in the disaster,” he said.

While expressing sadness over the fate of the tsunami disaster victims in northwestern Peninsular Malaysia, Abdullah said all Malaysians were sad over the tragedy that had claimed lives and destroyed property, including houses and fishing boats.

Abdullah said one of the New Year resolutions for Malaysia was the government’s success in strengthening the economy and its efforts to fight corruption and enhance the efficiency of the public administration in 2004.

“We must be prepared to face any eventuality so that we will be able to handle our economy as best as we can, and reduce the impact of anything that can undermine our economy,” Abdullah said in a 2005 New Year message aired over radio and television.

Abdullah said one of the New Year resolutions for Malaysia was the government’s success in strengthening the economy and its efforts to fight corruption and enhance the efficiency of the public administration in 2004.

While expressing sadness over the fate of the tsunami disaster victims in northwestern Peninsular Malaysia, Abdullah said all Malaysians were sad over the tragedy that had claimed lives and destroyed property, including houses and fishing boats.

“I express my thanks to these people — from the police, Army, Civil Defence Department, hospitals, RELA (People’s Volunteer Corps), voluntary organizations — and everyone else for having worked very hard to help the tsunami victims.” Abdullah also conveyed his condolences and sympathy to the governments and peoples of Indonesia, Thailand, India, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, the Maldives, Bangladesh and Somalia. All these countries were also hit by the tsunami.

Russia to crack down on industrial polluters

MOSCOW, Jan — Russia plans its first laws to crack down on industrial polluters next year, and will force offending companies to invest in clean technology rather than pay fines, the Natural Resources Minister said on Friday.

Yuri Trutnev said it was time to rein in Soviet-era industries. His comments were published as part of the government’s plans for next year on the official web site.

Towns across Russia are poisoned by factories. At the most polluted sites, such as the Arctic town of Norilsk, plant life is dead for miles around the smokestacks and people complain of breathing problems and other symptoms. “We talk a lot about ecological problems, but the state has no real levers of influence in this area,” said Trutnev in the published comments.

“Theatre of the natural Resources Ministry has taken the decision to create the first legal initiatives in this extremely sensitive sphere with the aim of creating a single ecological code,” Russia’s factories are at the top and a half times less energy efficient than their European competitors, and the new laws would aim to reduce pollution, Trutnev said.

“This step first would have to be the creation of a system encouraging our main polluters — industrial concerns — not to pay fines but invest money in modernizing production and meeting ecological demands,” Trutnev said.

Environmental groups say Russia has done little since the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 to clean up industry that, in Communist times, aimed only to maximize production. Trutnev confirmed that combating pollution would be difficult.

“Since this question affects all of Russian industry, we must approach it cautiously and thoroughly. I think that already in the second quarter of 2005, a series of legal initiatives will be sent for the Cabinet to examine,” Trutnev said.

Some Russian firms have pinned hopes on mechanisms spelled out in the Kyoto pact on climate change, which aim to encourage foreign firms to invest to cut pollution.

China will remain economic growth engine for Asia

SINGAPORE, Jan — Singapore’s Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong on Friday praised the role China has played in helping develop regional economy, saying that China will still be a strong economic growth engine for Asia.

“China’s economy is slowing down, reflecting the measures by its government to cool the overheating economy. But China is still expected to grow at a healthy 8 per cent next year, and will remain a powerful engine of growth for the rest of the region.”

“The Premier said that China’s economy is slowing down, reflecting the measures by its government to cool the overheating economy. But China is still expected to grow at a healthy 8 per cent next year, and will remain a powerful engine of growth for the rest of the region.”

Lee said in his New Year’s message that China is benefiting from the transformation of the two giant economies of China and India, and seizing many opportunities they offer.

Singapore’s foreign trade expanded strongly by 22 per cent this year over last year, and exports to China and India grew by 49 per cent and 33 per cent respectively, he said.

The Premier said that the island state’s economic growth this year was 8.1 per cent, and economic growth next year is projected to be between 3 and 5 per cent.

He expects the economic growth in the region next year to be moderate and is cautiously optimistic about the global economic outlook.

China will remain economic growth engine for Asia

MNA/Xinhua

Iraq attacks kill two civilians, one US Marine

BAGHDAD, Jan — Two Iraqi civilians were killed by a suicide car bomb in Bayji, north of Baghdad, and a US Marine was killed in action on a security patrol in the western province of Anbar, the military said.

The Marine died yesterday while conducting security operations, the US said without providing further details. Anbar is the site of Fallujah, where US and Iraqi forces in November staged an operation to kill and capture guerrillas who had staged near daily attacks on the military. Iraqi interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi has said official estimates against Iraq to increase as the Jan. 30 elections for a national assembly approach.

Three bombs exploded in and around Baghdad today, the Associated Press reported. A blast hit an Iraqi National Guard patrol near Mahmoudiya, about 25 miles (40 kilometers) south of the capital, killing one guard and wounding six.

AP said. In Youssifiya, just south of Baghdad, a bomb wounded two guardsmen, and in Baghdad’s Dora district, another blast damaged some shops, the agency reported. In the northern city of Mosul, Iraq’s third-largest city, yesterday police repelled an attack by guerrillas on a police station, the US military said today.

The attack was the fourth on the same station in southeast Mosul, and the eleventh on a station in the city since 10 Nov., the military said. US and Iraqi forces were deployed to Mosul in November after guerrillas seized most of the city’s police stations.

1,329 US troops killed since beginning of Iraq war

WASHINGTON, Jan — As of Saturday, 1 Jan., 2005, at least 1,329 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.

The AP count is one higher than the Defence Department’s tally, last updated at 10 am Thursday.

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 May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,191 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.

Ships berth at the warf of Singapore’s bustling Jurong Port on 2 Jan, 2005.
HK records coldest new year’s day in 43 years

HONG KONG, 2 Jan — Hong Kong recorded the lowest temperature for the New Year’s Day in 43 years. At 9 a.m., the Hong Kong Observatory noted that the air temperature was 7 degrees Celsius and the relative humidity 44 percent.

The frost warning has been issued and the cold weather warning is now in force. Members of the public are advised to take care to keep warm.

Local media reported that the cold weather had claimed at least five lives. Hong Kong Special Administrative Region government has opened 11 temporary cold shelters for the needy. — MNA/Xinhua

Pakistan, India exchange lists of nuclear installations

ISLAMABAD, 2 Jan — Pakistan and India Saturday exchanged the lists of their nuclear installations under an agreement that prohibits the two countries attacking each other’s nuclear installations, Foreign Office spokesman Masood Khan told a private television GEO.

The exchange of lists, covered under the agreement on the prohibition of attack against nuclear installations and facilities between Pakistan and India, carried out through diplomatic channels simultaneously in New Delhi and Islamabad, Khan said.

Khan disclosed that a diplomat of the Indian High Commission to Pakistan was called to the Foreign Office and the list of Pakistan’s nuclear installations was handed over to him.

In a similar practice, the list of India’s nuclear installations was handed over to an official of the Pakistani High Commission in New Delhi, Khan said.

According to the agreement on the exchange, which was signed on December 31, 1988 and enforced on January 27, 1991, India and Pakistan have to inform each other on January 1 every year of the nuclear installations and facilities to be covered by the agreement. — MNA/Xinhua

Yemen, China sign implementation plan on cultural agreement

SANAA, 31 Dec — Yemen and China signed here Thursday an implementation plan to carry out a cultural cooperation agreement between the two countries.

Under the plan, the two governments will encourage cultural organizations and enterprises of both Yemen and China to establish contacts directly as well as to increase personnel exchanges in order to boost ties in the area of culture. — MNA/Xinhua

Three roadside bombs target Iraqi troops

BAGHDAD, 2 Jan — At least three roadside bombs targeted Iraqi security troops Saturday, a day after Prime Minister Ayad Allawi warned Iraq’s neighbors to crack down on insurgents infiltrating from their territory, saying that Iraq’s patience was wearing thin.

In new violence, a U.S. Marine assigned to the 1 Marine Expeditionary Force was killed in action Friday during security operations in the Al Anbar Province, the Marines said in a statement, which did not provide any other details.

At 9 a.m, the Hong Kong Observatory noted that the air temperature was 7 degrees Celsius and the relative humidity 44 percent.

The frost warning has been issued and the cold weather warning is now in force. Members of the public are advised to take care to keep warm.

Local media reported that the cold weather had claimed at least five lives. Hong Kong Special Administrative Region government has opened 11 temporary cold shelters for the needy. — MNA/Xinhua

A Chinese woman checks out a jacket on sale at a shop in Beijing, China, on 1 Jan, 2005. — Internet

Passenger volume surpasses 30 million in Changi Airport

SINGAPORE, 31 Dec — Singapore’s Changi Airport on Thursday welcomed its 30 millionth passenger in its 23-year history with the landing of a Singapore Airlines’ flight from San Francisco.

Addressing the celebration, Minister for Transport Yeo Cheow Tong said that increasing Changi’s traffic will be key to maintain the city state’s aviation hub status.

“We need to ensure that Changi maintains and even improves on its standards of service to generate more growth,” said Yeo, adding that competition from regional airports has been increasing.

Yeo also hailed the contribution of the low cost carriers (LCC) to Changi’s traffic growth, saying that passenger traffic on such sectors as Bangkok, Hong Kong, Jakarta, Phuket and Hatyai served by LCCs grew by about 7 percent this year as compared to 2002, which otherwise would have only seen a 1-per-cent increase. In response to media query, Yeo said that Singapore plans to build a low cost terminal, which is expected to be completed by the end of next year, and all the budget airlines in the region are welcomed to start operations at Changi.

Changi crossed the 10 million and 20 million passengers mark in 1986 and 1994 respectively. The increase pace of another 10 million has been slightly slower due to several setbacks in the past few years including the Asian financial crisis, September 11 attacks in the United States, the war in Iraq and SARS. — MNA/Xinhua

Say no to drug
Secretarv-1 Li-Gen Thein Sein inspects agriculture, livestock breeding, education and health matters in Nyaungshwe, Taunggyi.

YANGON, 2 Jan — Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein inspected agriculture, livestock breeding, education and health matters in Nyaungshwe and Taunggyi Townships this morning.

Accompanied by member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Aung Htwe of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Shan State Peace and Development Council Commander of Eastern Command Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint, Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, Minister for Commerce Col Thein Nyunt, Deputy Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein and party, Secretary-1 went to the combined office of Shan State Peace and Development Council Office, the Secretary-1 arrived at the site for construction of the combined office of Shan State, District and Township War Veterans Organizations in Ward 3 of Ayethaya, Taunggyi Township.

Chairman of the Board of Directors of the State Peace and Development Council, Brig-Gen Aung Tun, Minister for Commerce Col Thein Nyunt, Deputy Minister of Defence Mya Oo, Deputy Minister for Education Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min, senior military officers and officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, the Secretary-1 were welcomed by officials of the Shan State (South) Special Region-6 (PNO), national race members and vegetable plantations.

They proceeded to Nanthe Agricultural Camp of Ruby Dragon Co Ltd of Shan State (South) Special Region-6 (PNO) in Nanthe Village-tract of Inlay region, Nyaungshwe Township. They were welcomed by officials of the Shan State (South) Special Region-6 (PNO), national race members and vegetable plantations.

As the Secretary-1 inspected the agricultural farm of Eikhsitan Co in Nantetha Village of Tilawa Khangyi Village-tract in Nyaungshwe Township, the Secretary-1 and party inspected orange and rubber plantations.

At the construction site of Government Technological College (Ayethaya) Project, Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and party heard reports on progress of the works and construction for the 2,500 feet long and 18 feet wide entrance road to the college presented by Edin Co Ltd Managing Director U Chit MNA.

They inspected functions of Nanthe Hotel. The commander gave instructions to the local people and create job opportunities for Tatmadaw families, to join hands with the locals in community welfare tasks and active participation in implementation of the seven-point Road Map. Afterwards, Lt-Gen Thein Sein cordially conversed with Tatmadawmembers and families.

On arrival at the Women’s and Children’s Specialist Hospital in Taunggyi, Medical Superintendent Dr U Win Myint submitted reports on construction of the three-storey annex to the hospital.

(See page 10)
USDA members, social organizations... 

(from page 16) levels were discussed in accord with the seven objectives laid down by the USDA Annual General Meeting (2004). And representatives from various regions participated in the plenary discussions of respective groups and could lay down nine future tasks successfully. Not only members of the USDA but also other social organizations, senior citizens and local people are to harmoniously implement the objectives and future tasks adopted by the AGM.

He added that today is a time when the country is being built so as to emerge as a peaceful, modern, developed and democratic nation. Thus, the seven-point Road Map to shape the future State is also being implemented. He noted that Patron of USDA Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe very often gives guidance to the outstanding youths.

To the outstanding youths. 
Shan State (East) USDA Executive Daw Nan Ni Laing Hsaing presented prizes to the outstanding youths, Shan State (East) USDA Executive Daw Nan Kyauk Tip presented K 17.4 million to be spent on rural development tasks in four districts to Kengtung District USDA Secretary U Sai Lone Hsang. The cash donation will be shared to K 5 million for power supply of five townships, K 10 million for rural development in 10 townships, K 1.5 million for Wamsai rural dispensary in Kengtung Township, K 400,000 for cash assistance for teachers in Monghsat Township and K 500,000 for power supply in Weinleik Village of Monghsat Township.

Before concluding the meeting, those presented approved to implement the seven objectives and nine future tasks, and the plans to be carried out in Shan State (East), — MNA

Minister looks into CNG Station

YANGON, 2 Jan — Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi this morning inspected Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) station in Paleik in Mandalay and attended to the needs.

Officials of the Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise reported on sale of natural gas and condition of compressor. At the station, the minister also cordially met with vehicle owners and drivers and travellers.

The station sells natural gas from 3 am to midnight daily at reasonable prices. Thanks to the natural gas-used vehicles, bus fares are reduced by 50%.
Development in the science and technology sector in the time of the State Peace and Development Council

Hailing the 57th Anniversary Independence Day

Table showing opening of new universities, institutes and colleges

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>1988</th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>Sr</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>1988</th>
<th>2004</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>University of Technology</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Government Computer College</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Government</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Technological</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>College</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Government</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Technological</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Institute</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>University of Computer Studies</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Myanmar Aerospace Engineering</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>University</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>University</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>University</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Myanmar Aerospace Engineering University in Meiktila, Mandalay Division.
The 57th Anniversary Independence Day falls on 4 January 2005. This year’s Objectives of the Independence Day are as follows:

1. 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.
2. All the national people to unite with might and main for the emergence of an enduring State constitution and for building a new modern and developed nation.
3. All the national peoples as national duties and to implement them without fail so that the Union of Myanmar can stand forever as a sovereign and modern state amid the global community.
4. All the national people to work in concert for success of the seven-point Road Map of the State with Union Spirit and nationalistic spirit, and to prevent such interferences.

As regards this, Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe said: “As a matter of fact, the building of a peaceful, modern and developed nation plays a basic role in shaping the nation into a democratic one. According to the experiences of the entire people, the strength of the people is the most basic requirement for progress of the nation”.

In other words, those who will shoulder the above-mentioned national responsibilities and ward off the threats of any form are none but the national people themselves.

It is necessary to have a close connection among these objectives. Otherwise, the emergence of a discipline-flourishing democracy will be a distant reality on account of outside interferences. If so, who will take these national responsibilities and ward off the threats of any form? And who will prevent such interferences?

The first point of the Independence Day objectives is based on the past events of Myanmar history. Myanmar was once colonized by the expansionists. It was not however at ease that they occupied Myanmar. Arming themselves with unyielding spirit and patriotic spirit, the entire national people of Myanmar fought tooth and nail against the colonialists. Being no match for the colonialists at weaponry, Myanmar had to give herself up.

Later, Myanmar national brethren instilled in themselves anti-colonialist sentiment, Union Spirit, and nationalistic fervour, and tried various approaches to restore independence. In Panglong on 12 February 1947, leaders of national races stood firmly in solidarity and agreed on the importance of national consolidation crucial for the restoration of independence. It is through the national unity that national independence was

(See page 8)
National objectives imperative for the march to discipline-flourishing new democracy

(from page 8)

restored on 4 January 1948.

As a result of the seeds of confusion and dissension sowen, the national brethren misunderstood one another even in the post-independence period to an extent that instability erupted in the country and independence was on the verge of being lost again. Based on the past events of history, the point — ‘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’ — is included in the objectives of the Independence Day as an important objective. In fact, that point is ‘Our Three Main National Causes’ crucial for the country.

In connection with ‘Our Three Main National Causes’, Head of State Senior General Than Shwe, in his guidance given to the USDA Annual General Meeting 2004, said: “We need a strong patriotic force that keeps in the forefront our Three Main National Causes, the national policy and fully imbued with Union Spirit, to build a peaceful, modern and developed nation.”

Senior General Than Shwe stressed that ‘Our Three Main National Causes’ is the lifeblood of the country. Now, the second, third and fourth objectives of the Independence Day have been added to the seven-point Road Map and being implemented.

The seven-point Road Map is as follows:

1. Reconvening of the National Convention that has been adjourned since 1996.
2. After the successful holding of the National Convention, step by step implementation of the process necessary for the emergence of a genuine and discipline-flourishing democratic system.
3. Drafting of a new constitution in accordance with the basic principles and detailed basic principles laid down by the National Convention.
4. Adoption of the Constitution through national referendum.
5. Holding of free and fair elections for Pyithu Hluttaw (Legislative bodies) according to the new constitution.
6. Convening of Hluttaws attended by Hluttaw members in accordance with the new constitution, and
7. Building a modern, developed and democratic nation by the state leaders elected by the Hluttaw and the government and other central organs formed by the Hluttaw.

He pointed out the importance of national unity among the compatriots. An analytical approach to the objectives of the 57th Anniversary Independence Day made it clear that they correlate with one another and those who will have to implement them are no other than the national brethren themselves.

This being the case, the national brethren are to march to the discipline-flourishing democratic nation without going astray but by further consolidating the strength of national unity, in other words, the power of Union Spirit, in accordance with the national objectives of the 57th Anniversary Independence Day. 

********

**The newly-built University of Traditional Medicine in Mandalay.**

**Mone Creek Hydel Power Plant Project.**

**Translation: KTY**
Government striving to transform...

The Secretary-1 said he and officials were there to meet the national races organizations and to explain the government’s attitude towards them and assistance to be rendered for development of the regions including Shan State.

National races groups had returned to the legal fold as they believed the policies being practised by the government. And now they are working together with the government in the efforts for development of socio-economy of the people of the region including their respective regions.

The Secretary-1 added that the government on its part will continue to work together with the national race organizations without changing its attitude as it is ever before, and continued assistance will be provided to them.

Arrangements have been made for the national races organizations be able to present their reports, he noted. The State’s national policy ‘Our Three Main National Causes’ —

The Secretary-1 said, people will participate in unity in the tasks for emergence of a modern, developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation under the leadership of Tatmadaw government.

* U Aung Hkam Hti said his national race people will participate in unity in the tasks for emergence of a modern, developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation under the leadership of Tatmadaw government.

* U Takleh reported on plans for regional development, efforts for total elimination of narcotic drugs in the region under the leadership of the government and his determination to reach the goal set by the government.

* Chairman of MTA (Shwe Pyi Aye) U Sai Khun Main said that he supports the Tatmadaw government’s policy and its nation building endeavours.

* U Khay Tai of Shan State (North) Special Region-3 said that they will cooperate with the government in accordance with the policies laid down by the State.

The State’s national policy ‘Our Three Main National Causes’ — Non-disintegration of the Union, Non-disintegration of national solidarity and Perpetuation of sovereignty — is most important one for the Union of Myanmar where all national races have been living together in peace and unity since yore.
Government striving to transform…

(from page 10)

Besides, the national races organizations are to give priority to agriculture by making full use of their favourable soil conditions to meet the essential basic needs of the local nationals, such as food, clothing and shelter. The Secretary-1 said emphasis is to be placed on cultivation of rubber that is in good demand.

The Secretary-1 urged national races organizations to work together with the government for total elimination of narcotic drugs, the evil legacy of colonials, and for development of education, health, human resources and transport of the regions and the people.

Chairman of Pa-O National Organization of special region-6 in southern Shan State U Aung Khiam Hti expressed his pleasure for goodwill and loving kindness of the government, the visit of high-ranking officials and fulfillment of regional requirements.

He said efforts are to be made for development of the regions in accord with the instructions of the Secretary-1. He said his national brethren will participate in unity in the tasks for emergence of a modern, developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation under the leadership of Tatmadaw government.

He also reported on cooperation with the government in the respective sectors for success of the national convention and the seven-point Road Map under the leadership of the government.

The Secretary-1 then fulfilled the requirements and presented gifts to U Aung Hkam Hti. The Secretary-1 also greeted U Aung Hkam Hti and party. The Secretary-1 met shelter needs to local people and economic progress based on agriculture and livestock breeding. He spoke of the need to grow not only paddy and maize but also rubber after organizing local people.

Rubber is now in good demand with fetches high prices in the world and cultivation of rubber creates job opportunities in the region. With the development of agriculture, livestock breeding and manufacturing industries, strong and reliable economic enterprises will emerge, he said.

Patrons of Shan State Nationalities People’s Liberation Organization U Sein Shwe and U Saw Phar Mu and Chairman U Takleh reported on plans for regional development, efforts for total elimination of narcotic drugs in the region under the leadership of the government and has determination to reach the goal set by the government.

Next, U Khun Htwe and U Sein Shwe of Shan State Nationalities People’s Liberation Organization reported on arrangements for cultivation of paddy. Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt and Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo gave supplementary reports.

Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Li-Gen Thein Sein holds discussions on regional development with national races leaders of the peace groups in Taunggyi, Shan State (South). — MNA

OBJECTIVES OF 57TH ANNIVERSARY INDEPENDENCE DAY

All the national people to collectively safeguard the national independence and sovereignty of the State and ensure non-discrimination of the Union and national unity — All the national people to unitefully strive with might and main for emergence of an enduring State Constitution and for building a new modern and developed nation — All the national people to work in concert for success of the seven-point Road Map of the State with Union Spirit and nationalist spirit — All the national people to make concerted efforts for building of a new discipline-flourishing democratic nation

The Secretary-1 fulfilled the requirements. He presented gifts to Chairman U Takleh of Shan State Nationalities People’s Liberation Organization and greeted them and families.

The Secretary-1 met national race leaders of Shan State (North) Special Region-3, SSNA Wainwe and Mongyun, MTA groups (Ho Mein), (Nayang), (Matkyan) and (Shwe Pyi Aye) and discussed regional development.

The Secretary-1 explained the attitude of the government towards national races organizations and continued efforts for success of the seven-point Road Map.

He said national races organizations are to make efforts for providing food, clothing and shelter needs to the local people making use of better foundations in the region.

He said it is necessary for the people to establish cottage industries through investments in agriculture and livestock breeding. In order to do so, human resources are to be produced.

Therefore, the government has designated special regions and has established universities, colleges and hospitals including those in Taunggyi, Kengtung, Lashio and Panglong in Shan State. Moreover, basic education primary schools, middle schools and high schools have been opened in the State.

So, local people are to take the opportunities created by the State which paves the way for the school-age children for learning basic and higher education. Only then, will intellectuals and intelligentsia emerge from the region, Li-Gen Thein Sein said.

Moreover, efforts are needed for the prevalence of law and order, community peace and tranquility, and elimination of drug in the region under the protection of law.

Next, Chairman of MTA (Shwe Pyi Aye) U Sai Khun Man said that he supports the Tatmadaw government’s policy and its nation-building endeavours. He also believes the seven-point road map laid down by the Tatmadaw government and will also cooperate with the government for realizing it.

Next, U Khay Tai of Shan State (North) Special Region-3 said that they will cooperate with the government in accordance with the policies laid down by the State. He also reported on the need to fulfill for the regional development. Next, Commander Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint, Minister Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Tun, Deputy Ministers Dr Mya Oo and Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min also gave supplementary reports.

Afterwards, U Khun Sai and U Sai Myo Aung of MTA (Matkyan) pledged that they will also cooperate with the government in accordance with the policies laid down by the government. They also reported on the need to fulfill for the regional development.

Next, Lt-Gen Thein Sein attended the needs and presented gifts to the national races leaders. Lt-Gen Thein Sein and party had lunch together with the national races leaders.

After the lunch, Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and Commander Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint posed for a documentary photo together with leaders of the peace organizations. — MNA
Princess Anne enraged when gunman tried to kidnap her

**LONDON,** 1 Jan—Britain’s Princess Anne was so enraged when a deranged gunman tried to kidnap her that she nearly lost her temper and hit him, secret documents revealed on Saturday.

But she decided that discretion was the better part of valour and instead showed exemplary sang-froid, refusing to get out of her official limousine and telling gunman Ian Ball that there was no way his ransom demand could be met.

Dramatic details of how Queen Elizabeth’s daughter risked her life on the night of March 20, 1974 were revealed when official documents were released for the first time by the National Archives.

Four men were wounded trying to foil the kidnap attempt by Ball, who screeched his car to a halt in front of the limousine carrying Anne and her then husband, Mark Phillips, down the Mall, the ceremonial avenue between Buckingham Palace and Trafalgar Square.

He pointed a gun at her and said: “I want you to come with me for a day or two because I want 2 million pounds.” (3.8 million US dollars).

Anne, who refused to get out of the car, told Ball that was not “bloody likely. I haven’t got two million.”

Recalling her ordeal soon afterwards, she said: “It was all so infuriating. I kept saying I didn’t want to get out of the car and I was not going to get out of the car. “I nearly lost my temper with him. But I knew that if I did, I should hit him and he would shoot me.”

Ball, who was carrying a ransom note addressed to the Queen, was fatally wrestled to the ground and overpowered when police reinforcements arrived.

He later admitted attempted murder and attempted kidnap and was imprisoned indefinitely under mental health legislation.

On reading the official version of the kidnap attempt, Prime Minister Harold Wilson scribbled in the margin: “A very good story. Pity the Palace didn’t let it come out.”

He sent a message to Anne that was fulsome in praise, telling her: “You yourself displayed great bravery and presence of mind in facing your assailant.”

Officials, who launched a major re-assessment over how the royal family should be protected in future, believed Ball had no political motives. — MNA/Reuters

**Doha reveals mascot for 2006 Asian Games**

**DOHA,** 1 Jan—The official mascot for the 2006 Asian Games in Doha was unveiled here Friday evening while the organizers of the games initiated the first batch of football tickets for the games.

The official mascot for the 2006 Asian Games in Doha was chosen as the official mascot and the ceremonial avenue between Qatar and the Asian Games Organizing Committee (AGOC). In this way, Oryx represents the link between Qatar’s heritage and heartfelt generosity, hospitality and entertainment values that are ingrained in the country’s language, its Arabian heritage, and the Asian Games, he added.

“To us, the Asian Games is not just a sporting event, nor is it solely about greeting our visitors and showcasing our country. The Doha 2006 Asian Games means so much more. It is about our sense of belonging and our position in the world and it is about our community, our culture and our environment of which we are very proud. More than ever, we can see and understand the love and strengths of people of Asia, and more than ever we can reach them with hope, possibility and change,” said Al Qahani. In the mascot launch, the Games anthem was also introduced as part of the festivities. About 250 school children performed the anthem that resounded at the Corniche. — MNA/Xinhua

**China uncovers 21 illegal compact disc production lines in 2004**

**BEIJING,** 1 Jan—Chinese police uncovered a total of 21 compact disc production lines in 2004 in cooperation with Press and publishing administrative bodies across the country, all smuggled by foreign pirates to the country for illegal operations.

“The recent crackdown has added to the total of illegal production lines of audio and visual works to 200,” said an official with the State Administration of Press and Publication.

All the 200 production lines have been brought in by foreign crime gangs of pirates, which turned China into a major country victimized by intellectual property rights violators, the official said.

The most recent police anti-piracy raids were launched in December last year in south China’s Shenzhen City, which netted six video disc production lines, including two “Toolex” lines made in China into a major country victimized by intellectual property rights violators, the official said.

The most recent police anti-piracy raids were launched in December last year in south China’s Shenzhen City, which netted six video disc production lines, including two “Toolex” lines made in China into a major country victimized by intellectual property rights violators, the official said.

The most recent police anti-piracy raids were launched in December last year in south China’s Shenzhen City, which netted six video disc production lines, including two “Toolex” lines made in China into a major country victimized by intellectual property rights violators, the official said.

The most recent police anti-piracy raids were launched in December last year in south China’s Shenzhen City, which netted six video disc production lines, including two “Toolex” lines made in China into a major country victimized by intellectual property rights violators, the official said.

The most recent police anti-piracy raids were launched in December last year in south China’s Shenzhen City, which netted six video disc production lines, including two “Toolex” lines made in China into a major country victimized by intellectual property rights violators, the official said.

The most recent police anti-piracy raids were launched in December last year in south China’s Shenzhen City, which netted six video disc production lines, including two “Toolex” lines made in China into a major country victimized by intellectual property rights violators, the official said.

The most recent police anti-piracy raids were launched in December last year in south China’s Shenzhen City, which netted six video disc production lines, including two “Toolex” lines made in China into a major country victimized by intellectual property rights violators, the official said.

The most recent police anti-piracy raids were launched in December last year in south China’s Shenzhen City, which netted six video disc production lines, including two “Toolex” lines made in China into a major country victimized by intellectual property rights violators, the official said.

The most recent police anti-piracy raids were launched in December last year in south China’s Shenzhen City, which netted six video disc production lines, including two “Toolex” lines made in China into a major country victimized by intellectual property rights violators, the official said.

The most recent police anti-piracy raids were launched in December last year in south China’s Shenzhen City, which netted six video disc production lines, including two “Toolex” lines made in China into a major country victimized by intellectual property rights violators, the official said.

The most recent police anti-piracy raids were launched in December last year in south China’s Shenzhen City, which netted six video disc production lines, including two “Toolex” lines made in China into a major country victimized by intellectual property rights violators, the official said.

The most recent police anti-piracy raids were launched in December last year in south China’s Shenzhen City, which netted six video disc production lines, including two “Toolex” lines made in China into a major country victimized by intellectual property rights violators, the official said.

The most recent police anti-piracy raids were launched in December last year in south China’s Shenzhen City, which netted six video disc production lines, including two “Toolex” lines made in China into a major country victimized by intellectual property rights violators, the official said.

The most recent police anti-piracy raids were launched in December last year in south China’s Shenzhen City, which netted six video disc production lines, including two “Toolex” lines made in China into a major country victimized by intellectual property rights violators, the official said.

The most recent police anti-piracy raids were launched in December last year in south China’s Shenzhen City, which netted six video disc production lines, including two “Toolex” lines made in China into a major country victimized by intellectual property rights violators, the official said.
E China province seaports handle 300 million tons of goods in 2004
JINAN, 1 Jan — Seaports in east China’s Shandong Province have handled more than 300 million tons of goods in 2004, 100 million tons more than two years ago, said Zhou Qitian, director of the provincial Communications Department, in the capital city Jinan on Thursday.
Zhou said by December 18 this year, seaports in Shandong handled a total of about 302 million tons of goods, up 18.2 per cent from the last same period. It is the first time the yearly handling capability of Shandong seaports has surpassed 300 million tons. Zhao Kezhi, vice-governor of Shandong, said that it took Shandong seaports 46 years to make its annual handling capability pass 100 million tons from the year 1949 and seven years to surpass 200 million tons. But in two years it has jumped to 300 million tons.
Zhou also noted that by December 17, Qingdao Port had handled five million TEUs of containers, meeting the international standard of container shipping centre. — MNA/Xinhua

Chinese TV giant reports possible huge loss
BEIJING, 2 Jan — The Sichuan Changhong Electric Co, China’s leading TV producer, has reported a possible huge loss, because it may be unable to collect 310 million US dollars from its US importer.
Apex Digital Inc may not be able to pay the owed money because of the loss it suffered when the United States imposed anti-dumping measures on colour televisions made in China in April of 2004, said a bulletin the company posted to the Shanghai Stock Exchange last week.
Changhong expected to collect 150 million out of 467.5 million US dollars which Apex owed it by 25 December of 2004, the bulletin said.
Apex is losing money also because it must now pay high fees for patent use.
“It is very hard to estimate what impact the US anti-dumping measures and high patent fees will have and how much risk the company will run to collect from Apex. So the company decided to prepare a certain amount of fund to deal with non-performing receivables,” the document said.
The company will release the exact amount of fund prepared in its annual report of 2004, it said.
Changhong is trying every legal way to clear and collect the money, the company said.
The bulletin also released that Changhong faces risk of collecting 182.8 million yuan (22.1 million US dollars) it entrusted the Nanfang Bonds Co to invest in treasuries as Nanfang Bonds has been under government surveillance for illegal operation since January of 2004.
Changhong will see a huge loss in 2004 and the exact amount will be released in the annual report, the company said.
But the company still reported a debt-to-asset ratio less than 50 per cent and it runs in normal condition.

Uganda to host Africa’s annual peace conference in 2005
KAMPALA, 1 Jan— Uganda is to host a peace conference attended by at least 15 African countries next year, The New Vision newspaper reported on Friday.
The conference is to be jointly organized by Peace University Africa (PUA), a Belgian institution Anti-Bacterial Tolerant (ABETO), a local non-governmental organization.
ABETO chairman Moses Musana was quoted as saying that Uganda was chosen to host the annual event because of the recent peace talks between the Ugandan Government and the rebel Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA).
“PUA realized that Uganda had made progress in fighting the 18-year-long war. The ongoing transition to multiparty politics was also a driving force,” he said.
Musana said Belgian and German professors would address the participants, adding that the participants would acquire skills in mediation, negotiation and conflict management, which were vital for fighting conflict. — MNA/Xinhua
**SPORTS**

**African Confederation Cup final becomes Ghana’s domestic affair**

Cano, 2 Jan—The African Confederation Cup will see two clubs from the same country clash for the first time in its first leg of the final on Sunday.

Ghana clubs Asante Kotoko and Hearts of Oak play in a tie postponed from last month because of the presidential elections in the West African country.

It is the first final of the competition, inaugurated last year by the Confederation of African Football (CAF), which combined the old African Cup Winners’ Cup and CAF Cup into a single competition.

Hearts will host the first leg in Accra on Sunday with the return leg in Kumasi one week later on January 9.

Asante Kotoko and Hearts of Oak are both former African champions. —MNA/Xinhua

---

**Tokyo Verdy beat Jubilo Iwata to win Emperor’s Cup**

Tokyo, 2 Jan—Ten-man Tokyo Verdy beat holders Jubilo Iwata 2-1 in a grudge final to lift the Emperor’s Cup for the second time on Saturday.

Strikers Kazunori Iio and Kazuki Hiramoto were on target for once-mighty Verdy, who must wait until 2006. While no take part in this year’s competition after the Asian Champions League.

Jubilo put pressure. The annual New Year’s Day match was given added spice after Verdy’s Argentine coach Osvaldo Ardiles argued that Jubilo should not represent Japan in the Asian Champions League.

Under the current rules, Jubilo will take part in this year’s competition after winning last season’s Emperor’s Cup. Verdy must wait until 2006. While no longer the force they were in the mid-1990s, Verdy dominated in chilly Tokyo.

Hiramoto, who had been guilty of two glaring misses before Iio’s strike, added a second in the 54th minute with a fine solo effort.

Nishi punished after confusion in the Verdy defence to give three-times-J League champions Jubilo a lifeline and midfielder Takashi Fukumitsu’s header shaved the post moments later.

Verdy, who won the first two J-League titles in 1993 and 1994, survived Jubilo’s late onslaught to end their long trophy drought since lifting the Emperor’s Cup in the 1996 season.

“It was a long, hard road just to get to the final,” said Ardiles. “The players were unbelievable. We were a man down and under pressure but they battled so hard. It gives us reason to be optimistic for next season.” —MNA/Reuters

---

**English Premier League matches report**

London, 2 Jan—Brief match reports from English Premier League matches played on Saturday:

**Bolton Wanderers 1 West Bromwich Albion 1**

Bottom side Albion were set to record their first win since Bryan Robson took charge until El Hadji Diouf saved Wanderers from a seventh straight defeat.

The Senegal international netted five minutes from time to cancel out Zoltan Gera’s 13th-minute strike.

**Charlton Athletic 1 Arsenal 3**

Arsenal were held to a 1-1 draw at The Valley last season and had to battle hard again to take home the points to keep up the pressure on leaders Chelsea.

Fredrik Ljungberg’s opener was cancelled out by a thunderous free kick on the stroke of halftime by Moroccan defender Talal El Karkouri. But the Swede was unable to finish off a slick move to put Arsenal back in front before Dutchman Robin van Persie added a third.

**Manchester City 2 Southampton 1**

City secured their first home win over Saints for more than seven years to keep Harry Redknapp still seeking his first win since taking over on the south coast.

Goals from Dutch midfielder Paul Bosvelt and England winger Shaun Wright-Phillips, with a thumping 30-metre shot, put Kevin Keegan’s side in control before Kevin Phillips replied with a stoppage-time penalty.

**Newcastle 2 Birmingham City 1**

Newcastle earned their first victory since the end of November to halt Birmingham’s four-win sequence. Shola Ameobi headed home Craig Bellamy’s cross and Lee Bowyer made it 2-0 at the break. Emile Heskey’s fine finish on 64 minutes proved only a consolation.

**Answers to yesterday’s Crossword Puzzle**

- **SWO**
- **HKGW**
- **CHANGI COARSE**
- **URLAUIE**
- **FORFET Sapid**
- **FITTDEY**
- **LOOT CRUET**
- **ERGIRWO**
- **TRIBE CHAR**
- **SEBRUID**
- **THON TRAMPLE**
- **IOGEVP**
- **FUTURE REVEAL**
- **FHTNNTY**

---

**Injury forces Olsson out of European indoor c’ships**

Stockholm, 2 Jan—Olympic triple jump champion Christian Olsson of Sweden was forced to pull out of the European indoor championships in Madrid in March because of an ankle injury.

“There is no reason to take risks by starting to compete indoors during winter when you’re not 100 percent cured because of an ankle injury,” Olsson said in a statement on Saturday.

Olsson, 24, said on his website that he will miss the indoor season and planned to start competing again in June, two months ahead of the world championships in Helsinki. —MNA/Xinhua

---

**Chelsea beat Liverpool 1-0**

London, 2 Jan—Chelsea, boosted by a slice of good fortune for substitute Joe Cole’s winner, continued their surge towards a first Premier League title with a battling 1-0 victory on Saturday.

Champions Arsenal, helped by a double from Sweden midfielder Freddie Ljungberg, kept Chelsea’s lead at five points with a 3-1 success at Charlton Athletic while Manchester United, who won 2-0 at Middlesbrough in an evening kickoff, are four points further back in third.

Under the current rules, Jubilo will take part in this year’s competition after winning last season’s Emperor’s Cup. Verdy must wait until 2006. While no longer the force they were in the mid-1990s, Verdy dominated in chilly Tokyo, tio breaking the deadlock in the 36th minute, tapping in after Hiramoto’s header hit the post.

---

Chelsea’s Damien Duff (L) and Liverpool’s Djimi Traore race for the ball during their Premiership football match at Anfield in Liverpool. —INTERNET

---

**Injury forces Olsson out of European indoor c’ships**

Stockholm, 2 Jan—Olympic triple jump champion Christian Olsson of Sweden was forced to pull out of the European indoor championships in Madrid in March because of an ankle injury.

“There is no reason to take risks by starting to compete indoors during winter when you’re not 100 percent cured because of an ankle injury,” Olsson said in a statement on Saturday.

Olsson, 24, said on his website that he will miss the indoor season and planned to start competing again in June, two months ahead of the world championships in Helsinki. —MNA/Xinhua

---

**Injury forces Olsson out of European indoor c’ships**

Stockholm, 2 Jan—Olympic triple jump champion Christian Olsson of Sweden was forced to pull out of the European indoor championships in Madrid in March because of an ankle injury.

“There is no reason to take risks by starting to compete indoors during winter when you’re not 100 percent cured because of an ankle injury,” Olsson said in a statement on Saturday.

Olsson, 24, said on his website that he will miss the indoor season and planned to start competing again in June, two months ahead of the world championships in Helsinki. —MNA/Xinhua
YANGON, 2 Jan — Yangon Institute of Education Practising High School held a prize presentation ceremony this morning.

Present were family members of Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council, Maj-Gen Myint Swe, member of the State Peace and Development Council Chief of Armed Forces Training Lt-Gen Kyaw Win, and wife Daw Khin Win Aung, the wife of Minister of Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin, the wife of Minister for Education U Than Aung, Chief Justice U Myo Nyunt, the director-general of Higher Education Department (Lower Myanmar) and wife, the rector of YIE, faculty members, the headmistress and teachers, outstanding students and guests.

They saluted the State Flag. Headmistress Daw Khin Win Aung briefed them on the academic and management matters of the school and expressed thanks.

Next, officials presented prizes to the respective outstanding students.

Prizes presented to winners in Baby Show

YANGON, 2 Jan — Hailing the 57th Anniversary Independence Day, a ceremony to present prizes to winners in the baby show of the Yangon Command Maternal and Child Welfare Association was held at the hall of the command this morning, attended by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and wife Daw Khin Thet Htay, Chairperson of the Yangon Division Supervisory Committee for MCWA.

The commander presented prizes to winners in the baby show. Daw Khin Thet Htay also gave away prizes to the best mother award winners. Later, officials presented prizes to the other winners.

YANGON, 2 Jan — Independence Day programmes to be telecast live

YANGON, 2 Jan — Myanma Radio and Television will telecast live the programmes featuring the State Flag Hoisting and Saluting Ceremony to mark the 57th Anniversary Independence Day from 6.45 am on 4 January 2005 from People’s Square, where the ceremony will be held.

Work Committee for All-round Upgrading of Yangon City Kandawgyi Gardens and Zoological Gardens (Yangon) meets

YANGON, 2 Jan — Work Committee for All-round Upgrading of Yangon City Kandawgyi Gardens and Zoological Gardens (Yangon) held its coordination meeting at the agricultural museum of Myanmar Agriculture Service at Kandawgyi Gardens at 2 pm today, with an address by Chairman of the Work Committee Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe.

In his address, Chairman of the Work Committee Maj-Gen Myint Swe said that it has been over one year in which measures for all-round upgrading of Yangon City Kandawgyi Gardens and Zoological Gardens (Yangon) are being taken; that officials are to coordinate matters to make energetic efforts for timely completion of the work.

This was followed by a general round of discussions.

The meeting ended with concluding remarks by Chairman of the Work Committee Maj-Gen Myint Swe. Afterwards, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe and party inspected work being carried out for all-round upgrading of Yangon City Kandawgyi Gardens and Zoological Gardens (Yangon).

Next, Chairman of the Work Committee Maj-Gen Myint Swe gave instructions on meeting the requirements to make the gardens to become a place where knowledge on farming can be gained, and fulfilled the set standards.

Next, officials presented prizes to the respective outstanding students.

Sunday, 2 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 Eastern Shan State, (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Chin, Kayin and Rakhine States, Magway and Bago Divisions, (6°C) below normal in Taninthayi Division and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were (1°C) each in Namsam and Lsolian, (3°C) each in Kengtung, Heho and Pinlaung and (4°C) in Hakha.

Maximum temperature on 1-1-2005 was 91°F. Minimum temperature on 2-1-2005 was 56°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 lrs MST on 2-1-2005 was 82%. Total sunshine hours on 1-1-2005 was (8.0) hours approx. Rainfalls on 2-1-2005 were nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 8 mph from West at (16:00) hours MST on 1-1-2005.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 3-1-2005: Likelihood of isolated light rain in Kachin State and upper Sagaing Division and weather will be partly cloudy to cloudy in Shan, Rakhine and Chin States and Taninthayi Division and generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

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

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 3-1-2005: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 3-1-2005: Fair weather.

MNA
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

Dress rehearsal for Independence Day State Flag Hoisting and Saluting Ceremony held

Yangon, 2 Jan — The full-dress rehearsal for the 57th Anniversary Independence Day State Flag Hoisting and Saluting ceremony took place at the People’s Square on Pyay Road here this morning.

Chairman of the subcommittee for organizing the ceremony Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Secretary Lt-Col Myint Kyi and members, military region commanders, senior military officers and officials inspected the rehearsal.

Shan State (East) USDA holds coord meeting

Yangon, 2 Jan — Shan State (East) 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 Shan State (East), at the City Hall in Kengtung on 31 December morning.

Present on the occasion were members of USDA, members of War Veterans Organization, MWAF and MCWA, members of Red Cross and Auxiliary Fire Brigades, townswelders and outstanding youths.

Those present saluted the State Flag. The students of Kengtung BEHS No 1 sang the songs titled ‘Myanmar Land’ and “Eternal Union’.

Speaking on the occasion, Shan State (East) USDA Secretary Dr Sai Hsay Kaw said that accomplishments of the association at different levels have been outlined.

5,588 prisoners released to mark 57th Anniversary Independence Day

Yangon, 2 Jan — The State Peace and Development Council, upholding Our Three Main National Causes, is building a new modern developed nation hand in hand with the people for the emergence of a discipline-flourishing democratic nation. Nowadays, the government is marching towards a discipline-flourishing democratic nation in cooperation with all national races in the Union in accord with the seven-point Road Map.

Prison terms were meted out against those who broke the existing laws for prevalence of peace and the rule of law in accord with law.

The Prisons Department is carrying out the tasks to transform prisoners who are kept in the rehabilitation centres into citizens who can serve the interest of the nation. Altogether 5,588 prisoners with records of improved character have been released from the respective prisons today to show sympathy for them and their families and in the belief that they would continue to serve the interest of their own, the nation and its people after realizing the government’s loving-kindness and goodwill.

The release of the prisoners is aimed at marking the 57th Anniversary Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar upholding Our Three Main National Causes—non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty.