Robust sovereignty of a country rests on solidarity of entire people, with Union Spirit as the base

YANGON, 4 Jan — The following is a translation of the message sent by State Peace and Development Council Chairman Defence Services Commander-in-Chief Senior General Than Shwe on the occasion of the 57th Anniversary of the Independence Day.

On this auspicious occasion of the 57th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar, I would like to extend greetings to all the national people of the State, with amity and high esteem.

It has now been 57 years since the independence and sovereignty of the Union of Myanmar was restored, after the entire national people had sacrificed lots of lives, blood and sweat.

Since prehistoric times, all the national brethren including Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Bamar, Mon, Rakhine and Shan have been living in unity and oneness and in weal or woe throughout the course of history. Based on the love for their country and race, Union Spirit and patriotism has been flourishing in the mind and hearts of Myanmar people throughout the successive eras. Thanks to the urge of their noble spirit, they were able to regain independence and sovereignty.

Taking the lessons of history that the nation was strong and developed when there was national unity and it was weak and in backwardness when unity among the nationalities disintegrated, the government has made the firm resolve to build the nation, laying down the policy of non-disintegration of the Union; non-disintegration of national solidarity; and perpetuation of sovereignty, and keeping national re-consolidation and perpetual flourishing and promotion of Union Spirit in the fore. Since its assumption of the State duties, the Government has been building a peaceful, modern and developed state, placing "Our Three Main National Causes", the national policy, in the fore. As national solidarity is the prime requirement for the nation-building drive, the government held negotiations with armed groups to make peace with them, and in this way, it has restored peace in the whole nation first. As peace is prevailing in the nation, it has continued to carry out the national development undertakings.

In its national consolidation drive, the government has given priority to the development of border areas, whose progress was slow due to security reasons. It founded the Central Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races, and has developed the economic infrastructure building programmes, and transport, agricultural, fish and animal farming, health and education sectors of the border areas. At the same time, it has achieved sound foundations for national consolidation.

Plans are being implemented after being drawn up for establishing a peaceful, modern and developed nation, which has been designated as national goal. In this context, the government formed the Special Projects Implementation Committee to build development infrastructures. Now, the committee is drawing up plans and implementing them regionwise and sectorwise. Border area development tasks are being carried out, alongside 24 development zones throughout the country.

Relentless efforts are thus made to ensure equitable progress across the country leaving no part of the nation unattended. (See page 2)

Secretary-1 attends School Family Day Prize-distribution Ceremony

YANGON, 3 Jan—The 2004-2005 School Family Day Prize-distribution Ceremony of the Ministry of Education was held at the Diamond Jubilee Hall on Pyay Road, Kamayut Township this morning, with an address by Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein.

Also present on the occasion were ministers, the chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board, deputy ministers, diplomats of foreign missions, resident representatives of UN agencies and officials, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, directors-general of departments under the Ministry of Education, chairman of Myanmar Examinations Board, rectors, deputy directors-general, presidents, social organizers, members of the school boards of trustees, well-wishers, township education officers of Yangon Division, school heads, teachers and outstanding students and guests.

The ceremony was opened with singing of the national anthem.

Next, Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein made a speech. He said that the government is giving encouragement through the education sector to new generation students to become all-round outstanding citizens. It is doing so with the aim of building a peaceful, modern and developed nation through the intellectual might of the national people and of safeguarding the good foundations of the State.

It is firmly believed that the emergence of a peaceful, modern developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation and enabling the nation to stand tall among the global community rests on the national people maintaining stability, developing economy, pushing forward the national reconciliation process and broadening external relations, of which I share the happiness. I sincerely hope that the people of Myanmar could continuously make further achievements in the way forward and build a more prosperous country.

China and Myanmar are countries linked by common mountains and rivers and the two peoples enjoy profound paukphaw friendship. To develop mutually beneficial cooperative relations in all fields accords the interests of the two countries and the two peoples. I am willing to make joint efforts. With your excellency to further develop the friendly relations of good-neighbourliness between China and Myanmar based on the five principles of peaceful co-existence in the new century.

May the Union of Myanmar enjoy prosperity and her people wellbeings. (See page 2)

Foreign Heads of State send felicitations to Senior General Than Shwe

YANGON, 4 Jan — The following are messages of felicitations from foreign Heads of State sent to Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council on the occasion of the 57th Anniversary Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar.

From Mr Hu Jintao, President of the People’s Republic of China:

On the auspicious occasion of the 57th anniversary of the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar, I would like to, on behalf of the Chinese people and in my own name, extend to Your Excellency and through you to the people of Myanmar the warmest congratulations and best wishes.

In the past year, Myanmar has made new progress on maintaining stability, developing economy, pushing forward the national reconciliation process and broadening external relations, of which I share the happiness. I sincerely hope that the people of Myanmar could continuously make further achievements in the way forward and build a more prosperous country.

China and Myanmar are countries linked by common mountains and rivers and the two peoples enjoy profound paukphaw friendship. To develop mutually beneficial cooperative relations in all fields accords the interests of the two countries and the two peoples. I am willing to make joint efforts. With your excellency to further develop the friendly relations of good-neighbourliness between China and Myanmar based on the five principles of peaceful co-existence in the new century.

May the Union of Myanmar enjoy prosperity and her people wellbeings. (See page 2)

INSIDE

The colonialists oppressed the people in all sectors especially in the education sphere.

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Safeguard national independence and sovereignty

Today, January 4, is the red-letter day in the history of our country because it was 57 years ago today that it managed to free itself from the yoke of colonialists and became a sovereign nation. Independence day celebrations are held all over the nation every year in accordance with the objectives with full national essence.

It is important for the entire nation, especially the young, to realize the fate that it was due to the united efforts of various national races that we regained our independence and sovereignty and that, as a result, the Union of Myanmar is able to stand proudly as an independent and sovereign nation in the world.

Now we are unitedly working towards a peaceful, moderate and developed nation, our national goal.

New generation youths who will shoulder the responsibilities of the State in the future must possess a strong determination that they will protect and safeguard the independence and sovereignty of the State.

It has been a fine tradition of the entire national people to unily work under the leadership of the government in all the national affairs including nation-building work and the task of protecting and safeguarding the national independence and sovereignty. Therefore, it is necessary for every citizen to hold on to this tradition.

The objectives of the 57th anniversary of Independence Day are as follows:

- all the national people to collectively safeguard the national independence and sovereignty of the State and ensure non-disintegration of the Union and national unity
- all the national people to unily work for the establishment 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
- all the national people to try their best and hardest and work in concert to translate the objectives of the 57th anniversary of Independence Day into a complete reality.

Robust sovereignty of a country rests on solidarity

With plans drawn up, new irrigation facilities and river water-pumping projects are being implemented year after year to ensure the infrastructural development of agriculture, which plays the largest part in national economy. At the same time, electric power projects, large and medium, are under way to encourage the industries that will boom and to fulfill the necessities of social system. Efforts are being made to generate more and more megawatts of electricity year after year. In the transport sector, efforts are also being exerted with added momentum on extension, upgrading of motor roads, and town and village link-roads, construction of railways and river-crossing bridges, expansion, upgrading and construction of airports.

After laying down the 30-year long-term national education promotion plan, measures are being taken to ensure that the development of human resources is imperative for the education sector. To ensure an increase in learning opportunities and promotion of education level in both basic and higher education sectors, steps are being taken for widening the scope of specializations and upgrading and opening the schools, colleges and universities year after year. As a result, educational facilities are now mushrooming across the country.

In the basic education sector, a total of 40.505 basic education schools have now been opened nationwide as part of the efforts to ensure that all citizens have access to basic education. The ongoing education plan has seen 96.6 percent rise in the enrolment rate of primary school level in the 2004-2005 school year, up from 77 percent in 1988. Enrolment per head has increased by 5 percent in induction courses and at every grade of the basic education level. Thanks to the ‘Education for All’ plan, the literacy rate swelled to 93.3 percent in 2004 from 78 percent in 1988.

The number of colleges and universities throughout the country has now reached 156. In the postgraduate education sector, doctoral courses in various specializations have been opened. They are now producing PhD degree holders. The government’s huge investment in the education sector is now contributing to the continuous emergence of qualified human resources.

In the health sector, steps are being taken for provision of health care and promotion of medical education, for opening and upgrading of hospitals and dispensaries, and for installation of modern medical equipment to ensure the health and fitness of the entire national people. In like manner, one University of Traditional Medicines and traditional medicine hospitals were opened to give impetus to the development of traditional medical science.

In constant exercise of the independent and active foreign policy alongside the five principles of peaceful coexistence, Myanmar always steers her course towards friendly relations with the world nations, especially with her neighbouring countries.

The Union Solidarity and Development Association was formed with youth forces. Now, the Association is taking measures to turn the force of new generation youth into the consolidated national force by giving training to them.

Putting investment in various sectors in the country is in a sense laying a foundation for a new state. National stability, strong economy for the country and the people, and higher education for the entire national people are central to the establishment of a consolidated democracy. The process of building a peaceful, modern and developed nation is fundamental to shaping a democratic nation. Judging by the experience of the entire national people, the strength of the people plays a decisive role in the development of their country. The seven-point Road Map of the State is now being implemented to establish a modern, developed, discipline-flourishing democratic nation.

The onus is on the entire national people to bear in mind the its importance positively and play an active part with the full sense of Union Spirit in the successful implementation of the Road Map.

The robust sovereignty of a country rests on the solidarity of the entire people living there with Union Spirit. As shown by international events, it is crystal clear that national solidarity is a must.

With firm determination that the peaceful, modern and developed nation, which is our national goal, must take shape without a shadow of doubts, we have laid down the following four national objectives for the 57th Anniversary Independence Day 2005. They are:

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 unily strive 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 people to work in concert for success of the seven-point Road Map of the State with Union Spirit and nationalist spirit, and
4. All the national people to make concerted efforts for building a new discipline-flourishing democratic nation.

On this auspicious occasion of the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar, I cordially call upon all the brothers and sisters born in the Union to take harmonious measures in unity with full sense of Union Spirit and patriotic spirit for the implementation of the four national objectives. —MNA

Foreign Heads of State

From Mr Roh Moo-Hyun, President of the Republic of Korea:

On behalf of the Government and people of the Republic of Korea, I have the great pleasure to extend my heartfelt congratulations to you and the people of the Union of Myanmar on the occasion of your Independence Day.

Noting with satisfaction the significant developments in the friendly and cooperative relations between the Republic of Korea and the Union of Myanmar, I am confident that these relations will be further strengthened to the mutual benefit of our two countries in the years ahead. Please accept, Your Excellency, my best wishes for your continued good health and every success as well as for the prosperity of your great country.

From Norodom Sihamoni, King of Cambodia:

Mr. Chairman,

On the auspicious celebration of the 57th Anniversary of the Independence of the Union of Myanmar, I have the honour to present Your Excellency, on behalf of the whole Cambodian People and on my own behalf, my most fervent wishes for your good health and happiness, as well as for the peace, progress and prosperity of the valiant People of the Union of Myanmar.

I am confident that the strong links uniting our two brotherly countries and the fruitful cooperation existing between our two Countries will be further developed for our mutual benefit.

Please accept, Your Excellency Mr. Chairman, the assurances of my highest consideration.

From Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, President of the Philippines:

Excellency,

On behalf of the Government and people of the Republic of the Philippines, I wish to extend my warm felicitations to the Government and people of Myanmar on the occasion of the 57th Anniversary of the Independence of the Union of Myanmar.

The past year has seen our Governments take concrete steps to improve our bilateral relations through the inaugural meeting of the Philippines-Myanmar Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation in Yangon in November last year. I am confident that the benefits derived from enhanced cooperation both at the bilateral and regional levels, will serve the best interest of our two countries. Accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration. —MNA
China establishes research centre for world heritage protection

BEIJING, 1 Jan — Beijing has set up a research centre for world cultural heritage in the country in a bid to back heritage protection with more advanced theories and international criteria.

Located in the Beijing University of Technology, the Research Centre for World Cultural Heritage is the first of its kind in China.

The centre has gained support from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) among its other eight counterparts, according to Professor Dai Jian, executive-president of the research centre.

“Our study focuses on how to adopt UNESCO’s guidance and standards to evacuate, protect and manage the heritage sites in China, especially to enhance the study of preservation technologies where resources of the university can be explored,” Saturday’s China Daily quoted Dai as saying.

In the past few years, the university has accomplished research on preserving and renovating historical sites in Beijing, under UNESCO’s instructions.

“Our practice has brought us abundant experiences, and also a group of outstanding professionals, which are of great importance to the research centre,” said Dai, who is also deputy director of the School of Architecture and Urban Planning of the university.

The research centre covers the evaluation and planning of cultural heritage, popularizes preservation knowledge, and carries out training projects for professionals in heritage protection as well as international exchanges.

China had 30 world heritage sites, which made it No 1 and No 3 in Asia and the world respectively, ever since the government ratified the World Heritage Convention in 1985.

And that number has increased to 32 after two new sites, Kung opera and the art of Guqin music, were admitted into the list of the oral and intangible heritage of humanity in 2001 and 2003.

MNA/Xinhua

Second phase of CEPA enters into force on New Year Day

HONG KONG, 1 Jan — The economic links between the Chinese Mainland and Hong Kong will further strengthen with the implementation of second phase of the Mainland/Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA) on 1 January.

“With CEPA II coming into effect tomorrow, Hong Kong origin products covered in 1,108 Mainland 2005 tariff codes (previously 1,087 items according to the 2004 classification) may enter the Mainland tariff free.

For trade in services, Hong Kong service suppliers will gain preferential access to the Mainland market in 26 service areas,” a Hong Kong Trade and Industry Department (TID) spokesman said Friday.

Further trade liberalization under CEPA II was agreed on 27 August, 2004, just over eight months after the full implementation of the first phase of CEPA on January 1 in 2004.

So far, CEPA has been running smoothly. Applications for CEPA Certificates of Origin, or Certificates of Hong Kong Service Supplier (HKSS), are increasing steadily.

The TID has also started receiving applications for CO/CEPA and HKSS under CEPA II.

Of the 712 applications for HKSS received, 663 have been approved while 2,991 certificates of the 3,199 applications for CO/CEPA have been issued, involving goods with a total value of about 1.147 million US dollars, the spokesman said.

A special CEPA web site was launched to disseminate CEPA-related information to help Hong Kong investors understand more about the investment environment and market opportunities in the Mainland, and about the application and approval procedures. CEPA is a continuous arrangement and adopts a building-block approach which provides a mechanism for further liberalization measures. Starting from January 1, the TID will accept applications from local manufacturers wishing to include their goods in the next phase of zero tariffs under CEPA, the spokesman added.—MNA/Xinhua

Over 226 kilos of heroin seized in Istanbul

ANKARA, 1 Jan — Turkish security troops on Friday seized 226.166 kilos of heroin at the Haydarpasa Customs in Istanbul, the largest city of Turkey, the semi-official Anatolia news agency reported.

Security troops searched a truck at the Customs on the border pass for the Trieste Harbour in Italy and found 431 packages of heroin hidden in the cache of the truck, said the report.

One person was taken into custody in connection with the incident, added the report.—MNA/Xinhua

26 Asian, US, European firms to work on global 3G cellphone standard

HONG KONG, 1 Jan — Twenty-six Asian, US and European cellphone service companies and data communications equipment manufacturers have agreed to develop a unified standard for speedier 3G (third-generation) cellphone technology, Kyodo News reported Friday.

The firms including NTT DoCoMo Inc., Vodafone Group PLC and Cingular Wireless LLC, agreed to establish a unified standard for updated third-generation mobile technology based on the W-CDMA format by 2007 and make high-speed services available as early as 2009.

The new technology will be capable of transmitting high-resolution video at a maximum speed of 100 megabits per second, as fast as data transmissions via fiber-optic broadband Internet service, Kyodo said.

The 26 companies, also including China Mobile Communications Corp and NEC Corp, have all adopted the W-CDMA format.

They reached an agreement in an international project to standardize the third-generation technology.

MNA/Xinhua

China witnesses rapid development of aquatic products export

BEIJING, 1 Jan — China is expected to export 6.5 billion US dollars of aquatic products this year, according to the fishery bureau of the Ministry of Agriculture.

Latest statistics indicate that in the past 11 months, China exported 6.2 billion US dollars of aquatics, or fish and other seafood in other words. They make up 30 per cent of total agricultural exports. The export volume rose by 28.7 per cent during the same period last year, the highest since 1996. An official with the bureau ascribed the rapid growth of the sector to the upswing of international demand as well as the improved quality of China’s products.

The official noted that fishery products with high-value added are still the major contributor to the export increase. Statistics from the ministry shows that in the January-October period, the export volume of fish and shrimp reached 690 million US dollars and 640 million US dollars respectively. In the meantime, more and more Chinese companies are engaged in processing aquatic products from overseas and then exporting them. This is also called “processing trade.” This kind of trade has attracted the attention of both domestic and foreign traders.

In the first ten months this year, the processing trade volume in the sector reached 2 billion US dollars, up 32 per cent on a yearly basis.

In 2004, new markets for aquatic products are emerging as China’s export to the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) nations, Australia, Russia and Hong Kong region have grown rapidly.—MNA/Xinhua

A Chinese musician waits for his turn to perform with ancient bell instruments during a performance at an ancient music museum newly opened to the public in Beijing, China, on 31 Dec, 2004.

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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>48.</td>
<td>Bhaddanta Tejobhasa</td>
<td>Tawkyaung Pariyatti Monastery, Minbya, Sagaing Division</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49.</td>
<td>Bhaddanta Çandima</td>
<td>Zeyathukha Waso Monastery, Chanayethazan Township, Mandalay Division</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50.</td>
<td>Bhaddanta Dhammakathika</td>
<td>Mahujanahitadhara Title</td>
<td></td>
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<td>51.</td>
<td>Bhaddanta Agga Maha Ganthavaçaka</td>
<td>Pandita Title</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>52.</td>
<td>Bhaddanta Abhidhaja</td>
<td>Vipassana Sasana.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note: For the full list, please refer to the original document.*
1. Bhaddanta Kheminda, Theravada Buddhist Missionary Centre, Sasana Alinyaung Pariyatti Monastery, Mindat, Chin State
2. Bhaddanta Viçñattha, Dayu Pariyatti Monastery, Banmauk, Sagaing Division
3. Bhaddanta Paññinda, Hmamkyaung Monastery, Shweson Village, Ward 4, Hlinethaya Township, Yangon Division
4. Bhaddanta Nandiya, Tapuhto Monastery, Tapuhto Village, Bilin Township, Mon State
5. Bhaddanta Vannasiri, Theravada Buddhist Missionary Centre, Tein-in Village, Hkamti Township, Sagaing Division
6. Bhaddanta Kumara, Kyaungma Monastery, Hsinchayya Village, Htanbingon Ward, Bogyoke Village,Thanlyin Township, Yangon Division
7. Bhaddanta Neminda, Theravada Buddhist Missionary Centre, Sasana Alinyaung Pariyatti Monastery, Mindat, Chin State
8. Bhaddanta Vissuta, Dhamma Thitagu Ayeywa Monastery, Wai Village-traict, Pakhamgyi City, Yezagyo Township, Magway Division
10. Bhaddanta Kelasa, Katha Monastery, Thongwa Village, DaikU Township, Bago Division
11. Bhaddanta Kusala, Waizayanta Monastery, Myotwingyi Village, Yesashe Township, Bago Division
12. Bhaddanta Pandita Kheminda, Theravada Buddhist Missionary Centre, Sasana Alinyaung Pariyatti Monastery, Mindat, Chin State
13. Bhaddanta Samvara, Minkyaung Pariyatti Monastery, Yezagyo Township, Magway Division
14. Bhaddanta Paññavamsa, Kawthalarama Monastery, Htoma Labutta, Ayeyawady Division
15. Bhaddanta Vandanissa, Maha Thawdaw Monastery, Zeebingyi Village, PyinOoLwin Township, Mandalay Division
16. Bhaddanta Aungmyethazan, Mindat, Chin State
17. Bhaddanta Adhikara, Dhamma Thitagu Ayeywa Monastery, Wai Village-traict, Pakhamgyi City, Yezagyo Township, Magway Division
18. Bhaddanta Kumara, Kyaungma Monastery, Hsinchayya Village, Htanbingon Ward, Bogyoke Village,Thanlyin Township, Yangon Division
19. Bhaddanta Madiyaka, Kinywa Monastery, Kin Village, Kye Taw Village, Kyaunggon Township, Magway Division
20. Bhaddanta Charum Vaciraransy! Phonphranao Temple Xaisetha, Thonza, Thayawady Township, Bago Division
21. Bhaddanta Visupa, Dhamma Thitagu Ayeywa Monastery, Wai Village-traict, Pakhamgyi City, Yezagyo Township, Magway Division
22. Bhaddanta Navinpiya, Niyagawa Monastery, Ward 1, Thanlyin Township, Yangon Division
23. Bhaddanta Dharmagiri, Niyagawa Monastery, Ward 1, Thanlyin Township, Yangon Division
24. Bhaddanta Tikkha, Waiwikawatha Monastery, Taungsun Village, Bilin Township, Mon State
25. Bhaddanta Navinpiya, Niyagawa Monastery, Ward 1, Thanlyin Township, Yangon Division
26. Bhaddanta Arçara, Khamtha Monastery, Mon State
27. Bhaddanta Dhammesi, Thameikdawdaya Corner, Hlinethaya Township, Yangon Division
28. Bhaddanta Medhavilankara, Aungyadana Monastery, Ward 1, Thanlyin Township, Yangon Division
**EPDR Vice-President sends congratulatory message to Vice-Senior General Maung Aye**

*Yangon, 4 Jan—The following is the message sent by Mr Choummaly Xayasone, Vice-President of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, to Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar on the occasion of the 57th Anniversary Independence Day.*

*Your Excellency,*

On the auspicious occasion of the 57th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar, I have a great pleasure to extend my warmest congratulations and best wishes to Your Excellency. I am delighted to note that the friendly relations and good neighborly cooperation existing between our two countries Laos and Myanmar have been strengthened and have flourished continuously. May I take this opportunity to wish Your Excellency good health, well-being and success in your noble task.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration. — MNA

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**Indonesian Vice-President sends congratulatory message to Vice-Senior General Maung Aye**

*Yangon, 4 Jan—The following is the message sent by Mr Muhammad Jusuf Kalla, Vice-President of the Lao People's Democratic Republic to Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar on the occasion of the 57th Anniversary Independence Day.*

*Your Excellency,*

I am greatly pleased to extend to you my cordial greetings and sincerest felicitations on the happy celebration of the Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar.

It is my firm belief that while working together on a bilateral basis as well as on international fora, Myanmar and Indonesia will be able to contribute significantly to the cause of regional as well as international peace and prosperity.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my most distinguished consideration. MNA

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**Nations enjoying development…**

(From page 16)

Grassroots to realize the seven objectives and nine future tasks

Joint Secretary of Division USDA U Aung Tin explained the seven objectives; and Executive U Win Ko Ko the nine future tasks. Executive Daw Khin Saw Mu discussed the work programmes of the division association. Secretary of Ingaup Township USDA U Myat Soe, and Executive Daw Nila Maw of Pantanaw Township USDA discussed in support of the seven objectives. Executive of Mawlamyinegyun Township USDA U Aung Zaw Hlaing, and Executive of Pyapon Township USDA Daw Cho Cho Lwin discussed in support of the nine future tasks. Secretary of Pathein District USDA Daw Lin sent the motion. MNA
An Interview with Grandma Bwar Ein Pyae, a centenarian

Grandma Bwar Ein Pyae, aged 100, in local made traditional costume.

Interviewed by Shwe Tin Ohn & photos by Htay Aung (Kyemon)

The British colonialists annexed Myanmar in the 19th Century after waging three aggressive wars and then the nation lost its independence and sovereignty. We Kyemon daily group interviewed Grandma Bwar Ein Pyae, aged 100, who experienced the political, administrative, economic and social conditions of Myanmar, that fell under servitude, in the colonial days.

Kyemon: “Grandma, how old are you, please?”

Grandma: “I was born on Full Moon Day of Nadaw 1266 (Myanmar Era) and now is 1366 (ME). So, I have turned 100.”

Kyemon: “I would like to know your native town.”

Grandma: “I was born in Myoba Village, Zagan, Taungthla Township, Myingyan District, Mandalay Division.”

Kyemon: “What was your age when Myanmar regained its independence (4 January 1948)?”

Grandma: “At that time, I was about 44.”

Kyemon: “Let me know your feelings and experiences when the nation regained its independence.”

Grandma: “Like other national people, I was extremely happy and it was my sheer joy, then. Well, I would like to share with you the experiences I gained just as I was informed about the regaining of independence. On the day on which the nation regained independence, it was a shout of joy from my cousin who spent home in Welaung village, Myingyan. From the road near our home, he shouted, ‘Elder sister, we have regained our independence.’ ”

“My heart jumped when I heard the news, and certainly, it was the sweetest music to my ears. Extremely happy, some of my relatives, friends nearby and I could not help jumping up and dancing around the house and then all the villagers were making shouts of joy and running here and there with tears rolling down. At that time, the whole village was completely reverberated with voices of happiness. We all were as very very happy because we had just been free from the sufferings such as we had to answer ‘yes’ to the colonialists whenever they called, we had to pay respects to them when we met with them, and we had to know what when we spoke with them.”

Kyemon: “I would also like to know the experiences recounted by your parents and grandparents so that I can rely on them to new generation youths.”

Grandma: “Yes, I’d love to,” she said. Grandma Bwar Ein Pyae quoted her mother as saying that throughout the colonial period, the intruders made Myanmar work for them as though national people were their slaves. Myanmar had to do so eating their own food. The colonialists oppressed national people as much as they could. It was beyond the limit and too bitter for national people to forbear. So, all the patriots secretly met to resist the invaders. However, they found out and arrested the national patriots and exiled them to distant areas like Andaman Sea, from which the arrested could never return to the mainland. During that period, all the villagers had to stay hidden in the forests in daytime and returned homes in the evening and so they were getting themselves into a fix. She said, “They bought local products at the lowest prices such as groundnut, beans and pulses, rice, corn, wheat, and sesamum produced through combined efforts of farmers and cows, a variety of minerals, petroleum, precious stones and so on. For example, they offered one sixteenth of a Myanmar kyat for a viss of cotton, half a kyat for a basket of groundnut. They monopolized all the businesses of the nation,” said grandma.

“They wove the cotton purchased in the nation into thin clothes to sell to the national people. Women liked wearing these products. Members of the Sangha and elderly persons prohibited the women. The colonialists also insulted the people socially. Later, senior citizens formed Kommaryi women’s associations and asked all national women to wear only the clothes from Yaw and Saw regions. At that time, I was about 20 and I had to wear traditional dresses and belonged to the association,” she said.

“The colonialists oppressed the people in all sectors especially in the education sphere. The people did not have any opportunities to pursue education both in English and in Myanmar. So, some townsmen made a demand for the opening of a primary school each in the villages, and the colonialists accepted the demand. I was nine or ten years old, then, I first joined the school in Welaung village. Before, I passed the fourth standard, there was no teacher for the primary school in Kyaukkar, and the Englishman education officer asked me about my standard. I replied I hadn’t sat for the fourth standard exam yet. And I could solve the sum he asked. Then, he recommended my educational level as fourth standard and said that I was qualified to be a primary teacher. Under his recommendation, I joined the primary teachership school for a year. Then I became a teacher and I earned 20 kyats a month. Even though the children of farmers and peasants and the poor had passed the tenth standard, they were not allowed at all to attend the classes in Yangon College. But, the children of lackey village headmen and townadministrators were exceptions. Therefore, the children of the farmers and the poor mostly worked as clerks at offices and as teachers at schools. The colonialists manipulated all the affairs. That was why the people were very happy with tears rolling down when they learned that the nation had regained independence”, she said.

Grandma Bwar Ein Pyae has lunch at 11 am, takes a bath at 1 pm. She reads Kyemon, Myanmar Alin newspaper and journals. Then, she puts her knowledge into note books and relate to them to her children, grandchildren, great grandchildren and friends. She takes a stroll in the compound of her home. She still has a good memory and speaks well. She is still hale and hearty at 100. She practises meditation three times every night. The bitter experiences she underwent in the colonial days are still with her. We wish Grandma Bwar Ein Pyae to live as long as 120 years.

(Translation: MS)
Secretary-1 attends School...  
(from page 1)  

mainly on transforming the new generation youths into outstanding intellectuals and intelligentsia who are equipped with patriotism and nationalistic spirit.

Accordingly, the government has laid down and is implementing the national education promotion programmes capable of facing the challenges of present and future eras, of enabling the new generation students to cherish and promote the national values and norms and of enabling them to be equipped with patriotism and nationalistic spirit. Since 2001-2002 academic year, the government has been laying down and implementing the 30-year national education promotion long-term plans in the education sector, health sector and the science and technological sector for the emergence of outstanding new generation youths.

In the education sector, more basic education schools were opened the length and breadth of the nation. Nowadays, there are over 40,500 basic education schools at which over 240,000 teachers are appointed. Altogether over 7.78 million students are attending those schools. With extended opening of over 4,700 post-primary schools, there increased over 300,000 students who could pursue the middle school education in their own villages. At the same time, more MA courses, PhD courses, M Research courses are being conducted. Furthermore, measures are being taken to open more courses and researches on development of human resources at the respective higher learning institutions. As systematic steps are being taken to link basic education sector with higher education sector for development of the national education with added momentum, there emerged good foundations for human resources development.

The annual observance of the School Family Day which reflects all-round development in the education sector and higher qualification of the students in various spheres is a fine programme capable of making the education sector a success.

At present, a series of school family days are being held at institutes of education, colleges and basic education schools with the participation of education staff, teachers and students, people and well-wishers.

As systematic steps are being taken to link basic education sector with higher education sector for development of the national education with added momentum, there emerged good foundations for human resources development.

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein together with outstanding students pose for documentary photo at School Family Day for 2004-2005 academic year. — MNA

At such a time like this, parents would feel pleased and honoured to see the skills and qualifications of their offspring. The fair created the opportunity for teachers, members of PTA and the school board of trustees and the people to meet and discuss matters on education promotion programmes and upgrading of school buildings, thereby contributing to successful realization of the national education promotion plans.

The outstanding students, on their part, are to make continued efforts with nationalistic spirit and national fervour to serve the interest of the State and the people, realizing the goodwill of the State and well-wishers.

In conclusion, the Secretary-1 called on education staff, teachers and the people to make concerted efforts for continued safeguarding of the good foundations for education and to transform new generation students into qualified intellectuals and intelligentsia on whom the State can rely.

In his speech, Minister for Education U Than Aung said the School Family Day was observed for the emergence of human resources that can build and safeguard modern, developed democracy-flourishing nation, turning out good offspring who can promote traditional culture and social norms with Union Spirit, speeding up endeavours in education plan in the education sector and cooperating with the people in national education promotion tasks.

He said school enrollment projects for school-age children were launched with the participation of authorities concerned, well-wishers and the people. Under the project, the number of five-year old children who enter the kindergarten reached 1.1 million.

He also spoke on high adult literacy rate, as a result of conducting teachership courses for undergraduates and post-graduates, and holding competitions in commemoration of significant days.

Next, the Secretary-1 presented prizes to Maung Malit Sai Aung of No 3 Basic Education High School, Myinnya, Ma Thwe Su Win of No 2 BEHS, Loikaw, Ma Khang Lwin Mon of No 1 BEHS, Hpa-an, Maung Lyan Swin Hkam of No 1 BEHS, Tiddim, Ma Saw Pyae Thuza of No 3 BEHS, Shwebo, Ma Hsu Wai Hlaing of Pulau BEHS, Maung Nyain Chan Wai Lin of No 1 BEHS, Nyaunglaybin, Maung Thaung Htaw Hsaung of No 1 BEHS, Pyay, Ma Su E Mon of No 1 BEHS, Mogway, Maung Aung Kyaw Myo of No 12 BEHS, Chanayetazan, Mandalay, Ma Sanda Cho of No 8 BEHS, Mawlamyine, Maung Myat Zaw Hein of No 2 BEHS, Sittway, Maung Khaing Lin of No 5 BEHS, Botataung, Nan Yin Min Tun of No 4 BEHS, Taunggyi, Maung Hein Win Phyoe of No 1 BEHS, Lashio, Maung Sai Shan Hein of No 2 BEHS, Kengtung and Maung Kaung Myat Myo of No 6 BEHS, Pathein.

The Secretary-1 posed for documentary photos together with the outstanding students.

As systematic steps are being taken to link basic education sector with higher education sector for development of the national education with added momentum, there emerged good foundations for human resources development.

Students of No 1 BEHS, Dagon, sang a song.

Next, Minister Maj-Gen Huay Oo presented prizes to two bright students and an honourary student.

Students of No 1 BEHS, Dagon, sang a song.

Next, Minister Maj-Gen Sein Htwa, Chairman of CSSTB Dr Tha Nyun, Minister Dr Kyaw Myint, Deputy Minister U Myo Nyunt, Minister Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein, Deputy Minister for Culture Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung and Minister U Than Aung presented prizes to other outstanding students.

Deputy Ministers Dr Mya Oo an Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min, Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint presented prizes to Director-General U Bo Win of Education Planning and Training Department presented prizes to outstanding students. Minister U Than Aung cordially greeted those present.—MNA
From Foreign Heads of Government send felicitations to Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win

On the occasion of the 57th Anniversary Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar, I have great pleasure in conveying to you, the Government and the people of Myanmar, our warmest felicitations.

The State visit of Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council, to India in October 2004, has generated significant momentum in our bilateral relations. I look forward to working with Your Excellency in further strengthening our bilateral ties to mutual benefit.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

From Police Lieutenant Colonel Thaksin Shinawatra, Prime Minister of Thailand

I am pleased to extend to your Excellency, on behalf of the government and people of Thailand, our sincere congratulations and best wishes on the occasion of the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar.

I sincerely hope that we will continue to increase more activities and closer cooperation both bilaterally and within the ASEAN framework for the mutual benefit of our countries and peoples as well as for the lasting peace, stability and prosperity in the region.

Accept, Excellency, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

From Mr Bounnhang Vorachith, Prime Minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic

On the occasion of the 57th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar, on behalf of the government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and on my own behalf, I have a great pleasure to convey to your Excellency, my warmest congratulations and best wishes and through Your Excellency to the Government and the entire friendly people of Myanmar.

I am very pleased to note that in the last few years, the friendly relations and the effective cooperation between our two countries both bilaterally and ASEAN levels have been developed and continuously expanded and I believe that such good relations and cooperation will be further enhanced and flourish for the common interests of the people of our two nations and for dynamism of the ASEAN family.

May I take this opportunity to convey my best wishes to Your Excellency good health, wellbeing and greater success in your noble tasks.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

From Mr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, President of the Republic of Indonesia

On the significant occasion of the Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar, I have the great honour of conveying to you my warmest considerations.

Over the years, Myanmar and Indonesia have always been able to find ways to enhance their relations in all spheres of mutual interests. It is my fervent hope that the close bilateral relations between our two countries as well as our cooperation within the framework of ASEAN shall continue to grow for the benefit of our two peoples.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest esteem.

From Ms Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, President of the Republic of the Philippines

I wish to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Your Excellency and to the people of Myanmar on the occasion of the 57th Anniversary of the Independence of the Union of Myanmar.

The past year saw the landmark first meeting of the Philippines-Myanmar joint commission for bilateral cooperation held in Yangon in April 2004, which has infused renewed vigor and vitality to our bilateral relations. I look forward to working with you in ASEAN as we strive to achieve our common objectives for our region.

Accept, Excellency, the renew assurances of my highest consideration.

From Khaleda Zia, Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

On behalf of the Government and the people of Bangladesh and on my own behalf, I extend to Your Excellency and through you to the friendly people of the Union of Myanmar our warmest greetings and felicitations on the auspicious occasion of the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar.

It is my firm conviction that the traditional friendship that exists between our two neighbours will be further strengthened and consolidated and our bilateral cooperation will be expanded in the days ahead to the mutual benefit of our two peoples.

May I take this opportunity to convey my best wishes for Your Excellency's good health, happiness and long life and for the continued peace, progress and prosperity of the friendly people of the Union of Myanmar.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration. — MNA

Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein formally opens Exhibition of the 57th Anniversary of the Independence Day. — MNA

The exhibition will be kept on open free of charge until 11 January 2005. — MNA

**Yangon 4 Jan — The following are messages of felicitations from Foreign Heads of Government sent to Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win, on the occasion of the 57th Anniversary Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar.**

**From Mr Wen Jiabao, Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China:**

On the auspicious occasion of the 57th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar, I would like to extend, on behalf of the Government of the People’s Republic of China and in my own name, our warmest congratulations and best wishes to Your Excellency and through you to the Government of the Union of Myanmar.

In the past years, the Myanmar Government has made prominent achievements in maintaining political stability and forwarding the national reconciliation, promoting economic development and actively broadening external relations. Being a friendly neighbor the chinese people share the heartfelt happiness. Currently, the Sino-Myanmar relations enjoy a good momentum. Exchanges and cooperation in political, economic and cultural fields as well as other areas are expanding continuously which bring about concrete benefits to both peoples. The Chinese Gov- ernment attaches great importance to the develop- ment of friendly cooperative relations of good-neigh- bourliness with Myanmar and is willing to make joint efforts to further consolidate the traditional friend- ship and deepen the mutually beneficial cooperation, so as to promote the bilateral relations to a new level. May the Union of Myanmar enjoy prosperity and her people wellbeings.

From Mr Junichiro Koizumi, Prime Minister of Japan

On this auspicious occasion of the 57th Anniversary of the Independence of the Union of Myanmar, I wish to extend to your excellency, on behalf of the Government and people of Japan, my warmest congratulations and best wishes for the peace and prosperity of your country.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

From Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of the Republic of India

On the occasion of the National Day of the

**Secretary-1 attends opening ceremony...**

(from page 16)

booth on eye-catching natural culture, booth on nation-building endeavours, booth on computer programmes and others.

Afterwards, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and party viewed round the booth of the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs, that of the Ministry of Energy, that of the Ministry of Industry-1, that of the Ministry of Industry-2, that of the Ministry of Electric Power, that of the Ministry of Science and Technology, that of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, that of the Ministry of Education, that of the Ministry of Health, that of the Ministry of Transport, that of the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control, that of News and Periodicals and Enterprises, and that of the Ministry of Telecommunications, Posts and Telegraphs.

The ministers, deputy ministers and officials conducted the Secretary-1 and party round the exhibition.

Also included in the exhibition are book shops of the News and Periodicals Enterprise and the Sarpay Beikman and private book shops.

The exhibition will be kept on open free of charge until 11 January 2005. — MNA
Notifications on conferring titles and medals of commendation


Under the Notification No 1/2005, religious titles have been conferred on Sayadaws and nuns and laity. Abhidhaja Maha Rathayana Geshe Titles have been conferred on two Sayadaws; Tipitaka Dhammanandagarika Titles on two Sayadaws; Agga Maha Pandita Titles on 21 Sayadaws; Maha Dhamma Khahtika

Bhababunajahitadhita Title on one Sayadaw; Dhamma Kabhtika Bhababunajahitadhita Titles on three Sayadaws; Agga Maha Ganthavacaka Pandita Titles on 38 Sayadaws and four nuns; Maha Ganthavacaka Pandita Titles on 51 Sayadaws and three nuns; Ganthavacaka Pandita Titles on 14 Sayadaws and four nuns; Abhidhaja Maha Thiri Ganthavacaka Pandita Titles on six Sayadaws; Agga Maha Saddhama Jotikadhaja Titles on 54 Sayadaws; Maha Saddhama Jotikadhaja Titles on 48 Sayadaws, three nuns and eight laity; Saddhama Jotikadhaja Titles on 33 Sayadaws, two nuns and one laity; Agga Maha Kammathanaacariya Titles on sixteen Sayadaws; Maha Kammathanaacariya Titles on 13 Sayadaws; Kammathanaacariya Titles on five Sayadaws; Agga Maha Thiri Saddhama Manijotadhara Titles on eight laity; Thiri Saddhama Theingi Title on nine Thiri Buddhamonajotadhita Title.

1. U Hsan Lwin, Thayethamin Village, Waw Township, Bagu Division
2. U Ye Doe, East New Road, Sanyawadyan Ward, Thone, Bagu Division (West)
3. U Kyi Lwin, No 128, at the corner of 78th/37th Streets, Myetpaya Ward, Mahaungmye Township, Mandalay Division
4. U Soe Than, Buta Ward, Kyaukpaungadu, Mandalay Division
5. U Soe Min, Myatson Yadanab Robe Shop and Gold Shop, No 49, Ok Street, Yanuartz Ward, Baw Township, Yangon Division
6. Dagon U Tin Win, No 957, Bo Po Saw Road, Ward 20, Dagon Myothit (North) Township, Yangon Division
7. U Hnin Sein, No 68, Salin Road, Thadu Ward, Kyaukmyinidee Monastery, Yangon Division
8. U Tin Oo, No 84, Aungzeya Road, Ward 4, Thongwa Township, Yangon Division
9. U Ko Lo Lat, No 15, Kandawmon Housing Estate, Laydagon Road, Thingangyun Township, Yangon Division
10. U Myat Lwin, No 34-A, Inrayangay Road, Golden Valley Ward 2, Baw Township, Yangon Division
11. U Myat San, Inrayangay Road, Golden Valley Ward 2, Baw Township, Yangon Division
12. U Min Lwin, No 4/A, 17th Street, Besier Ward, Yangon Division
13. Daw Nang Kalm Tip, No 17-B, Maykha Road, Ward 7, Maymyo Township, Yangon Division
14. Thiri Saddhama Theingi Title
15. U Khin Myo, Nyo Nyo Cheorot Factory, Ward 3, Kanbalu, Sagaing Division
16. Daw Nyunt Than, No 18, Nyaungwaine 17th Street, Bagu, Bagu Division
17. U Hla Myaw, Sein Yadana Clinic, Lannadaw Road, Kyaukpyi Ongdan Ward, Pyay, Pyay District, Bagu Division (West)
18. U Zaw Min, No 135-A, Thanlwin Ward, Yangon Division
19. Dr Tin Waw, No 60/A, Dymammon Road, Ward 15, Yankin Township, Yangon Division
20. Dr Moe Tin, No 11/A, U Tun Myat Road, Tamway Township, Yangon Division

Thiri Thudhamma Theingi Title
1. U Kyi Myo, Thayettaw Ward, Shwetaung Township, Pyay District, Bagu Division (West)
2. U Khin Nyo, Thayaye Ward, Kyaukpaungadu, Mandalay Division
3. U San Kyu, No 24, 26th-B Street, at the corner of 86th/87th Streets, Aungmyathazan Township, Mandalay Division
4. Daw Kyi Win, No 7, Kaba Aye Yeiktha, Kaba Aye Pagoda Road, Ward 5, Maymyo Township, Yangon Division
5. U Shwe Win, No 1, Win Bubga Road, Baw Township, Yangon Division
6. U Win Thein, No 15, Kyaukse, Mandalay Division
7. U Aye Myint, No 291, Ayerchana Street, Ward 7, Thiri Yadana Gold Trading and Goldsmith Industry, Ward 2, Bogyoke Road, Kyaukmyaung Township, Mawlaik Ward, Yangon Division
8. U Aung Tin, No 153, Khayebin Road, Thanlyin Bridge Ward, Thanlyin Township, Yangon Division
9. U Shwe Mya, No 11, Min Street, Saya San South Ward, Hweyegyo Village, Chaik Township, Magway Division
10. U Khin Win, No 105/A, Dagon Township, Yangon Division
11. U Soe Shein, No 377, Hlawga Road, Ward 54, Dagon Township, Yangon Division
12. U Thein Win, No 154, 19th Street (Upper Block) Ward 4, Division (West)
13. Dr Moe Tin Aung, Thayettaw Ward, Shwetaung Township, Pyay District, Bagu Division (West)
14. U Myo Myo, No 73, Kanwa Aye Ward 5, Maymyo Township, Yangon Division
15. U Tun Lin, No 135-A, Thanlwin Road, Ward 10, Kamayut Township, Yangon Division
16. U Shwe Mya, No 9, Min Street, Saya San South Ward, Baw Township, Yangon Division
17. U Tin Hsu, No 153, Khayebin Road, Thanlyin Bridge Ward, Thanlyin Township, Yangon Division
18. U Tun Lin, No 27, Insein Road, Ward 1, Kamayut Township, Yangon Division
19. U Daw Min Zin, No 135-A, Thanlwin Road, Ward 10, Kamayut Township, Yangon Division

Thiri Thudhamma Theingi Title
1. Daw Nyo Nyo (Daw Hwe-Gawmotta Traditional Medici- cine Industry), Building-12, Tayoktan Road, Phayaeg Ward, Monywa, Sagaing Division
2. Daw Than Than Win, Sanyawadyan Ward, Thone, Thayawady Township, Bagu Division (West)
3. Daw Aye, Block 341, Hinnut Ward, Sasana Yeiktha Ward, 13th Mile, Pyay-Mogaung Road, Ward 7, Ye Zaygyaw Ward, Mayagwe Division
4. Daw Aye, No 24, 26th-B Street, at the corner of 86th/87th Streets, Aungmyathazan Township, Mandalay Division
6. Daw Thwe Thet, No 90/L, Golden Valley 1st Lane, Golden Valley Ward 1, Baw Township, Yangon Division
7. Daw Tin Moe, No 201/539, Showbontha Road, Hmancho Traditional House, Bagan Township, Yangon Division
8. Dr Myat Myat Ohn Khin, No 291-A, Ayecheanaya Street, Middle Shwegonanda, Baw Township, Yangon Division
9. Daw Khin Wah Wah, No 277, at the corner of Bogyoke Aung San Street and 38th Street, Ward 6, Kyauktada Township, Yangon Division
10. Daw Than Than, No 72, Old Yedashe Road, Baw Township, Yangon Division
11. Daw Aye Myint, No 52-A, Sasna Road, Baw Township, Yangon Division
12. Daw San Win (a) Daw San Win, No 81, University Avenue, Golden Valley Ward 1, Baw Township, Yangon Division

State Peace and Development Council
**Ugandan President urges rebels to come out of bush**

KAMPALA, 2 Jan — Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni on New Year’s Day urged the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) rebels to come out of the bush and reach agreements with the government.

In an address to the nation on New Year’s Day, Museveni said Saturday he “extended the cessation of operations several times,” and “it is now 47 days since the initial cessation of operation.”

He warned “if the LRA rebels do not irreversibly commit themselves to coming out of the bush by December 31, 2004, then the Uganda People’s Defence Forces (UPDF) will start full-scale operations, beginning 0700 hours (0400 GMT) on January 1, 2005.”

“The government peace team has made it clear to Kony’s group that there will be no further extension of the cessation of operations beyond December 31, 2004,” the President said.

However, the President said that “talks can, then continue at a venue outside Uganda.”

On the progress of the security front, Museveni said “the UPDF has undertaken vigorous and determined operations against Kony’s group”.

“If we start from August, 2003, the period of 16 months, the UPDF has killed 2,103 members of Kony’s group, captured 273, enabled 4,808 to escape (report) on their own as well as capturing 1,903 pieces of weapons of all types,” he added.

Museveni said the economy of the East African country “gives us very good news”.

“During the financial year ending June, the economy (GDP) grew by 6 percent,” he said, adding that “although the growth in agriculture was low at 1.8 percent on account of drought, industrial growth was 10.3 per cent, while oil production growing at 6.3 percent, mining and quarrying at 15.4 per cent and construction at 16.4 per cent.”

In the financial year, our export earnings were 990 million US dollars and not 928 million dollars as we thought by the budget time in July. This is very impressive especially if you remember that our export earnings in 1993 were only 253 million dollars,” Museveni added.

**Turkish toll monitoring system nabbed 120 dodgers**

BERLIN, 2 Jan — Germany’s satellite-based motorway truck toll monitoring system nabbed 120 dodgers in the first few hours after being activated on Saturday.

The pioneering toll system was launched after 16 months of delays that embarrassed the government and opened multi-million euro (dollar) holes in the budget.

“The system is operating flawlessly. The control points have detected 210 toll dodgers, that includes 75 foreigners. They will all be fined,” Transport Ministry spokeswoman Alexandra Brothman told Reuters.

The government expects 2.4 billion euros (3.3 billion US dollars) in truck tolls each year and believes the system will be an export hit, collecting tolls without old-fashioned booths that cause traffic congestion.

“It’s been a real start and we’re optimistic other nations will want to acquire an innovative system like this,” she added.

The system, long delayed by the German media, is operated by the Toll Collect consortium: Deutsche Telekom, DaimlerChrysler and France’s Cofiroute.

Germany, with Europe’s busiest motorways, is charging an average of 12-4 cents/0.17 US dollar per kilometer. About one third of trucks that use its 12,000-kilometer motorway network are foreign.
C-in-C's Honorary Certificates awarded

Notifications on conferring . . .

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Tuesday, 4 January, 2005

Medals for Excellent Performance in the Field of Medicine (First Class)
1. Professor Dr Norman Hla, Professor/Head of Department, New General Hospital, Yangon, Ministry of Health.
2. Professor Dr Saw Naing, Professor/Head of Department, Department of Medicine (1), Yangon, Ministry of Health.
3. Professor Dr Tin Myint, Professor/Head of Department (Anaesthetic), Yangon General Hospital, Ministry of Health.

Medals for Excellent Performance in the Field of Medicine (Second Class)
1. Professor Dr Khin Maung Aye, Professor/Head of Department (Cardiac Surgery), Yangon General Hospital, Ministry of Health.

Medals for Excellent Performance in the Field of Medicine (Third Class)
1. Dr Maung Maung Kyin, Assistant Director, Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department, Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries.

Medals for Excellent Performance in the Field of Technology (Second Class)
1. U Mynit Hay, Director (Offshore Oil), Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, Ministry of Energy.

Medals for Excellent Performance in the Field of Technology (Third Class)
1. Dr Yi Yi Mynit, Professor, University of Agriculture and Irrigation Research. Myanma Agriculture and Irrigation.
2. U Kyaw Win, Deputy Director, Irrigation Department, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation.
3. U Myo Hsi (a) U Sai Si, Farmer, Myanma Agriculture Enterprise, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation.

Medals for Excellent Performance in the Field of Agriculture (First Class)
1. Dr Yi Yi Mynit, Professor, University of Agriculture and Irrigation Research. Myanma Agriculture and Irrigation.
2. U Kyaw Win, Deputy Director, Irrigation Department, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation.
3. Dr Yi Yi Mynit, Professor, University of Agriculture and Irrigation Research. Myanma Agriculture and Irrigation.

Union of Myanmar State Peace and Development Council Notification No 2/2005

9th Waning of Nadaw, 1366 ME
(4 January, 2005)
The State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar has conferred titles and medals of commendation on the following persons:

Medals for Excellent Performance in the Field of Arts (First Class)
1. Daw Ohn Khin, member of Myanmar Language Commission, Myamars Language Commission Department, Ministry of Education
2. U Win Pe, member of Myanmar Language Commission, Myanmar Language Commission Department, Ministry of Education

Medals for Excellent Performance in the Field of Arts (Second Class)
1. U Myo Thant (Maung Hushin), Adviser, Printing and Publishing Enterprise, Ministry of Information.
2. U Tun Aung Chein, Secretary, Myanmar History Commission, Ministry of Education.

Medals for Excellent Performance in the Field of Industry (First Class)
1. U Mya Thaung, Director (Project), No 1 Mining Enterprise, Ministry of Mines.
2. U Htin Kyaw, Chief Engineer, Road Transport, Ministry of Rail Transportation.
3. U Mynit Yi, Chief Engineer (Drilling), Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise (Headquarter) Yangon Division, Ministry of Energy
4. U Saw Lwin, Director (Industry), Machenical Division, Ministry of Power and Water Power Department, Yangon, Ministry of Electric Power.
5. U Aye Thaw, Deputy Chief Engineer, Power Supply Project (South), Myanma Electric Power Enterprise, Ministry of Electric Power.

Medals for Excellent Performance in the Field of Industry (Third Class)
1. BC 32420 Captain Kyaw Myo Win, Head of Mechanical Section, Central Signals Unit, Directorate of Signals, Ministry of Defence.
2. BC 142910 WO-I Win Hlaing, In-charge of Mechanical Production, Central Signals Unit, Directorate of Signals, Ministry of Defence.
4. U Kyaw Tun Aye, Assistant Director, Agricultural Mechanization Department, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation.
5. U Kyaw Wai, Assistant Director, Agricultural Mechanization Department, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation.
8. U Saw Lu Ni, Assistant Manager, No 1 Agricultural Farming Equipment Factory (Sinte), Myanma Agricultural Machinery Industries, Ministry of Industry-2.
9. U Tin Win, Head of Section, No 1 Agricultural Farming Equipment Factory (Sinte), Myanma Agricultural Machinery Industries, Ministry of Industry-2.
11. U Hla Mynit, Head of Section, No 1 Automobile Factory (Yangon), Myanma Automobile and Diesel Engine Industries, Ministry of Industry-2.
13. U Nyunt Oo, Deputy Chief Engineer, Engineering Department, Myanma Agricultural Produce Trading, Ministry of Commerce.
14. U Maung Maung Pa, Assistant Head of Workshop, Engineering Department, Myanma Agricultural Produce Trading, Ministry of Commerce.
15. U Maung, Supertending Engineer, Cottage Industries Department, Ministry of Cooperatives.
17. U Tun Aung, Superintending Engineer (Industry), No 1 Mining Enterprise, Ministry of Mines.
18. Daw Nu Nu, Supervisor (Pearl Culture), Myanma Pearl Enterprise, Ministry of Mines.
20. U Ye Nyunt Sein, Assistant Engineer, (Workshop, Yangon), Myanma Railways, Ministry of Rail Transportation.
21. U Khin Maung Tun, Assistant Engineer (Mechanical Workshop), Ywahtuang Diesel Locomotive Shed, Mechanical and Electrical Engineering Department, Myanma Railways, Myanmar Rail Transportation.
22. U Tun Thu, Deputy Chief Engineer, Myanma Radio and Television, Ministry of Information.
23. U Han Sein, Factory Manager, Photo Litho, Printing and Publishing Enterprise, Ministry of Information.
24. U Hla Thein, Assistant Engineer (Electrical), Myanma Port Authority, Ministry of Transport.
25. U Htin Aung, Overseer (Grade-1), Myanma Port Authority, Ministry of Transport.
26. U Kan Nyunt, Foreman (Mechanic), Mechanical Engineering Department, Myanma Port Authority, Ministry of Transport.
27. U Than Tun, Senior Engineer, Microwave Station, Myanma Posts and Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications Posts and Telegraphs.
28. Daw San San Lwin, Senior Engineer, Project Department, Myanma Posts and Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications Posts and Telegraphs.

(To be continued)
Gasconde in hospital with pneumonia

LONDON, 3 Jan—Paul Gasconde is seriously ill in a hospital with pneumonia, local reports said Sunday.

The 37-year-old former English soccer star is being treated at a hospital in northeast England after collapsing at his home.

"Paul began feeling very unwell two or three days ago," his agent Alex Armitage was quoted as saying. "It's definitely pneumonia and it's bloody bad."

"We feared he had a collapsed lung but that's now been ruled out. They're testing for other problems though. It's serious. It's a possibility he's got 101 things wrong with him."

In October, Gasconde quit as player manager of Boston United after two months in charge.

Gasconde who left Everton in 2002, won 57 England caps, playing at the 1990 World Cup and Euro 96.

He has played for Newcastle, Tottenham, Lazio, Glasgow Rangers, Middlesbrough, Everton and China's Guangxi Tianma for a career blighted by injury and alcoholism. — MNA/Xinhua

Chelsea hold five-point lead in second half of season

LONDON, 3 Jan—Chelsea have the look of champions after Saturday’s victory over Liverpool, coach Jose Mourinho says, but his depleted squad face another test of their title credentials when they visit City in their home programme at Middlesbrough on Tuesday.

Seeking to win England’s top division for the first time since 1955, Chelsea hold a five-point lead over Arsenal going into the second half of the Premier League season.

Manchester United are breathing down the necks of the top two, Alex Ferguson in-form side having won eight of their last nine games to sit nine points adrift of the leaders.

A late deflected goal from substitute Joe Cole handed Chelsea a lucky victory at Anfield on Saturday and the significance of the win was not lost on Mourinho or his players.

"You have to chase the ball but normally the luck is around champions at the right moment, in the right place," said Mourinho.

"When you score a goal in the last 10 minutes of a game where the draw is the fair result then I think it is the symbol of something."

Playing four games in a nine-day period has taken its toll on a Chelsea squad ravaged by illness.

"We have a new player amongst us called virus. It is the flu virus, it is the stomach virus, it is the throat virus. Everybody is full of it — me, my assistant, John Terry, Wayne Bridge is in bed, Alex, who is absent, is in bed," added Mourinho.

"Geremi was on the bench but he wasn’t ready to play because he had a temperature of almost 40 degrees. For the next game against Middlesbrough, if the virus doesn’t wake up strong we have the same five players. If he attacks again then I don’t know how many.

Arsenal, after their dip in form in November, have bounced back with five wins from their last six.

Arsene Wenger’s side host Manchester City at Highbury on Saturday and the Frenchman is only concerned that the champions keep winning.

“We are getting better and better with every game. And we are making the title race more interesting for the public,” Wenger said after Arsenal’s 3-1 win at Charlton on Saturday.

“I am not worried about Chelsea’s results — if they are still five points ahead with six games to go then I will look at their results.”

United, like Chelsea and Arsenal, have won three out of three games over the holiday period to give the Premier League standings a familiar feel at the start of the year.

Free-scoring Tottenham Hotspur, like United in a rich vein of form, are the visitors to Old Trafford on Tuesday. United, still without the suspended Wayne Rooney who is serving the second of a three-match ban, have fitness worries over Portuguese winger Cristiano Ronaldo who hobbled off late in the 2-0 win at Middlesbrough on New Year’s Day.

Carlos Moya hopes to retain ATP title

CHENNAI (India), 3 Jan—Carlos Moya is hopeful he can extend his form which lifted Spain to a memorable 2004 Davis Cup final triumph over the US into the 2005 ATP tour.

Moya, fifth in the ATP list, starts his campaign at the Chennai Open, which begins on Monday, aiming to become the first player to retain the title in the event’s nine-year history.

Moya told reporters on Sunday: "Last year I won here, but now my mind is only on the first two matches. I face a qualifier in the first round which is dangerous because he would have already won two matches. Once I reach the quarterfinal it will be a different story."

Moya won three titles in 2004 and reached the Masters Cup. “In 2005, my goals are to be in the Masters Cup again at the end of the year and try to win a Grand Slam,” he said.

Moya added: “My form is very high. I’m still only 28 and I feel my best tennis is yet to come.”

Dubbed as one of the best players to have arisen out of the Chennai tournament would go ahead because of the devastating tsunami tragedy. The ATP is giving 25,000 dollars to victims’ relief and the players are donating their earnings. A charity auction is also being held.

Hopman Cup tennis journey

PERTH, 3 Jan—Guillermo Coria exercised a few ghosts on Sunday when he recorded his first victory in over six months to pull Argentina level with Italy in the Hopman Cup.

The 22-year-old eased to a 6-1, 7-6 victory over Davide Sanguinetti to level the round-robin tie at 1-1 after Francesca Schiavone had beaten Gisela Dulko 6-1, 6-3 in the opening match of the mixed team event.

For Coria, runner-up at the French Open last year, it was his first victory since he lost in the second round of Wimbledon in June.

Coria was forced to have shoulder surgery in August, which he picked up while stretching for a backhand in the second game of the match.

After taking his ankle at the next change of ends, Sanguinetti battled on and though he dropped the first set, he led 4-2 in the second before Coria recovered to clinch victory.

The win was especially sweet for Coria, who was due to participate in the 2002 tournament but was prevented from playing after he received a seven-month ban for using a banned drug.

Coria was forced to have shoulder surgery in August, which he picked up while stretching for a backhand in second game of the match.

Earlier, Schiavone proved too consistent for Dulko as she wrapped up victory in one hour, five minutes.

The Argentine, who beat Martina Navratilova in the Hopman Cup and Wimbledon last year, made 46 unforced errors.

US, Czech advance to semifinals of World Junior C’ship

WASHINGTON, 3 Jan—The United States tapped out Phil Kessel’s three goals and an assist, advanced to the semifinals of the World Junior Championship after an 8-2 win over Sweden Saturday at Grand Forks, North Dakota.

Kevin Porter, Drew Stafford, Robbie Schremp, Ryan Suter and Tim Hensick also scored for the defending champions, who take on Russia on Sunday.

Kessel gave the United States a 3-1 lead in the second period and added goals in a 3:06 span early in the third.

"I thought we got better as the game went on," US coach Scott Sandelin said. "Thank God for Phil Kessel. He was definitely the difference for us tonight."

Al Montoya made 29 saves, allowing only Loui Eriksson’s two goals.

The Czech Republic advanced with Marek Schwarz making 21 saves for his first shutout of the tournament. And Petr Vranu, Rostislav Olesz and Roman Cervenka scored goals.

In relegation play Sunday, Victor Stanecu scored twice to lead Switzerland to a 5-0 win over Germany.

Russian tennis star Maria Sharapova returns the ball to American Venus Williams on 2 Jan, 2005 in Chiang Mai province during an exhibition match in northern Thailand as part of her preparations for the Australian Open. — Kremlin

Pennetta beat Nathalie Dechy in Gold Coast Tennis C’ship

SYDNEY, 3 Jan—Former champion Nathalie Dechy was a surprise first round loser at the Australian women’s hardcourt championship at the Gold Coast on Sunday.

The Frenchwoman bowed out of the opening tournament of this year’s women’s circuit with a 7-6, 6-1 defeat to Italy’s Flavia Pennetta. "I半岛ted against a really good opponent," Dechy said in a statement. "I think she played a really great match. I wasn’t able to really good opponent," Dechy said in a statement. "I think she played a really great match. I wasn’t able to raise my level of play as much as I wished."

Dechy’s loss completed a difficult day for the French with Stephanie Foretz losing to Italian fifth seed Silvia Farina Elia 6-3, 7-5 while Severine Beltrame blew a first set lead to lose 4-6, 4-6, 7-5 against Denis Chudzko of the Czech Republic.

In Sunday’s other first round clashes, Bulgarian Magdalena Maleeva beat Ukraine’s Yulianna Fedak 6-4, 6-1, Czech Iveta Benesova defeated local wildcard Taffany Welford 6-4, 6-2 and China’s Na Li thassred Italy’s Tatiana Garbin 6-3, 6-1. — MNA/Xinhua

Celtic went three points clear at the top of the Scottish Premier League with a 2-1 win at home to Livingston thanks to goals from strike pair John Hartson, shown here in November 2004, and Chris Sutton. — INTERNET

Free-scoring Tottenham Hotspur, like United in a rich vein of form, are the visitors to Old Trafford on Tuesday. United, still without the suspended Wayne Rooney who is serving the second of a three-match ban, have fitness worries over Portuguese winger Cristiano Ronaldo who hobbled off late in the 2-0 win at Middlesbrough on New Year’s Day.

MNA/Reuters
Minister inspects park, tarring of road in Taunggyi

YANGON, 3 Jan — Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt inspected the park and garden of Taunggyi Township Development Affairs Committee in Taunggyi and gave instruction to officials on constant growing of flowering plants and tasks to be carried out for greening the park and its environs.

Next, the minister sawover the tarring of Min Ye Kyaw Swa Road being undertaken by Taunggyi Township De-

Deputy Minister inspects Bo Aung Kyaw container yard

YANGON, 3 Jan — Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue Col Hla Thein Swe arrived at Bo Aung Kyaw container yard this afternoon where he inspected the X-ray machine.

Officials concerned reported on export and import services being carried out by the yard to the deputy minister, who then left necessary instructions.

Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt inspects township park and nursery in Taunggyi. — MNA

Course on public relations opens

YANGON, 3 Jan — The public relations course No 1 of the Yangon Division Union Solidarity and Development Association was opened this morning at the training school of Yangon City Development Committee in Mingala Taung Nyunt Township here.

The opening ceremony was attended by USDA-CEC members, Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min, YCDC Chairman Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa, members of Yangon Division USDA and departmental officials.

Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Yangon Division in charge, addressed the ceremony.

A total of 99 trainees from 33 townships of the division are attending the one-week course.

School Family Day of Dagon BEHS-1 held

YANGON, 3 Jan — School Family Day for 2004-2005 Academic Year of Dagon Township No 1 Basic Education High School was observed today at the school.

At the school family day, Chairman of School Board of Trustees U Hla Tin, Deputy Director (Education) of No 3 Basic Education Department (Yangon) U Nu, Headmaster U Kyaw Kyaw and officials also presented prizes to the outstanding students of the school.

Students entertained the audience with cultural dances.

Chairman of School Board of Trustees U Hla Tin presents prize to an outstanding student, Ma Phu Ngon Kyaw. — MNA

266 drug-related cases exposed in November

YANGON, 3 Jan — The Tatmadaw, Myanmar Police Force and the Customs Department exposed 266 drug-related cases in November 2004.

The authorities seized 10.063 kilos of opium in 27 cases, 8.7137 kilos of heroin in 102 cases, 0.356 kilos of opium in 13 cases, 6.5905 kilos of low-grade opium in 17 cases, 9.8923 kilos of marijuana in 17 cases, 165.981 stimulant tablets in 55 cases, 0.084 kilo of specious in one case, 0.005 kilo of stimulant ice, two tablets of ecstasy in one case, 236 litres of chemical liquid in one case, 16 kilos of chemical powder, 24 cases of failure to register and eight other cases.

Action was taken against 380 people in 266 cases — 316 men and 64 women in November.

WEATHER

Monday, 3 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 (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Kayin State, Bago, Taninthayi and Yangon Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were (3°C) in Namsam, (4°C) each in Hakha, Pinlaung and Heho, (5°C) in PyinOoLwin.

Maximum temperature on 2-1-2005 was 92°F. Minimum temperature on 3-1-2005 was 56°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 3-1-2005 was 82%. Total sunshine hours on 2-1-2005 was (8.2) hours approx. Rainfalls on 3-1-2005 were nil at Yangon Airport, Kabar-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were nil at Yangon Airport, Kabar-Aye and central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kabar-Aye) was 5 mph from Northwest at (14:20) hours MST on 2-1-2005.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 4-1-2005: Except for the possibility of isolated rain in Khanin, Rakhine State, Mandalay, upper Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions and weather will be generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (40%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Slight increase of night temperatures are like in the upper Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 4-1-2005: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 4-1-2005: Possibility of isolated light rain. Degree of certainty is (40%).
### 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

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### Secretary-1 attends opening ceremony of Independence Day Exhibition

**YANGON, 3 Jan—** A ceremony to open the 57th Anniversary Independence Day Exhibition sponsored by the 57th Anniversary Independence Day Information Sub-committee and the Exhibition Staging Sub-committee was held at the Tatmadaw Convention Hall on U Wisara Road in Dagon Township here at 10 am today, attended by Chairman of Central Committee for Observance of the 57th Anniversary Independence Day Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein.

Also present on the occasion were ministers, the Yangon Mayor, deputy ministers, senior military officers, Secretary of the Central Committee Director-General of the Government Office U Soe Tint, the chairmen of the respective sub-committees and officials, social organizations, students and guests.

Chairman of Sub-committee for Observance of the 57th Anniversary Independence Day Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein formally opened the fair.

Next, Chairman of the Central Committee Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and party inspected the exhibits.

The exhibition included photograph of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe and guidance on the independence, booth on human origin from Myanmar, booth on ancient Myanmar empires, booths on independence struggle, booth on regaining the independence and safeguarding it, booth on scenic Myanmar.

(See page 9)

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### Nations enjoying development at present study their history of progress to shape their own future

**YANGON, 3 Jan—** Ayeyawady Division Union Solidarity and Development held a meeting in Pathein on 31 December 2004 to materialize the seven objectives and nine future tasks adopted by the USDA Annual General Meeting 2004 and the plans to be carried out in Ayeyawady Division.

Present were USDA members, townelders, members of Myanmar War Veterans Organization, Myanmar National Committee for Women’s Affairs, Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Myanmar Red Cross Society and Fire Brigades and outstanding students.

The meeting chairman Secretary of Division USDA U Than Tun explained the national goal and the wishes of the people which are peace, stability and unity and successful implementation of the seven objectives.

He said the nations that are enjoying development at present have studied their history of progress to shape their future. The formation of the USDA is based on the youths who will discharge the national duty. It is nurturing the spiritual, physical and intellectual development of youths, keeping in the fore Our Three Main National Causes, the national policy, and the four political objectives, four economic objectives and four social objectives. The USDA will get in touch with the people of (See page 6)