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

Actively take part with full sense of Union Spirit in successful implementation of Road Map

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 their hearts positive attitude and to play an active part with the full sense of Union Spirit in the successful implementation of the Road Map.

Senior General Than Shwe
Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council
Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services
(From message sent to the 57th Anniversary Independence Day)

YANGON, 4 Jan— Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing hosted the 57th Anniversary Independence Day (2005) reception and dinner at the Pyithu Hluttaw on Pyay Road here this evening.

The Senior General and wife arrived at the building at 6:30 pm. Together with Vice-Chairman of the SPDC Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win, Secretary-1 of the SPDC Lt-Gen Thein Sein and the chairman of Yangon Division PDC, the Senior General cordially greeted Dean of the Diplomatic Corps in Myanmar Philippine Ambassador to Myanmar Mme Phoebe A Gomez, diplomats of foreign embassies in Yangon and their spouses, Coordinator of UN agencies in Yangon Mr Charles James Petrie, resident representatives of UN agencies in Yangon and their wives.

Present on the occasion were Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San, Daw Khan Lay Thet, wife of SPDC Member General Thura Shwe Mann, Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win, SPDC members and their wives, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy), the Commander-in-Chief (Air), the Yangon Division PDC chairman, ministers and their wives, the Chief Justice, the Attorney-General, the Auditor-General, the chairman of the Civil Service Selection and Training Board, the Yangon City Development Committee chairman the Yangon Mayor and their wives, deputy ministers and their wives, the director-general of the SPDC Office, the Government Office, the President’s Office, the Pyithu Hluttaw Office and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

(See page 8)
Towards a discipline-flourishing democratic nation

Since taking over the responsibilities of the State, the Government of the Union of Myanmar has been building a peaceful, modern and developed nation, adhering to the national policy — our three main national causes. Emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation is the goal of the entire nation and we are working towards it through the implementation of national plans. The Special Projects Implementation Committee has also been formed to build infrastructures according to the demand of respective regions and sectors.

Moreover, border areas development projects, the 24-region development project and five rural development tasks are being carried out. The united strength of the entire national people to bring harmonious and all-round development to each and every region across the Union.

In his message to the 57th Anniversary of Independence Day, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe said, “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.”

Perpetuation of sovereignty of a nation pivots on national spirit and unity of the people living together in it. A study of world history shows that national unity is essential to the lasting existence of a nation. A peaceful, modern and developed nation is possible only with the national unity.

The seven-point policy programme, the Road Map to the future of the Union of Myanmar as we may call it, is being translated into reality and, to make it a complete success, the entire national people are required to support and take an active part in the National Convention. And we would like to call on the national people to bring harmonious and all-round development to each and every region across the Union.

...
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’s 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 director 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 items, Kunmu 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

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

TOKYO, 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 megahertz 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 promoted technological and management levels for aquatic processing companies and absorbed a large quantity of rural surplus labours.

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 base.

In 2004, new markets for aquatic products are emerging as China’s export to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) nations, Australia, Russia and Hong Kong region has grown rapidly.—MNA/Xinhua
Medals for Excellent Performance in Administration Field (First Class)

1. U Soe Nyunt, Director-General, Supreme Court (Yangon)
2. U Bo Kyi, Director-General, Supreme Court (Mandalay)
3. BC 13254 Col Khin Maung Maung, Tatical Operation Commander (Base) (Tantyan), North-East Command, Ministry of Defence.
4. BC 14522 Col San Shwe Tha, Tatical Operation Commander (Base) (Kotkai), North-East Command, Ministry of Defence.
5. U Soe Yi, Managing Director, Myanmar Ceramics Industries, Ministry of Industry-1
6. U Myo Tint, Managing Director, Myanmar Agricultural Machinery Industries, Ministry of Industry-2
7. Col Than Nyien, Vice-Governor, Central Bank of Myanmar, Ministry of Finance and Revenue.
8. U Soe Tint, Director-General, Construction Inspection Department, Ministry of Construction.
9. U Win Kyi (Jr), Rector, Forestry Department, Ministry of Forestry.
10. U Myat Kyi, Director-General, General Administration Department, Ministry of Home Affairs.
13. U Kyaw Lwin, Director-General, Directorate of Livestock and Fisheries, Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries.
14. U Maung Soe, Director-General, Livestock, Breeding and Veterinary Department, Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries.
15. U Than Tun, Director-General, Fisheries Department, Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries.
16. U Maung Than, General, Beekeeping, Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries.
18. Dr San Oo, Managing Director, Myanmar Electric Power Enterprise, Ministry of Electric Power.

Medals for Excellent Performance in Administration Field (Second Class)

1. U Khin Maung Lin, Deputy Director-General, Auditor-General's Office.
2. Daw Than Aye, Deputy Director-General, Auditor-General's Office.
3. BC 13188 Lt-Col Myo Kyin, Staff Officer (Grade-I), Quartermaster Department (Work), North-East Command, Ministry of Defence.
4. BC 14400 Lt-Col Nay Lin Aung, Staff Officer (Grade-I), Quartermaster Department (Supply and Maintenance), North-East Command, Ministry of Defence.
5. BC 12181 Col Thant Zin, Head of Department (Far Eastern Region), Strategic Studies, Office of the Chief of Armed Forces Training, Ministry of Defence.
6. BC 11724 Lt-Col Nyon Shwe, Staff Officer (Grade-I), (Operation, Training and Administration), Directorate of Signals, Ministry of Defence.
7. BC 13809 Lt-Col Than Zaw, Staff Officer (Grade-I), (Mechanical), Directorate of Signals, Ministry of Defence.
8. BC 13949 Lt-Col Soe Thein, Commanding Officer, No 111 Signals Battalion, Directorate of Signals, Ministry of Defence.
9. BC 13971 Lt-Col La Young, Commanding Officer, No 2 Advance Signals Battalion, Directorate of Signals, Ministry of Defence.
10. BC 14330 Lt-Col Win Myint, Commanding Officer, No 3 Advanced Signals Battalion, Directorate of Signals, Ministry of Defence.
11. BC 15524 Lt-Col Tin Wai, Chief Editor, Myawady Literary House, Directorate of Public Relations and Psychological Warfare, Ministry of Defence.
13. U Aung Win, (Pa 3964), Commissioner, Maugway Division General Administration Department, Ministry of Home Affairs.
14. U Ko Ko Naing, General Manager, Road Transportation, Ministry of Rail Transportation.
15. U Kan Hla, Director, Mandalay Division Development Affairs Committee, Ministry of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs.
16. U Aung Than Myint, Principal, Degree College (Mandalay), Education and Training Department, Ministry of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs.
17. U Myat Thu Ya, Pro-rector, (Admin), University of Culture (Yangon), Ministry of Culture.
18. U Saw Win, Deputy Director-General, Electrical Power Department, Ministry of Electric Power.
19. U Tha Oo, Rector, Paungu University, Ministry of Education.
20. U Soe Myint, Rector, Pakokku University, Ministry of Education.
21. U Kyaw Myint Oo, Rector, Toungoo University, Ministry of Education.
22. BC 22217 Captain Thwin Shwe Win, Staff Officer (Grade-I), Directorate of Public Relations and Psychological Warfare, Ministry of Defence.
23. U Aung Myint, (See page 5)
YANGON, 5 Jan — The following are messages of felicitations from Foreign Heads of States 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 Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, President of the Republic of Indonesia:

On the Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar, it gives me great pleasure to extend to you and through you, to the people of Myanmar my most heartfelt felicitations on behalf of the Government and people of the Republic of Indonesia.

The relations between our two countries have been developing both on a bilateral basis and within the frame work of ASEAN. I am confident that the cordial and cooperative relations between Myanmar and Indonesia will continue to strengthen in the years ahead as we strive for national development and to contribute to the security and prosperity of our region.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration and best wishes for your good health and personal well-being.

From Mr Khamtay Siphandone, President of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic:

On the auspicious occasion of the 57th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar, on behalf of the Lao people and on my own behalf, I have a pleasure to extend my warmest congratulations and best wishes to Your Excellency, and through Your Excellency to the Government and the entire brotherly people of the Union of Myanmar.

I am extremely gratified to note that the excellent relations of friendship and close cooperation existing between the peoples of our two countries have been further strengthened, bringing about tangible benefit to our two nations as well as making an important contribution to the cause of peace, stability, and cooperation for development in the region and in the world.

May I take this opportunity to wish Your Excellency good health and well-being and continued progress and prosperity for the people of the Union of Myanmar.

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

From Mr S R Nathan, President of the Republic of Singapore:

Dear Excellency,

On behalf of the people of Singapore, I would like to extend our congratulations to Your Excellency and the people of the Union of Myanmar on the occasion of the 57th Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar.

Ties between Singapore and Myanmar are good. I am confident that relations between our two countries will continue to grow for mutual benefit.

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

From Mr Tran Duc Luong, President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam:

On behalf of the State and People of Vietnam and in my own name, I have the great honour to convey to Your Excellency and the people of Myanmar the warmest congratulations on the occasion of the 57th anniversary of the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar.

From General Pervez Musharraf, President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan:

It gives me great pleasure to extend to Your Excellency our warmest felicitations on the happy occasion of the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar.

Pakistan and Myanmar enjoy close and friendly relations. I am confident that mutually beneficial ties between our two countries will be further strengthened in the years ahead.

I avail myself of this opportunity to express my best wishes for Your Excellency’s personal health and happiness and for the continued progress and prosperity of the people of Myanmar.

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

From Professor Dr Iajuddin Ahmed, President of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh:

It is indeed a great pleasure for me to convey to Your Excellency our heartiest felicitations and greetings on the auspicious occasion of the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar.

I firmly believe that the existing bonds of friendship and cooperation between our two neighbouring countries will be further strengthened and consolidated in the years ahead to the mutual benefit of our two peoples. I take this opportunity to extend to Your Excellency my best wishes for your good health, long life and happiness as well as 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
Only if a race actually owns sovereignty, will it be able to shape own future as it wishes

A country that falls prey to neo-colonialists’ decadent culture will be under spiritual enslavement

Interviewer: Maung Maung Kyaw
Photo: Tin Soe (Myanmar Alin)

Q: Please explain to us about interferences of neo-colonialists.
A: In the past, colonialists tried to grab the world, gain foothold in political and social spheres. In those days, the colonialists try to control and manipulate the economic, social and cultural areas, without needing to use their armed forces. Superficially, the neo-colonialists will be like traders, coming to do business in a country on mutual interest. But when the country falls prey to the decadent culture the neo-colonialists have carried, its people will be under spiritual enslavement. To be more accurate, the neo-colonialists will hatch schemes to degenerate the morale of the people and provide aids for destructive acts within the country and slander the country through the media under their control.

Q: Literature has the power to vitalize national spirit. But what kind of literature has that power?
A: In my belief the national spirit is inherent in every person. A person must know his own race well and love and cherish its lineage and integrity. He also should have knowledge of international affairs, and the ability to see things from the right perspective. And this kind of efficiency is what we can see in every youth. In reality, literature does not give such an efficiency to a youth. It can only show the way for the youth to enhance his efficiency.

Q: What are today’s needs to safeguard independence?
A: The task of safeguarding independence involves not only a stiff resistance we will have to launch against the enemy in times of war, but also the endeavours to ensure peace, stability and progress of the nation and enhance the intellectual ability of the people. At present, technological advancement is required for the nation to stand tall among the global countries. But giving priority only to technical or material development in all aspects will weaken the spiritual improvement, and cause the nation to deviate from all-round progress. We should develop the intellectual might to distinguish between what is right and what is wrong. Today’s youths will have to improve their efficiency more and more. Because they are the persons who will have to shoulder the State duties in the future.

Q: Do you have any suggestions for youths?
A: Every youth has his own ability in one way or another. But the important thing is that they should know what is right and what is wrong. They have the spirit of self-reliance, while reducing the wish to depend on others. I hope that my suggestion will be useful for them both in discharging the State duties as well as in their personal affairs.

(Translation: TMT)
Minister for Information inspects GTC Printing Press

YANGON, 4 Jan—Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Thein and officials inspected GTC Printing Press of Printing and Publishing Enterprise in Insein Township yesterday.

The minister and party arrived at the press in the evening and inspected flat bed scanner Esko Scan Mate 14 colour separation machine, Internal drum Film Image Setter Dot Mate 6500 and Shinohara two-colour press.

The minister gave instructions on maintenance of machines, accepting of orders from private entrepreneurs, training of skilled workers, fire prevention measures and security.

The minister inspected printing of textbooks and told officials to finish production of textbooks by March 2005 and to hand over them to the Ministry of Education.

MNA

Independence Day Exhibition continues

YANGON, 4 Jan—The 57th Anniversary Independence Day Exhibition sponsored by the 57th Anniversary Independence Day Information Sub-committee and the Exhibition Staging Sub-committee continued at the Tatmadaw Convention Hall on U Wisara Road here for the second day today.

Today being the Independence Day, the exhibition was crowded with members of social organizations, students, monks and the people numbering 5,009.

Photograph of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe and guidance on independence, booth on human origin from Myanmar, that on ancient Myanmar empires, that on independence struggle, that on regaining the independence and safeguarding it, that on scenic Myanmar, that on eye-catching national culture, both on nation-building endeavours and others.

The exhibition continues until 11 January.—MNA
YANGON, 4 Jan — The prize-presentation ceremony for the 57th Anniversary Independence Day commemorative essay, poem and computer drawing competitions and TV quiz was held at the Pyithu Hluttaw building on Pyay Road here this evening, with an address by Chairman of the central committee for organizing the 57th Anniversary Independence Day celebration Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein.

Present at the ceremony were Yangon Division PDC Chairman Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, the ministers, the Yangon mayor, the deputy ministers, officials of the SPDC office, departmental heads, officials and guests.

Speaking on the occasion, the Secretary-1 expressed pleasure to honour to whom honour is due at the ceremony as the contestants were able to portray in detail the independence struggle, the meaning, essence and value of independence, and the need to constantly safeguard it.

The 57th Anniversary Independence Day was held with the objectives — All the national people to collectively safeguard the national independence and sovereignty of the State and ensure non-disintegration of the Union and national unity; all the national people to unitedly strive with might and main for emergence of an enduring State Constitution and for building a new modern and developed nation; all the national people to work in concert for success of the seven-point Road Map of the State with Union Spirit and national spirit; and all the national people to make concerted efforts for building of a new discipline-flourishing democratic nation.

(See page 11)
Independence Day State Flag…
(from page 16)
office, heads of department under Yangon City Development Committee, rectors and principals, medical superintendents, division level departmental officials, township education officers in the area of YCDC, regional coordinators of USDA (Central), representatives of 16 non-government organizations, national race girls of the Fine Arts Department and local and foreign journalists totalling over 750 took their position in the People’s Square, the venue of the ceremony.

After the State Flag hoisting ceremony at 4.20 am, the State Flag Saluting ceremony was held. The guard of honour of the Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) marched from the Pyithu Hluttaw to the People’s Square and took position at the designated place.

Next, Chairman of Sub-committee for organizing the ceremony Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe arrived and took position on the dias. The commander took the salute of the guard of honour. Next, the mass saluted the State Flag while the band of the guard of honour played the national anthem.

Later, the guard of honour saluted the fallen heros and recited the four oaths. Afterwards, Chairman of Sub-committee for organizing the ceremony Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe arrived and took position on the dias. The commander took the salute of the guard of honour. Next, the mass saluted the State Flag while the band of the guard of honour played the national anthem.

Building of Marine Administration Dept opened
YANGON, 4 Jan
The opening of the newly-built office of the Marine Administration Department under the Ministry of Transport took place in the compound of Dawbon Dockyard this morning.

Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe, Deputy Ministers U Saw Hla and Col Nyan Tun Aung, departmental heads and guests attended the ceremony.

The minister inspected the three-storey reinforced concrete building.

Next, the minister and the deputy ministers proceeded to Nanthida Jetty and inspected Shwepyithit passengers vessel built by Dalla Dockyard. The minister instructed officials concerned to take measures for putting the vessel into commission as soon as possible.

Dignitaries at the 57th Anniversary Independence Day State flag hoisting and saluting ceremony.

The opening of the newly-built office of the Marine Administration Department under the Ministry of Transport took place in the compound of Dawbon Dockyard this morning.

Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe, Deputy Ministers U Saw Hla and Col Nyan Tun Aung, departmental heads and guests attended the ceremony.

The minister inspected the three-storey reinforced concrete building.

Next, the minister and the deputy ministers proceeded to Nanthida Jetty and inspected Shwepyithit passengers vessel built by Dalla Dockyard. The minister instructed officials concerned to take measures for putting the vessel into commission as soon as possible.

Dignitaries at the 57th Anniversary Independence Day State flag hoisting and saluting ceremony.

The 57th Independence Day State Flag hoisting ceremony in progress. — MNA

The opening of the newly-built office of the Marine Administration Department under the Ministry of Transport took place in the compound of Dawbon Dockyard this morning.

Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe, Deputy Ministers U Saw Hla and Col Nyan Tun Aung, departmental heads and guests attended the ceremony.

The minister inspected the three-storey reinforced concrete building.

Next, the minister and the deputy ministers proceeded to Nanthida Jetty and inspected Shwepyithit passengers vessel built by Dalla Dockyard. The minister instructed officials concerned to take measures for putting the vessel into commission as soon as possible.

Dignitaries at the 57th Anniversary Independence Day State flag hoisting and saluting ceremony.

The 57th Independence Day State Flag hoisting ceremony in progress. — MNA

The 57th Independence Day State Flag hoisting ceremony in progress. — MNA

The 57th Independence Day State Flag hoisting ceremony in progress. — MNA
Students able to portray...  

(from page 9)  
Since prehistoric times, the brethren of the Union including Kachin, Kayin, Kayah, Chin, Bamar, Mon, Rakhine and Shan have been living together in oneness and unity and through thick and thin.

flourishing democratic nation is the national solidarity. In all seriousness, I would like to assert that the Government will further strengthen the national solidarity to become stronger in the interest of the State and the entire people.”

He spoke of the need for student youths to make efforts for emergence of a modern, developed democratic nation with the full utilization of their abilities in accord with the guidance of the Head of the State.

Now the government has laid down Our Three Main National Causes as the national policy. He said a peaceful, modern, developed new nation is now emerging with the participation of the people as the government is on the right path towards development.

The government has been carrying out the tasks for national reconsolidation, regional peace and stability and the rule of law as priority since it took up State duties. Border areas and national races development projects were implemented with greater momentum. National armed groups returned to the legal fold and they are now participating in nation-building tasks, he said.

In international relation sector, he said, Myanmar maintains friendly relations with nations of the world especially neighbouring countries. Moreover, Myanmar takes active part in the UN and international organizations, he added.

The government is making concerted efforts for the emergence of a modern developed nation by implementing the projects. Tasks are being undertaken for infrastructural development in agricultural sector and development of high efficiency in industrial sector. He said roads linking townships and villages, bridges, new railroads and new airports are being built for progress of transport sector, an infrastructure for national development.

In education sector, 30-year national education promotion plan is being implemented. There are over 40,500 schools in basic education sector and 156 universities and colleges in higher education sector and they produce Ph.D degree holders.

Likewise, their Union Spirit and patriotism have flourished throughout the successive eras. Moreover, they have a powerful and united nation was established for three times, one each, in Bagan era, Toungoo era and Konboung era.

As the national brethren were endowed with the spirit to love and cherish the nation and race and value traditions and culture and the sacrificing spirit, they were able to regain independence after sacrificing lives, blood and sweat.

At the Annual General Meeting of the Union Solidarity and Development Association held on 17 November 2004, Patron of the Association Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe gave the following guidance:

“The Government totally believes that the foundation to ensure progress and perpetual existence for the nation and the entire people and to build a peaceful modern and developed discipline

60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Objectives

— To work in concert with the people to achieve success in implementation of the seven-point Road Map for emergence of a peaceful, modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation

— To exert energetic efforts in carrying out the five rural development tasks

— To strive hand in hand with the people for successful realization of the twelve State Objectives while upholding Our Three Main National Causes

— To build a strong, efficient and modern Tatmadaw

Students actively participated in essay competitions, poetry competitions, TV quiz, computer arts competitions at different levels to mark the 57th Anniversary Independence Day. There was a qualitative and quantitative improvement in the contests’ participation.

In conclusion, the Secretary-1 called on all the students including the participants and the prize winners of essay competitions, poetry competitions, TV quiz and computer arts competitions at different levels to mark the 57th Anniversary Independence Day to make efforts for success of the national education promotion plan for development of qualified human resources, to participate together with the entire national people in successful realization of the seven-point Road Map with Union Spirit, to strive for the emergence of peaceful, modern, developed and democratic nation and to vitalize the spirit of perpetually safeguarding sovereignty of the State in accord with the objectives of the 57th Anniversary Independence Day.

Next, Chairman of the subcommittee for organizing the competitions Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min explained the purpose of the holding of the contests.

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein presented prizes to the winners who stood first, second and third in respective levels of competitions—the essay, poem and computer drawing contests at middle school level, the essay, poem and computer drawing contests and TV quiz at high school level, and the essay and poem contests and TV quiz at college, university and institute level.

Later, on behalf of the prize winners, Ma Aye Phyu Nyein of BEHS No 4, Aung Mya Tharzan Township, Mandalay Division, spoke words of thanks.

After the ceremony, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and party posed for a documentary photo together with the prize winners.

Ma Aye Phyu Nyein of Aungmyethazan BEHS No 4 expresses gratitude.

He also spoke of promotion of health care services, teaching of medical science, opening and upgrading hospitals and dispensaries, installation of modern equipment and opening of traditional medicine university and hospitals in health sector.

He said Myanmar links international communication network with the use of information and communication technology in communication sector.

Nowadays, the seven-point Road Map has been laid down and is being implemented for the emergence of a disciplined, flourishing democratic nation. The entire national people are to make concerted efforts for successful realization of the seven-point Road Map for everyone is longing for, by doing their bit.

The essay competition and poetry competitions are being held with the aim of enabling the student youths to realize the definition and essence of the independence. The holding of those competitions reached 14 times whereas the holding of TV quiz and computer arts competition reached 13 times and nine times respectively.

This year also, essay competition titled ensuring perpetuation of the independence, poetry competition titled the State being built through education at university, college and institute level, essay competition titled 21st century Myanmar, poetry competition titled the independence and national duty at basic education high school level, essay competition titled we cherish out patriotism, poetry competition titled we cherish out triotism, poetry competition titled we cherish out national duty at basic education college and institute level, essay competition titled we cherish out independence and poetry competition titled we cherish out democracy.

Students actively participated in essay competitions, poetry competitions, TV quiz, computer arts competitions at different levels to mark the 57th Anniversary Independence Day. There was a qualitative and quantitative improvement in the contests’ participation.

In conclusion, the Secretary-1 called on all the students including the participants and the prize winners of essay competitions, poetry competitions, TV quiz and computer arts competitions at different levels to mark the 57th Anniversary Independence Day to make efforts for success of the national education promotion plan for development of qualified human resources, to participate together with the entire national people in successful realization of the seven-point Road Map with Union Spirit, to strive for the emergence of peaceful, modern, developed and democratic nation and to vitalize the spirit of perpetually safeguarding sovereignty of the State in accord with the objectives of the 57th Anniversary Independence Day.

Next, Chairman of the subcommittee for organizing the competitions Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min explained the purpose of the holding of the contests.

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein presented prizes to the winners who stood first, second and third in respective levels of competitions—the essay, poem and computer drawing contests at middle school level, the essay, poem and computer drawing contests and TV quiz at high school level, and the essay and poem contests and TV quiz at college, university and institute level.

Later, on behalf of the prize winners, Ma Aye Phyu Nyein of BEHS No 4, Aung Mya Tharzan Township, Mandalay Division, spoke words of thanks.

After the ceremony, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and party posed for a documentary photo together with the prize winners.
US plan for detention condemned as “bad idea”  

WASHINGTON, 3 Jan — A reported US plan to keep some suspected terrorists imprisoned for a lifetime even if the government lacks evidence to charge them in courts was swiftly condemned on Sunday as a “bad idea” by a leading Republican senator. The Pentagon and the CIA have asked the White House to decide on a more permanent approach for those it was unwilling to set free or turn over to US or foreign courts, the Washington Post said in a report that cited intelligence, defence and diplomatic officials.

Some detentions could potentially last a lifetime, the newspaper said, preparing plans denounced the idea as probably unconstitutional.

“It’s a bad idea. So we ought to get it over and done with, and that’s what we ought to do,” Republican Senator Richard Lugar of Indiana, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee said on “Fox News Sunday.”

Senator Carl Levin of Michigan, senior Democrat on the Armed Services Committee, cited earlier US Supreme Court decisions.

“There must be some modicum, some semblance of due process... if you’re going to detain people, whether it’s for life or whether it’s for years,” Levin said, also on Fox. The White House did not immediately respond to a request for comment. The State Department declined comment and a Pentagon spokeswoman, Lientenant-Colonel Ellen Krenke of the Air Force, had no information on the reported plan.

US Govts plans for lifetime detention of suspected terrorists  

WASHINGTON, 3 Jan — The Bush Administration is preparing plans for possible lifetime detention of suspected terrorists, including hundreds whom the government does not have enough evidence to charge in courts, The Washington Post reported on Sunday.

Citing intelligence, defence and diplomatic officials, the newspaper said the Pentagon and the CIA had asked the White House to decide on a more permanent approach for those it would not set free or turn over to courts at home or abroad.

As part of a solution, the Defence Department, which holds 500 prisoners at Guantanamo Bay, plans to ask the US Congress for 25 million dollars to build a 200-bed prison to hold detainees who are unlikely to ever go through a military trial. A lack of evidence, defence officials told the newspaper.

Rail fare rises come into force in Britain  

LONDON, 3 Jan — British rail passengers face an above-inflation increase in their fares from Sunday, with passengers groups criticizing the move for taking the extra money before making improvements.

Transport companies announced that season tickets and bus saver fares would rise by an average of 4 per cent while cheap traveller and underground bookings will increase by between 2 per cent and 7.2 per cent.

Train firms said the extra cash will improve the nation’s network, which have been marred by a series of fatal crashes and delays since privatization in 1996. But passenger groups said they would rather see improvements.

First passengers on day returns and advance bookings will also have to contend with average fare rises of 4 per cent while regular bus fares in the capital are up an average of 13 per cent.

The increases are much higher than the consumer price inflation in Britain which is currently running at 1.5 per cent.

Geir Moar, Director-General of the Association of Train Operating Companies said that “fares have to rise to pay for the huge investment which the rail industry is currently making in the railways — which is the fastest growing in Europe.”

Netherlands introduces new ID law  

AMSTERDAM, 3 Jan — The Netherlands introduced a new law on Saturday making it compulsory to produce identity documents to police for the first time since World War II in a government bid to crack down on crime and boost security.

Prime Minister Jan Peter Balkenende’s government secured parliamentary backing last year for the new ID law amid concerns about crime, public disorder and potential attacks from militants opposed to the presence of Dutch troops in Iraq.

Concerns about crime have dominated Dutch politics since the rise of anti-immigration populist Pim Fortuyn in 2002. The September 11, 2001 attacks in the United States and last year’s Madrid train bombings have added to worries about security.

Many European countries already have some form of identity card scheme, but the move has drawn fire from critics in the Netherlands, a country renowned for its liberal attitude to prostitution, cannabis, euthanasia and gay marriage.

The law makes it mandatory for people from the age of 14 to produce an identity card when asked by police.

“People involved in crime are getting younger and younger so it’s no problem with the age limit. For privacy reasons I think it’s not a good thing but it’s becoming a necessity to maintain order,” said 33-year-old Dutchman Ramon Geskus.

TRADE MARK CAUTION NOTICE  

1. SUNKYONG LIMITED of No. 10, 4, Pyung-Dong, Suwon City, Kyunggido, Korea, (1) SUNKYONG LIMITED of No. 633, Junja-Dong, Suwon, Kyunggido, Korea, and Japan (2) SUNKYONG MAGNETIC LIMITED of No. 10-5, Soyo-Dong, Jung-Gu, Seoul, Korea, affiliated companies incorporated in the Republic of Korea are the owners of the following Trademarks:

“SKC” 

WASHINGTON, 3 Jan — US authorities are tracking down some 370,000 “absconders” — illegal immigrants who have disobeyed orders to leave the country, a report in The Washington Post said.

This is the first seven months of fiscal 2004, the 18 fugitive squads deployed by the Homeland Security Department as part of a get-tough approach after the September 11, 2001, attacks arrested 7,239 absconders, twice as many in the same period a year earlier, according to the report, quoting statistics from the department’s Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

The agency is drawing up plans for 30 more teams, but budget problems have led to delays, and it was not clear if all 30 teams would be fielded by the end of 2005, Russ Knocke, a spokesman for ICE, was quoted as saying.

The fugitive squads on average capture 35 people a day across the country, but each day, another 70 immigrants are ordered deported and fail to comply, the report said.

Most immigrants are not jailed while their cases are heard. About one-third vanish before their cases are decided, according to Victor Cerda, a top official at the ICE. Of the remainder, about 85 per cent of those who get deportation notices do not show up for final processing, he said.

Uganda to intensify programme on malaria control  

KAMPALA, 3 Jan — The Ugandan Minister of State for Health Alex Kamugisha has said that his ministry will this year intensify its programme on malaria control to save more lives dying of fever. Radio Uganda reported on Sunday.

Malaria is the number one killer disease in the east African country. It killed an estimated 80,000 people in 2003 and the nation loses approximately 340 million US dollars annually through its cause.

The minister of state was quoted by the government radio as saying that his ministry has plans to increase immunization coverage from 84 per cent to more than 90 per cent in 2005.

At the zoo: An eagle squawks in his cage in Moscow’s Zoo during the zoo’s traditional free of charge day. — INTERNET

US tracking down immigrant fugitives  

WASHINGTON, 3 Jan — A reported US plan to keep some suspected terrorists imprisoned for a lifetime even if the government lacks evidence to charge them in courts was swiftly condemned on Sunday as a “bad idea” by a leading Republican senator.
Maradona to appear in video game
BUENOS AIRES, 4 Jan — Former Argentine soccer star Diego Maradona, who retired in 1998, will become a character in mobile-phone video games.

Three companies that have image rights of Maradona signed with US mobile phone firm Digital Orchid a contract to use the figure of the former the Argentine national team captain.

In the video game, Maradona challenges the user to take the ball away from him, local daily Infobae reported on Monday.

The companies are Dieguito, Maradona International Calling Card and Black & Gold.

The mobile phone with the mentioned video game will be commercialized in February worldwide, including China and Japan.

Maradona, 44, arrived in mid-December in Argentina from Cuba to celebrate the season’s celebrations with his family. Maradona is still undergoing a drug-addiction treatment in Cuba.

MNA/Xinhua

Southampton striker Beattie to join Everton
LONDON, 4 Jan—Southampton striker James Beattie has agreed personal terms with Everton on a club record high switching fee, the English Premier League soccer club announced on their official web site late on Sunday.

Southampton striker James Beattie, seen here in 2002, will join fellow Premiership side Everton for six million pounds ($8.4 million euros) after the England international agreed personal terms with the Goodison Park club.— INTERNET

Everton said they are poised to pay 6 million pounds for the England international and the Merseysiders hope to complete the move with a medical on Monday.

Aston Villa had also been interested in signing Beattie but appear to have lost out to their Barclays Premiership rivals.

The Evertonfc.com web site reported: 'James Beattie is poised to become Everton's record signing after agreeing personal terms on a move to Goodison Park. The 26-year-old has decided that his future lies on Merseyside and he looks set to put pen to paper within the next couple of days.'


Southampton boss Harry Redknapp had indicated his willingness to offload Beattie to provide finance for a January recruitment drive.

MNA/Xinhua

Rehhagel wins “person of the year” award in Greece
ATHENS, 4 Jan — Coach Otto Rehhagel, who led Greece to a stunning victory in the European soccer championships last summer, was named the country’s “Person of The Year” Monday by a top-selling newspaper.

The 66-year-old German coach beat out Greek politicians, and organizers of the Athens Olympics in the readers poll organized by the Athens daily Ta Nea and a Web site affiliated to the newspaper.

Greek beat host Portugal in the July 4 final after a remarkable run, defeating defending champion France and the fancied Czech Republic. After the tournament, Rehhagel turned down an offer to coach Germany.

Greece captain Theodoros Zagorakis took fourth place in the poll.

MNA/Xinhua

Schumacher prepares for another season of success
LONDON, 3 Jan—Ferrari's Michael Schumacher is preparing for another season of success, this time as the oldest driver in Formula One.

"Of course I have the odd small ache or pain every now and then but they are only small ones," said the German, now the "old man" of the starting grid after the retirement of Frenchman Olivier Panis.

"All in all, I feel very, very fit and to be perfectly honest, much younger than almost 36," he said on his web site.

"I play soccer with my colleagues quite often, with people like (Renault's) Fernando Alonso who is 10 years younger than I am and I don't see much of a difference.

"No, I am not getting worn out and especially not psychologically. I still enjoy what I do immensely."

In fact, Spaniard Alonso is 13 years his junior. Briton Jenson Button, third overall for BAR last year, will be 25 on January 19 while McLaren's Kimi Raikkonen will be 26 in October.

Schumacher will be starting his 15th season in Australia on March 6 with a record 83 wins under his belt from 212 races, though his enthusiasm has not waned.

MNA/Reuters

Portugal plans charity soccer match for tsunami victims
LISBON, 4 Jan—Portuguese Football Federation proposed to hold a charity soccer match to help victims of the tsunami disaster in Asia during the first two weeks of January, a senior official said here on Sunday.

Gilberto Mafalid, president of the Portuguese soccer’s governing body, said the plan had yet to be confirmed before checking with FIFA.

MNA/Xinhua

Tennis community rallies for tsunami relief
BEIJING, 3 Jan — The international tennis community will help raise funds for the victims of the tsunami disaster ravaging South and Southeast Asia, the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) official web site said Monday.

Working with international aid agency UNICEF, Australia’s seven lead-in tournaments (the Australian Open, and the Grand Slam of Asia/Pacific itself, will run fundraising days at each of the tournaments, with all money raised going to the disaster relief fund.

"With the backing and support of the international bodies of the ITF, WTA and ATP, we will be working with UNICEF to look at ways to involve each of the tournaments in Australia over the next month in helping raise funds for the victims," said Geoff Pollard, President of Tennis Australia.

"Then we approached each of the tournament directors they were immediately supportive and as a starting point have each nominated Gold Coin Days to provide a public focal point for their fundraising efforts," he said.

"Our heartfelt sympathy go out to those in the affected countries and those visitors and their families caught up in the aftermath," he added.

ATP CEO Mark Miles pledged full support to the fundraising movement on behalf of the ATP family.

"I pledge our full support to the Gold Coin Day and any other initiatives to support UNICEF emergency relief efforts in the weeks and months ahead," he said.

"Through our tournaments and players, tennis has a deep connection with Asia and a long history of charitable support, and we will continue to do all we can to help those in need in the weeks and months ahead."

UNICEF Australia Chief Executive Carolyn Hardy was delighted by the plan.

"This is a wonderful partnership for UNICEF," she said.

"This will provide a wonderful fundraising opportunity for UNICEF's emergency tsunami appeal."

MNA/Xinhua

Roger Federer of Switzerland returns a shot to his Spanish opponent David Ferrer during their Qatar Open tennis tournament, in Doha. January 3, 2005. World number one and top seed Federer posted a fluent 6-1 6-1 victory over Spaniard Ferrer in the first round of the ATP $1 million Qatar Open.—INTERNET
Singapore urges establishment of early tsunami warning system

SINGAPORE, 4 Jan — Singapore on Sunday called for the establishment of an early tsunami warning system to prevent future such disasters in the region.

“Countries need to coordinate and agree to set up an early warning system, like the one in the Pacific Ocean, and that is a priority,” Singapore’s Deputy Prime Minister Tony Tan said on Sunday. The tsunami disaster occurred about two to three hours after the powerful earthquake, so if there had an early warning system, a lot of lives could have been saved, he said, adding that he hoped the international conference in the Indonesian capital of Jakarta on Thursday would look at the system issue seriously.

Tan stressed that it is possible for the island state to play a major part in establishing such a system because Singapore has developed capabilities in remote sensing over the years.

He warned that families of those missing in the affected areas would have to be prepared to hear the worst as their chances of surviving the disaster are “very slim”.

On Sunday night, Singapore’s Foreign Affairs Ministry confirmed that nine Singaporeans died, 13 others missing and 81 remained uncontactable after the disaster on December 26 this year.

Singapore has offered to be the United Nations’ regional tsunami disaster coordination centre, easing the congestion of relief supplies heading to tsunami-affected countries. Meanwhile, three officials from the Internationa l Committee of the Red Cross have arrived in Singapore and are establishing a logistics base for the relief effort in Aceh, Indonesia.

Currently, about 800 Singaporeans are doing their part in tsunami-hit areas like Thailand’s Phuket and Indonesia’s Aceh, where a Singaporean’s naval ship landed earlier Sunday to begin its operations of clearing roads and setting up a field hospital there.

In Singapore, more than 10.5 million Singapore dollars (about 6.4 million US dollars) in tsunami aid have so far been raised by the Singapore Red Cross.

India to build disaster management system

NEW DELHI, 4 Jan — India will build its own infrastructure for disaster mitigation and control to deal with nature’s fury like tsunamis, rather than opting for generic global solutions, the Indo-Asian News Service (IANS) Sunday quoted a top Indian scientist and advisor as saying.

Indian Science and Technology Secretary V. S. Ramamurthy said “we must build the infrastructure in Bay of Bengal, which the US or Japan is not going to invest in, but we have to do.”

After touring the tsunami-hit areas in Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh last week, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh had said that India would take steps to be better prepared in disaster mitigation and management in the future. The Ministry of Home Affairs will be asked to set up a National Disaster Manage ment Agency in this regard, he was quoted as saying.

Ramamurthy said that India did not react in an appropriate manner following first reports of the undersea earthquake near Sumatra, Indonesia that triggered one of the worst tsunamis ever. He said that the 92nd Indian Science Congress in Ahmedabad of north India’s Gujarat to be held from Monday to Friday would discuss contemporary issues like the tsunami disaster, health concerns and environment and space technology to find India-specific solutions. — MNA/Xinhua

Afghan Govt supports regional security partnership

KABUL, 4 Jan — The Afghan Government favours a security partnership plan among regional countries and would support any talks in this field among them, a Defence Ministry spokesman said Sunday.

— Ministry for National Defence is in favour of regional security partnerships talks over the issue with the neighbouring countries, which includes the new Afghan defence minister’s agenda,” Zahir Azimi told journalists at a news conference.

“Fighting terrorism, drug abuse and smuggling weapons requires a collective war among the neighbouring nations,” he noted.— MNA/Xinhua

WEATHER

Tuesday, 4 January, 2005

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 (9°C) above normal in Chin State, (3°C) above normal in Kachin State and lower Sagain Divi sion, (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Shan and Mon States, Bago and Taninthayi Divisions, (5°C) below normal in Yangon Division and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Namhsan (0°C), Heho (2°C), Pinlaung (3°C), PyinOoLwin (4°C), Kengtung and Moekok (5°C) each.

Maximum temperature on 3-1-2005 was 92°F. Minimum temperature on 4-1-2005 was 54°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 4-1-2005 was 82%. Total sunshine hours on 3-1-2005 was (7.8) hours approx. Rainfalls on 4-1-2005 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 5 mph from West at (17:50) hours MST on 3-1-2005.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 5-1-2005: Possibility of isolated light rain in Kachin and Chin States, upper Sagain 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: Possibility of isolated light rain in Northern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 5-1-2005: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 5-1-2005: Partly cloudy.

Asleep in Jesus

Mr. Hirose Makoto,
Age 75
Yokohama YMCA

Mr. Makoto Hirose, son of Mr. Shigeru Hirose of Kanagawa Ken, Kanpan, has taken his last breath at a hospital in Yangon at 9:30 hrs on 1-1-2005. Funeral service will be held at 13:00 hrs at Judson Church, Yangon on 5-1-2005 before the remains are flown to the bereaved family in Kanagawa Ken on 5-1-2005.

The President, members & staff of Yangon YMCA, while informing his friends here about his demise would like to express their heartfelt condolences to his bereaved family and the President, Board members & staff of Yokohama YMCA, Japan.

Yangon YMCA

R 489 Published by the News and Periodicals Enterprise, Ministry of Information, Union of Myanmar. Edited and printed at The New Light of Myanmar Press, No 22/30 Strand Road at 43rd Street, Yangon. Cable Newslight, PO Box No. 43, Telephones: Editors 296115, Manager 296684, Circulation 297093, Advertisement 296843, Accounts 296545, Administration 296161, Production 297032 (Office) /297028 (Press).
Independence Day State Flag Hoisting and Saluting Ceremony held

YANGON, 4 Jan—In accord with the objectives of the 57th Anniversary Independence Day—all the national people to collectively safeguard the national independence and sovereignty of the State and ensure non-disintegration of the Union and national unity, all the national people to unitedly strive with might and main for emergence of an enduring State constitution and for building a new modern and developed nation, all the national people to work in concert for success of the seven-point Road Map of the State with Union Spirit and nationalist spirit, and all the national people to make concerted efforts for building of a new discipline-flourishing democratic nation, the 57th Anniversary Independence Day State Flag Hoisting and Saluting Ceremony was held at the People’s Square on Pyay Road here this morning.

The ceremony was attended by people numbering over 10,000.

Over 3,000 people from Yangon East District, over 5,100 people from Yangon West District, over 500 people from Yangon South District and over 1,000 people from Yangon North District including members of Union Solidarity and Development Association, teachers and students, members of Red Cross and Fire Brigade, departmental officials and service personnel, members of the Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association, workers and peasants totalling 10,250 took their position at the People’s Square at 6 am.

Likewise, the USDA CEC members, the chairmen of division/district/township Peace and Development Councils, secretaries and members, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, members of Work Committee for Observance of the ceremony, directors-general and managing directors, heads of...

(Page 2)

Chin State USDA holds meeting to implement seven objectives and nine future tasks adopted by the USDA AGM (2004), and to carry out plans. — MNA

Government will safeguard, further strengthen national solidarity in interest of State and people

YANGON, 4 Jan—Chin State Union Solidarity and Development held a meeting in Haka, Chin State, on 29 December 2004 to materialize the seven objectives and nine future tasks adopted by the USDA Annual General Meeting 2004.

Present were USDA members, townselders, 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, nurses and outstanding students.

The meeting chairman Secretary of Chin State USDA U Aung Min quoted Head of State Senior General Than Shwe as saying that the national unity is the main force behind the development of the country.

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe reads the Independence Day message sent by Senior General Than Shwe. — MNA

(Page 8)