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Senior General Than Shwe welcomes back Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt who arrived back from Japan after attending the ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit.— MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt arrives back from ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit

YANGON, 13 Dec— Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt arrived back here by special aircraft after attending the ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit in Tokyo, Japan, on 11 and 12 December at 2.30 pm today at the invitation of His Excellency Mr Junichiro Koizumi, Prime Minister of Japan.

The Myanmar delegation led by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt was welcomed back at Yangon International Airport by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe, Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win,

Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, members of the State Peace and Development Council, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy) and the Commander-in-Chief (Air), the Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Com-

mand, ministers, senior military officers, Dean of the Diplomatic Corps Ambassador of Singapore Mr Simon Tensing de Cruz and heads of foreign missions in Yangon, the UN coordinator, Charge d'Affaires of the Japanese Embassy Mr Hiroshi Kawamura and staff

and departmental heads.

Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung, Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Win and departmental heads who accompanied the Prime Minister also arrived back on the same flight.

MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt being welcomed back at the airport by Senior General Than Shwe and party.— MNA

Four political objectives

- * Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order
- * National reconsolidation
- * Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
- * Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

Four economic objectives

- * Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well
- * Proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system
- * Development of the economy inviting participation in terms of technical know-how and investments from sources inside the country and abroad
- * The initiative to shape the national economy must be kept in the hands of the State and the national peoples

Four social objectives

- * Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation
- * Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character
- * Uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit
- * Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation

Myanmar Wushu team bags three gold more

YANGON, 13 Dec— The Myanmar sports contingent secured three gold, four silver and one bronze in the XXII South-East Asian Games in Hanoi, Vietnam, on 12 December.

Swe Swe Thant bagged one gold in the women's nangun event in wushu contest. Khine Khine Maw won gold in the women's taijijian event.

Ha Hone also won gold in the men's 65-kilo sanshou event, Yan Win Kyi silver in the men's 52-kilo sanshou event, Thinzar Soe in the women's 48-kilo sanshou event, Pyi Wai Phyo silver in the men's jianshu (fencing) event, Zaw Zaw Moe silver in the men's nangun event and Aung Si Thu bronze in the men's thongshou event.

A total of 15-member wushu team bagged five gold, six silver and six bronze, totalling 17. The latest medal standing of Myanmar is 16 gold, 43 silver and 50 bronze totalling 109.— MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 14 December, 2003

Strive for implementation of hydropower projects

The electric power sector plays an important role in taking measures for development of economic, production and social sectors of a nation. With the higher living standard of the people, it is essential for fulfilling the electric power requirement of the State.

The Ministry of Electric Power, with a view to generating more electricity, is implementing medium and large hydropower projects during the third five-year short-term plan launched in 2001-2002 fiscal year.

In his inspection tour of Kengtawng Hydropower Station in the course of construction on 7 December, Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye delivered an address, saying that Myanmar engineers are to do their utmost in order to be skilled at constructing medium hydel-power stations like the Kengtawng hydel-power station, applying their know-how and experiences, adding that plans are also to be drawn to constantly create human resources capable of handling all stages of construction. He called for timely completion of the project.

The 54-megawatt station expected to be completed in 2005-2006 financial year will benefit Loilem District, and the surplus electricity will be distributed to the grid.

Implementation of a hydropower project, in fact, requires a huge sum of money and it takes time. Looking forward to a good return for promotion of the State's economic, industrial and electric power sectors, the Ministry of Electric Power is making feasibility tours of the regions with potential for hydropower projects. It is now constructing 11 hydel-power plants including Paunglaung hydropower project that will be able to generate 280 megawatts and Yeywa hydropower, 790 megawatts.

At a time when the government is investing heavily in power supply projects, the people, on their part, will have to pay more attention to systematic use of electricity. In this regard, emphasis is to be placed on construction of buildings specially designed for obtaining natural light and use of the least possible amount of electricity in order to minimize waste of power supply. And the buildings that can get enough natural light should use only daylight as the main use of light.

Therefore, officials concerned are urged to exert endeavours for ensuring timely completion of hydel-power projects and departmental staff and the people, to minimize wasteful use of electricity.

New model airconditioner introduced

YANGON, 13 Dec — A ceremony to introduce Panasonic airconditioner (O2 Shower) organized by Matsushita Electric Industrial Co Ltd and Saachi Asia

Co Ltd, was held at the Grand Plaza Parkroyal Hotel yesterday evening. Manager Mr Yamakawa of Matsushita Industrial Corporation Sdn

Bhd made an opening speech and Senior Executive Mr Wong explained facts about the new model airconditioner.

MNA



The introduction of Panasonic air-conditioner (O2 Shower) in progress. — MNA



Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein inspects water supply tasks for agricultural purpose in Thayagon village, Hmawby Township. — MNA

Secretary-2 inspects farms of Myanmar War Veterans Organization, Dagon Jeep Assembling Workshop

YANGON, 13 Dec — Chairman of Central Organizing Committee of Myanmar War Veterans Organization Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein, accompanied by officials of the committee, this morning inspected the agricultural farm of the MWVO in Thayagon model village, Hmawby Township, and the Dagon Jeep car assembling workshop in Pale Myothit, Mingaladon Township.

At 8.30 am, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and party arrived at the agricultural farm where they were welcomed by farm in charge of the farm Lt-Col Lin Naing (Retd) and officials.

First, the Secretary-

2 inspected breeding of piglets in the farm and gave instructions on breeding of pedigree pigs and measures to be taken for prevention of pig diseases.

The piglet breeding farm is making arrangements for selling pedigree piglets to Thayagon model village and neighbouring villages at fair rate.

On arrival at Swan Arman Rice Mill of MWVO, the Secretary-2 saw over milling of rice and gave instructions on quality of rice and minimizing wastage and loss.

The Secretary-2 inspected the earth road linking Thayagon and Moegyopyit villages. He gave instructions on upgrading of the earth road to a laterite one and attended to

the needs. At the construction site of bailey bridge across Hmawby Creek, the Secretary-2 inspected progress of work and gave instructions on completion of the works in the open season.

He then looked into harvesting and threshing of monsoon paddy cultivated by MWVO and land preparations for growing of summer paddy. He gave instructions on supply of water to be carried out for not only cultivation tasks but also breeding of duck and fish and extension of duck breeding.

Afterwards, the Secretary-2 arrived at MWVO Training Centre in Nyaung-hnapinkwin, Hlegu Township, where school in charge Lt-Col Thein Win reported

on arrangements being made for opening of the advanced courses and digging of fish breeding ponds in the compound of the centre and planting of seasonal and perennial crops. The Secretary-2 also inspected pea plantations in the compound.

On arrival at the Dagon Jeep car assembling workshop in Pale Myothit, Mingaladon Township, U Maung Maung (Mudon Maung Maung) conducted the Secretary-2 and party round the workshop.

Next, the Secretary-2 gave instructions on extension of assembling passenger buses and cargo vehicles as well as Dagon Jeep and attended to their needs for assembling 10,060-passenger buses in 2004.

MNA

Agricultural tasks inspected in Pwintbyu

YANGON, 13 Dec — Chairman of Magway Division Peace and Development Council Col Zaw Min inspected agricultural tasks in Pwintbyu Township on 7 December.

He next inspected water supply of Mezali diversion weir and preparations for building the bridge across Mon Creek on Pathein-Monywa Road and water and power supply projects. — MNA

Min Naing wins championship in Maruman Golf Classic Tournament



YANGON, 13 Dec — The prize presentation of the Maruman Golf Classic Tournament, the fifth leg of Myanmar Golf Tour 2003, was held at Yangon Golf Club yesterday afternoon.

Executive of Myanmar Golf Federation U Shwe Tun Hlaing presented daily best scorer awards to Zaw Zin Win, Thein Zaw Myint, Hla Myo, Myo Min Aung and Aung Aung Kyaw in the amateur division.

Operation Director Mr Lai Wei Chin of Rothmans of Pall Mall Myanmar Pte Ltd presented daily best scorer awards to Soe Kyaw Naing (Pan-West), Myint Thuang (KM Golf Centre), Win Htwe Hlaing (Srixon) and Zaw Zaw Latt (Pan-West) in the professional golfer division.

Country Agent U Maung Maung Myint presented first, second and third prizes to Thein Zaw Myint with 301 strokes, Myo Min

Aung with 307 and Aung Aung Kyaw with 308 in the amateur division.

Myanmar PGA and MGF President Maj-Gen Win Hlaing gave away the first prize to Min Naing (Srixon) with 295 strokes in the professional division and the joint-second prize to Soe Kyaw Naing (Pan-West) and Zaw Zaw Latt (Pan-West) with 298 each. Joint Deputy Managing Director Maj Thein Aung (Retd) of Rothmans of Pall Mall Myanmar Pte Ltd presented a cheque to the champion.

Director Mr Foo Cheik Kaing of Rothmans

of Pall Mall Myanmar Pte Ltd presented a gift to U Aye Cho of Yangon Golf Club.

The tournament was held under the arrangements of Myanmar PGA and Myanmar Golf Federation and mainly sponsored by Rothmans of Pall Mall Myanmar Pte Ltd together with Maruman-Kaung Myat Co Ltd, Air Mandalay, Grand Slam (Munsing Wear), Loi Hein (Alpine), UPG, Canon and KM Golf Centre and Wilson.

The tournament was organized by Han Event Management. — MNA



Maj-Gen Win Hlaing poses together with the winners.

MGF

Blasts kill Iraqi officer, wound Poles as Bremer warns of more violence

BAGHDAD, 13 Dec — Roadside bombs exploded Friday, killing a police officer and wounding two Polish soldiers as US overseer Paul Bremer warned of an even worse security climate to come in Iraq and of a stiffer US riposte.

"A device planted on the side of a road regularly used by the US army went off, killing a policeman and wounding another as well as two civilians," said the police chief of Haswa, 50 kilometres (30 miles) south of Baghdad.

"A US convoy was passing some 200 metres (yards) from the site," Lieutenant Bashar Karim Khalas told AFP.

But there was no mistaken identity further south down the same road. "There was an explosion from an IED (improvised explosive device) and one Polish soldier is seriously wounded and one lightly wounded," a multinational force spokesman told AFP.

"There was an explosion when a convoy went by," police Major Ibrahim Salam said just north of Hilla, site of the ancient city of Babylon, and 100 kilometres (60 miles) from Baghdad.

An AFP correspondent travelling the same route reported a second blast shortly after against a second Polish convoy, which escaped with nothing worse than a burst tyre.

The attacks were typical of the daily violence plaguing the US occupation after eight months which have seen 196 US soldiers killed and more than 2,200 wounded in combat.

UTUSAN Online.—Internet

China welcomes progress of Japan-ASEAN relations

BEIJING, 13 Dec — China is pleased to see the new progress in the relations between Japan and the Association of the South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), said Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesman Liu Jianchao here.

Liu made the remark at a regular Press conference when asked to comment on Japan's upcoming declaration of joining the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in South-east Asia. He said that China congratulates the special summit opened Thursday between Japan and the ASEAN in Tokyo, capital of Japan.

MNA/Xinhua



A US soldier and Iraqi policeman guard the entrance to a building during an operation in Baquba town in central Iraq on 11 Dec, 2003. A car bomb exploded outside an American army base west of Baghdad on Thursday, causing some US casualties and killing three Iraqis believed to be in the vehicle, the US Army said.—INTERNET

Good housekeeping helps improve work safety

HONG KONG, 13 Dec — Good housekeeping practices can help reduce workplace accidents, said Permanent Secretary for Economic Development and Labour Matthew Cheung Kin-chung recently.

Speaking at the Good Housekeeping Seminar and Award Presentation, he said employers, employees, the government and other concerned parties should work together to create a safe and healthy work environment. Cheung said the Labour Department had maintained a close partnership with all trades and industries and professional bodies for years to enhance their safety performance.

"The occupational safety and health performance in Hong Kong has continuously improved in recent years. The number of occupational accidents dropped 20.1 per cent from 58,841 in 1999 to 47,023 in 2002. The accident rate per 1,000 workers decreased by 21 per cent from 24.3 he said.

"In the first half of 2003, the number of occupational injuries was 19,611, down 14.5 per cent from 22,924 in the same period last year.

The accident rate per 1,000 workers also dropped 11.7 per cent from 18.7 to 16.5." As many of these injuries were related to poor housekeeping, Cheung believed that adopting good housekeeping practices

could effectively minimize workplace accidents.

"Keeping the workplace clean and tidy is the key to improving safety and health in the work environment, while hygiene is crucial for practising good housekeeping," he said.

"This year, the Good Housekeeping Promotional Campaign focuses on the promotion of workplace hygiene. It is hoped that through participating in the campaign, employers and employees would be more concerned about hygiene at their workplace and would eventually adopt good housekeeping practices and jointly create a safe work environment."

Cheung said that activities under the campaign were well-received. Over 100 organizations participated in the Good Housekeeping Competition while more than 200 competed for the Workplace Hygiene Recognition, and more than 200 companies signed the Workplace Hygiene Charter. He said it was encouraging to see the community placing more concern on occupational safety and health.

MNA/Xinhua

Singapore's hotel industry important to fight terrorism

SINGAPORE, 13 Dec — Singapore's Home Affairs Minister Wong Kan Seng said here on Tuesday that the hotel industry has a critical role to play in fighting terrorism.

Wong made the remarks when addressing at the opening of the ASEAN (Association of South-East Asian Nations) Hotel Security Conference Tuesday morning. He said that terrorists have shifted their attention from well-guarded establishments to "soft targets" like hotels and entertainment outlets.

"No single agency can tackle this problem alone," said the Home Affairs Minister. "It is important that the private sector and community work together in partnership with the government to fight terrorism."

"The hotel industry in particular, has a critical role to play in fighting terrorism," Wong stressed.

He noted that the hotel industry thrives on the stability and prosperity of the country, as well as that in the region.

"If terrorism continues to lay siege over a city or region, a similar siege would be cast on the hotel industry," said the minister.

Hence, it is important for the hotel industry to recognize its responsibilities and

take its role in the fight against terrorism "seriously", he said.

"We cannot stress enough the importance of investing in security measures. Security-related spending is a long-term investment and should be given priority," Wong added.

MNA/Xinhua

US soldier killed, 14 wounded in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 13 Dec — Three suicide bombers in a furniture truck blew themselves up at the gates of a US Army base Thursday, killing one soldier and wounding 14. It was the third suicide attack on American troops in Iraq this week. Meanwhile, loud explosions boomed through central Baghdad early Friday, and sirens wailed in the compound housing the headquarters of the US-led coalition.

Smoke rose inside the compound, known as the "Green Zone."

A spokeswoman for the coalition, speaking on condition of anonymity, said officials were aware of explosions but did not know the location.

Insurgents last month fired mortars into the "Green Zone," a one-square-mile area that encompasses several buildings. After Thursday's suicide attack, three wounded soldiers were evacuated from the headquarters of the 82nd Airborne Division west of Baghdad to a combat hospital and the other 11 wounded were treated and returned to duty, the US military reported.

There were no US fatalities in the previous two suicide attacks this week, indicating defenses erected at American facilities were paying off. Three Iraqis were killed in the truck that ex-

ploded Thursday at Champlain Base in Ramadi, 60 miles west of Baghdad. Also Thursday, the military reported one US soldier drowned and another was missing after a patrol boat accident on the Tigris River in Baghdad.

"The soldiers were conducting routine patrols on the Tigris River when one of the soldiers fell overboard, and the other soldier jumped in to save him," the US Central Command said in a statement.

The incident occurred Wednesday, and the drowned soldier from the Army's 1st Armoured Division was found Thursday morning, the statement said.

US soldiers said an Apache helicopter that crashed landed near the northern city of Mosul might have been hit by ground fire while making a low pass over the area.

Internet

Enrollment of pupils in Tanzanian primary schools up

DAR-ES-SALAAM, 13 Dec — Tanzanian Minister of Education and Culture Joseph Mungai has disclosed that the enrollment of pupils in primary schools in the mainland increased from 4.2 million in 2000 to 6.5 million in 2003, local newspaper *The Guardian* reported on Wednesday.

Speaking at the annual general meeting on education on Tuesday, the minister said that the number of secondary schools in the country has increased from 927 in 2000 to 1,830 in 2003 and the female students in schools have also increased about 31 per cent during the same period.

MNA/Xinhua



Colourful dos: Chinese models show off the latest hair-dos and beauty make-up by local designers, at a hair dressing and cosmetology exhibition in Beijing on 11 December. — INTERNET

Prince Turki says Iraq war created new terror problem

JEDDAH, 13 Dec— Instead of snuffing out a terrorist threat, US President George W Bush's war on Iraq created a new one, Prince Turki Al-Faisal, the Kingdom's ambassador in London, said on Thursday.

"When the United States and Britain invaded Iraq, the promise of bringing peace and security was important in the expositions of both the American and British leaderships," Prince Turki said.

"Unfortunately, that promise still has to be realized. The daily firefights, explosions and violence are making even those who believed the initial promise skeptical," he told a conference at London's Royal United Services Institute.

"Instead of removing the terrorist threat which President Bush saw in Saddam's Iraq, we find today that Bush's Iraq has become a magnet for terrorists," Prince Turki said.

Prince Turki said the world community could not

afford to see Iraq remain without peace and security, noting that the Kingdom pledged \$1 billion for reconstruction.

The prince, a former chief of intelligence, said ending the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, as well as conflicts in Chechnya, Kashmir and Iraq, was key to anti-terror efforts.

"We must not forget that terrorism is a by-product and not an alien being descended on us from a distant galaxy," he said. "The international community ... must realize that terrorism hijacks causes and thrives on injustice. Solve these causes and redress these injustices and we not only win peace and security, we redeem our humanity."

Asked about Bush's re-

cent call for more democracy in the Middle East, the ambassador said Saudi Arabia, like other nations, had a responsibility to reform, but poor governance was not the only reason for the existence of terrorism.

"(International) political problems also feed terrorists with their justifications," Prince Turki said.

"Democracy has its problems ... even in countries like Britain and the US, which have been practicing it for centuries now. Democracy until now has been the best means for people to choose their government in many countries of the world, but democracy is a means for choosing a government and is not an ultimate end in itself."—Internet



A soldier of the US Army's 4th Infantry Division guards detained Iraqi men suspected of a hand grenade attack against US troops during operation Buhriz in the town of Baquba in central Iraq on 11 Dec, 2003.

INTERNET

Nigeria embarks on nationwide screening of drug markets

LAGOS, 13 Dec— The National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) of Nigeria has embarked on the screening of drug markets across the country to enforce the use of letterhead for transactions in drugs.

In a statement issued in Enugu, south Nigeria, on Thursday, NAFDAC's Director of Enforcement Dioka Ejionueme said the shop-to-shop screening would enable the agency to apprehend defaulters.

The agency had given traders two weeks to restore all addresses of stalls and shops, as well as produce their invoice letterhead and receipt booklets for drug sales and purchases, he said.

The director reminded the traders that the agency had directed that defaulters should have their shops closed.

The agency had already commenced the screening at Onitsha, a leading commercial in south Nigeria, where some shops and stalls were sealed off, he said.

The NAFDAC was set up by the Nigerian federal government with a view to ensuring the safety and quality of drugs.

Its main missions are to control and regulate the manufacture, import and export of pharmaceuticals and food products and prosecute those selling unregistered, fake and expired products.

According to the Nige-

rian National Institute of Pharmaceutical Research, about 80 per cent of drugs in all major pharmacy shops in Lagos, the largest commercial city in the country, were fake or counterfeit.

Worse still, at least 7 per cent out of the fake or counterfeit drugs are dangerous to the health of the consumers.

Fake drugs, which are commonly and freely sold in open markets, specific shops and commercial buses, have already claimed lives of millions of innocent Nigerians.

MNA/Xinhua

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Press frowns at Iraq contracts policy

LONDON, 13 Dec—Arabic papers disapprove of US President George Bush's decision to award lucrative contracts to countries which supported US action in Iraq.

Ukay - Saudi Arabia

US politicians claim that they are in Iraq to rebuild the country and propagate democracy, not for the sake of oil and looting. But where is the truth in that?...

The truth has unfolded. Washington wants to take advantage of its presence in Iraq to allow its multinational companies to benefit from reconstruction contracts... Politically, the US want to punish those who opposed its war against Iraq by denying them the booty.

Al-Quds Al-Arabi - London

When we warned that US aggression against Iraq was aimed at achieving two important goals, to loot Iraq's economy

and wealth and to serve Israeli interests and remove any real Arab threats to the racist Jewish state, there were those who accused us of exaggeration...

Yesterday the US President, George Bush, announced that bids for contracts in Iraqi reconstruction will first be given to US companies, then other companies affiliated to allied countries which sent their forces to Iraq, risked the lives of their people, and served in the US project....

The US decision will create harsh divisions in the Western world and will increase the world's hatred for the current arrogant US administration.

Internet

China, Kenya to further enhance cooperation in field of health

NAIROBI, 13 Dec— China and Kenya have enjoyed good relations of cooperation in the field of health, and such cooperation is bound to be further enhanced through joint efforts, a visiting senior Chinese official said here Thursday.

"After the first ministerial conference of the China-Africa Cooperation Forum in 2000, there are more and more cooperation in the field of health between our two countries," Chinese Vice-Minister of Health Ma Xiaowei said when holding talks with top officials of the Kenyan Ministry of Health.

He said that "I believe that there will be a bright prospect in the cooperation of our two countries in the areas of communicable diseases, traditional medicine

and human resource training, especially in the area of pharmaceutical cooperation".

Ma noted that the Chinese Government has paid great attention to the control of HIV/AIDS, and Kenya has gained experience in this area, which has much potential for further cooperation between the two countries.

Meanwhile, Kenyan Minister for Health Charity Ngilu said that her ministry noticed with satisfaction that the two coun-

tries' cooperation on medical care and public health has been going on very well.

She disclosed that currently Kenya has some "very unique problems — to give health care to even the poor people, to set up a national social helping charity, to treat the HIV/AIDS patients."

"We like to continue working with you (the Chinese Government)," she said.

China and Kenya on Thursday also signed a memorandum of understanding on the cooperation in the field of health in Kenya's capital Nairobi.

"I hope under the frame of the accord, there will be some concrete cooperative projects which will be beneficial to the peoples of both countries," Ma said.

MNA/Xinhua



Miss World, Rosanna Davison, poses while attending the Variety Club's Christmas Lunch at the London Hilton, in London, Tuesday Dec. 9, 2003. Rosanna, 19, became the first Irish contestant to claim the title when she saw off the challenge of 105 competitors at the weekend.

INTERNET

US soldier killed in attack in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 13 Dec — Guerillas detonated a bomb alongside a US military convoy west of Baghdad on Friday, killing one soldier and wounding two others, the military said.

The attack occurred at 6:30 am in Ramadi, about 60 miles west of the Iraqi capital, the US Central Command said. One of the injured soldiers was evacuated to a military hospital and died of his wounds. His name, and the names of the wounded, were withheld pending notification of next of kin.

Also Friday, a bomb made from a land mine exploded on the outskirts of the southern city of Mahaweel as a 19-person Polish convoy drove by. Two soldiers were wounded.

Warrant Officer Tomasz Kloc was seriously wounded in the stomach and was evacuated to Baghdad, 45 miles to the north, while Sgt Boguslaw Wasik suffered less severe injuries and was treated at the scene, Maj Gen Andrzej Tyszkiewicz told Poland's TVN24 television.

Two other coalition soldiers were slightly injured Friday when Iraqi insurgents fired at least two projectiles at US occupation headquarters in Baghdad. A spokeswoman said she did not know their nationalities.

A building in the Green Zone, the downtown area where the occupation forces are headquartered, was slightly damaged in the attack.

"I heard what appeared to be incoming mortar rounds," Charles Krohn, a spokesman for the US military, said from his room in the Green Zone. "I was shaken, and I heard a couple of thumps. I felt the vibrations."

Also, the US military said a soldier from the 1st Armored Division in Baghdad died early Friday of a "non-hostile gunshot wound." No further details were released.

Internet

Studies say health consequences of Gulf War persist

LONDON, 13 Dec — More than a decade after the end of the Gulf War, veterans of the conflict still suffer more health problems than their military colleagues, researchers said on Friday.

In two studies comparing Gulf War veterans with other military personnel, scientists found that although those who served in the war did not have a higher rate of new illnesses or cancers, their health was not as good as those who did not go. There is a health effect of serving in the Gulf War," Matthew Hotopf, of Guy's, King's and St Thomas' School of Medicine in London, said in an interview.

Veterans of the war reported significant health problems when he and his colleagues surveyed them in 1997 and the illnesses had persisted when they were questioned again in 2001.

"Gulf war veterans remain a group with many symptoms of ill health," Hotopf added.

Veterans of the conflict in Kuwait have complained of symptoms such as respiratory and digestive problems, nerve damage, fatigue, pain, numbness and memory and psychological problems.

The existence of Gulf War

Syndrome and its possible causes have been hotly debated. It has been linked variously to the inoculations the veterans received, pesticides they handled, smoke from oil-burning fires, stress and organophosphates — chemicals that have been shown to affect the human nervous system.

Earlier this year, British veterans won a landmark legal battle when High Court judges backed a war pensions tribunal ruling which had for the first time given official recognition of the syndrome.

The second study, published in the *British Medical Journal* by scientists from the University of Manchester in England, showed that cases and deaths from cancers among Gulf War veterans were no higher than in other military personnel. —MNA/Reuters

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An Italian armoured vehicle secures an area in Nasiriyah on 12 Dec, 2003.

INTERNET

"Maharajah" makes historic touch down in Shanghai

SHANGHAI, 13 Dec — Air India's first-ever commercial flight to China arrived here in the gleaming metropolis on Thursday, opening a new chapter in India-China bilateral ties and paving the way for enhanced people-to-people contacts.

A packed Airbus 310 aircraft with the flight number AI348 touched down here at the spanking Pudong International Airport in Shanghai at 1815 hours, creating aviation history for India's international flag carrier.

"It is a historic occasion for India-China relations as well as for Air India which is flying to China for the first time in

history," Regional Director of Air India for Far East, South-east Asia and Australia, V. J. Casshyap said.

"Shanghai is our 45th destination and we are extremely happy about serving the new market-China," Casshyap told PTI. He said that Air-India has brought China and India closer than ever before with the commencement of the twice-weekly flight from Shanghai to India and the five weekly flights from Hong Kong to India.

Air India, well-known by its mascot, Maharajah, ensured that the first inbound and outbound passengers flying on the flight did get a royal wel-

come by positioning a "real" maharaja to greet on their arrival and departure.

Air India will be flying to Shanghai on a twice weekly basis on Thursdays and Sundays on the Mumbai-Delhi-Bangkok-Shanghai sector.

The flight duration from Mumbai to Shanghai, including the two stopovers in Delhi and Bangkok is about 11 hours and 30 minutes.

While the first flight was near-full, Casshyap said Air India was confident of wooing Chinese as well as other expatriate travellers to Bangkok, Thailand as well as to India on this very busy route.

MNA/PTI



A Californian sea lion named 'Darin' swims at Skopje City zoo on 11 Dec, 2003. The Macedonian capital zoo lacked any kind of a sea lion for 15 years, before receiving the Californian sea lion as a gift from their colleagues from the Zagreb Zoo on 11 Dec, 2003. — INTERNET

China pledges to enhance friendship with all Mideast nations

BEIJING, 13 Dec — China is willing to develop its friendly, cooperative ties with all Mideast countries including Israel, Foreign Ministry Spokesman Liu Jianchao said.

China warmly welcomes the imminent visit by Israeli President Moshe Katsav from December 14 to 20, he said, acknowledging that China will develop its friendly cooperation with all countries worldwide including Mideast nations based on the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, and Sino-Israeli friendship not only complies with the interests of the two nations and their people but benefits peace and development in the Middle East region.

The UN Asian Meeting on the Question of Palestine will be co-sponsored by the

Chinese Government and the United Nations in Beijing from December 16 to 18, said Liu. With the theme of "Arousing International Support for a Peaceful Solution of the Question of Palestine", the conference will have about 200 participants, including officials from the United Nations and relevant countries and noted experts and scholars on the Mideast issue, he said.

Liu said Chinese Vice-Foreign Minister Dai Bingguo would attend and address the opening ceremony of the meeting.

MNA/Xinhua

Six Cubans convicted of hijacking in United States

WASHINGTON, 13 Dec — Six Cuban men were convicted in Florida Thursday of hijacking a passenger plane from Cuba to the United States after their argument that the crew cooperated in the hijacking was denied.

The Cubans face 20 years of imprisonment for hijacking the DC-3 domestic flight plane with 37 people aboard, including the hijackers and crew members, from Cuba to Key West airport in Florida on 10 March.

Prosecutors said the hijackers forced the pilot at knife-point to divert the plane. The defence argued that crew members went along with the hijacking, saying the knives were used only as props.

But in his testimony the pilot denied he

was in on the plot.

All six were convicted of air piracy, which carries a maximum sentence of life in prison. Some of them were also convicted of conspiracy to commit air piracy, conspiracy to interfere with a flight crew and interfering with a flight crew.

The hijacking was among a string of air and boat hijackings that have caused tensions between Cuba and the United States. Cuba accused the United States of encouraging the hijackings by being soft on the hijackers.

Fourteen people aboard the hijacked DC-3 plane opted to stay in the United States after it landed at Key West. —MNA/Xinhua

Beijing, Manila to further cooperative relations

BEIJING, 13 Dec — Beijing's Acting Mayor Wang Qishan voiced his hope of furthering the cooperative relationship between Beijing and Manila when he met with Joselito L. Atienza, Mayor of Manila, capital of the Philippines, here recently.

Wang said Beijing citizens have paid great attention to the public health problems like trash and sewage disposal since the SARS outbreak earlier this year.

As a city with a rapid economic growth, Beijing is facing a serious traffic situation, and the government is taking measures to deal with it, he said.

He noted that the hosting of the 2008 Olympic Games will offer Beijing an opportunity for development, and Beijing hopes to cooperate with Manila in the fields of economy, trade, culture and tourism.

Atienza said Manila is facing similar problems to those of Beijing, and this also reflects the economic development of the two cities.

Manila takes Beijing as an important partner, and is keen to build a closer relationship with it in the political, economic and other fields, he added.

MNA/Xinhua

EU attacks America's decision on Iraq reconstruction contracts

LONDON, 13 Dec — Tony Blair's hopes of ending Europe's divisions over Iraq suffered a setback on Friday when the EU attacked America's decision to ban countries which opposed the war from winning reconstruction contracts in the country.

The European Commission announced that it would investigate whether the United States's actions over the \$18.6 billion of construction work breached the rules of the World Trade Organisation.

But Mr Blair defended the Bush administration's decision, saying: "It is important to emphasise this is American money. It is for the Americans to decide how they spend their own money." The Prime Minister claimed that EU members who opposed the war, including France and Germany, were now rallying behind the efforts to rebuild Iraq.

He pointed to a "positive" declaration by the 15 European leaders yesterday backing US plans to speed up the transfer of power to the Iraqi people and pledging the EU's support for "the political as well as the economic reconstruction of the country."

Mr Blair said: "Whatever people's views about the war, most people understand Iraq is a far better place without Saddam and that it is now necessary to try and develop Iraq as a prosperous and democratic country, and if we do that, that is a huge bonus for the whole of the western world."

But the summit's declaration was overshadowed by the row over the contracts ban. Chris Patten, the EU's External Relations Commissioner, said acidly: "It is another triumph for Pentagon diplomacy." He said America's efforts to persuade the rest

of the world to join the rebuilding effort in Iraq would not be helped by the decision, which would also make it harder for him to win EU funds for Iraq. Romano Prodi, the European Commission President, said the dispute "doesn't help harmonise our relations", adding some of the countries excluded from bidding on contracts were major Iraqi creditors.

Javier Solana, the EU's foreign affairs representative, Javier Solana criticised Washington's decision as fundamentally unfair. "You are saying that countries cannot participate on tenders and at the same time you are asking those same countries to cooperate, to give money, to fight off the debt," he said.

Jacques Chirac, the French President, and Gerhard Schroder, the German Chancellor, expressed concern at their countries' exclusion.

Mr Schroder said rebuilding Iraq was a global task and "it makes little sense to discuss who can take part in the economic rebuilding and who can't." He added: "International law has to be applied and restrictions are not helpful on the issue." President George Bush retorted sharply: "International law? I better call my lawyer." The Commission said in a statement: "We will examine the 26 contracts at stake to determine whether procurement restrictions are in line with the commitments undertaken by the United States in the World Trade Organisation. We do not need another WTO dispute at this time." — *Internet*

FICCI calls for intra-inter-regional tourism marketing

CHENNAI, 13 Dec — Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) on Wednesday called for concerted efforts by countries in ASEAN region to promote intra-regional and inter-regional tourism in a big way.

"Since no tourism destination can be a stand-alone destination, there is a need to synergize the competencies of tourism destinations both intra-regionally and inter-regionally," A C Muthiah, president of FICCI, said in his address at the conference on "South India-A Global Destination", organized by the Federation.

He said after Turkey, India was expected to achieve the fastest rate of growth of

the total amount of economic activity likely to be generated by travel and tourism, at 7 to 9 per cent in the next 10 years, and the largest employment creation after China.

"The growth in spending by international tourists is likely to be the fastest in India at 14.3 per cent per annum over the next decade," he said.

Pointing out that Intra-ASEAN tourist traffic crossed 18 million mark in

2001 itself, Muthiah said that to offer comprehensive value addition to the tourists, the importance of inter-regional marketing could not be underplayed.

Muthiah said that India's in-bound tourist traffic had been around 2.5 million during the last decade adding that the out-bound traffic had however increased and was expected to be around five million in the year 2003.

MNA/PTI



Chinese Prime Minister Wen Jiabao greets members of the Chinese community upon his arrival to Mexico City on 12 Dec, 2003. — *INTERNET*



An Iraqi woman holds identification cards belonging to her three sons she says are being held by US troops during a demonstration calling for the release of relatives held by US forces in Baghdad, Iraq, on 12 Dec, 2003.

INTERNET

India, Korea "breaking new ground" in eco-pol relations

NEW DELHI, 13 Dec — Observing that India's engagement with South Korea was growing steadily, External Affairs Minister Yashwant Sinha Wednesday said the two sides were "breaking new ground" in both economic and political relations.

He said India sought a long-term and comprehensive relationship of friendship, cooperation and partnership with Korea.

The two countries are planning high-level exchanges and a host of events to mark 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

He said India was looking forward to the visit of Korean President Roh Moo-hyun during the anniversary year.

Observing that India and Korea were bound by civilizational and historical links, he said the past three decades of their diplomatic relations have witnessed a consolidation of traditional

friendly ties.

In recent years, this friendship has developed, based on the secure foundations of common values of democracy and open society and a shared desire to diversify bilateral exchanges, taking advantage of economic complementarities and political convergence.

MNA/PTI

India's efforts in education lauded

NEW DELHI, 13 Dec — United Nations lauded India's efforts in providing elementary education to children, but said the country must meet the challenges of making schooling "truly" free of cost and providing "quality education" to all.

"Educating girls is the best investment India can make for securing a safe future. India has the capacity and the resources to ensure that every child goes to school and receives quality education," UNICEF representative here Maria Calvis said while releasing 'The state of the World's Children 2004' report.

The country has the "Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan" (Education for All Project) that provides the policy framework and has many programmes and schemes to promote education, leading to a rise in attendance rates even among girls in primary schools, Calvis said.

However, there are many areas where much more intensive efforts are needed, she said adding "first in the true spirit of the Constitution of India, schooling must be made truly free of cost for all children."

MNA/PTI

China to tackle rural eye disease problem

BEIJING, 13 Dec — China is to set up a system covering all villages to help rural people suffering from serious eye diseases, said Han Jianmin, director of the National Blindness Control Group.

Eye protection will be an important part of health care work, especially in the rural areas, Han told a nationwide conference on blindness control. China has over five million blind people, approximately 18 per cent of the world's total. Each year, 450,000 more Chinese people suffer from eye diseases, including 400,000 suffering from cataracts.

The number of eye disease patients will be three

times the figure for 2020 unless effective measures are applied by the health authorities, said Han.

The focus of blindness control is on the villages, especially those in the western and central parts of China, said Xu Liang, director of the Beijing Institute of Ophthalmology, noting that eye diseases such as cataracts and trachoma are still threats to old people in the countryside. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Animal diseases hit eastern Ugandan district

KAMPALA, 13 Dec — An outbreak of animal diseases, threatening an epidemic proportion, has struck two parishes in Soroti District, eastern Uganda leading to the death of animals, reported Radio Uganda on Wednesday.

Soroti District veterinary officer Dr Eyudu Patrick was quoted as saying that Kagwara parish in Kadungulu sub-county is battling with an outbreak of African swine fever that has within the last two weeks killed 22 pigs and left scores ill.

Dr Eyudu said that the viral infection, highly contagious to pigs only, is proving a looming threat since it can be transmitted through contact with the carcasses and the sick ones, and yet has no known cure.

He said the key signs exhibited by the infected pigs include loss of appetite, reddening of the skin and dormancy.

In a related development, Aukot parish in Gweri sub-county is equally experiencing an animal health problem with the outbreak of the highly contagious air-borne contagious bovine pleura pneumonia, Dr Eyudu said.

MNA/Xinhua

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt arrives in Tokyo to attend ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit

YANGON, 13 Dec—Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt and party left here by special aircraft of Myanma Airways International on 10 December morning to attend the ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit to be held in Tokyo, Japan, on 11 December at the invitation of His Excellency Mr Junichiro Koizumi, Prime Minister of Japan.

On their way to Japan, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party stopped over at Chak Lap Kok International Airport in Hong Kong at 11.45 am local time. They

were welcomed there by Senior Officer Ms Josephine Yeung and staff of the Protocol Department of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, Consul-General U Myo Chit and service personnel.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party stopped over at the special lounge of the airport.

Next, the Prime Minister and party proceeded to Tokyo, Japan, by special aircraft and arrived in Haneda Airport of Tokyo, Japan, at 6.45 pm local time.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party were welcomed there by Japanese

Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Isao Matsumiya, Ambassador of Japan to Myanmar Mr Yuji Miyamoto and members of welcoming party, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu, who arrived earlier in Japan to attend the ASEAN-Japan Economic Forum which was held prior to the Summit, Myanmar Ambassador to Japan U Saw Hla Min, Military Attaché Col Hla Myint, staff and families of the Myanmar Embassy and the office of Military Attaché. Later, the Prime Minister and party arrived at Imperial Hotel in Tokyo.—MNA



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye welcomes back Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt at Yangon International Airport. (News Page 1)—MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attending ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit together with heads of State/Government of ASEAN nations.—MNA

Prime Minister ...

(from page 16)

and communication technology and human resource development of Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam by Japan will contribute much to the whole ASEAN region, he stressed.

The ASEAN and Japan were actively cooperating in dealing with the problems of violence, narcotic drugs trafficking, disarmament and transborder crimes, he said and hoped they will further strengthen their cooperations owing to latest international developments and changes.

The second day's session of the summit continued at the same venue on 12 December morning, attended by Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt.

Prime Minister of Japan His Excellency Mr Junichiro Koizumi presided over the second day's session.

Next, heads of ASEAN nations and governments and the Japanese Prime Minister expressed their opinions of the prospects for ASEAN-Japan relations.

The summit ended in the afternoon with the concluding remarks by Prime Minister of Japan His Excellency Mr Junichiro Koizumi.

Holding discussions at the summit, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt said that there were many sectors of possible cooperation between ASEAN and Japan,

adding that the living standard of the people will be able to improve through enhancing cooperation in economic development. He hoped Japan will offer more scholarships as human resource development is of paramount importance for ASEAN nations. Myanmar had made resolutions to eliminate narcotic drugs in the country. In the process, it has been co-operating with regional and international communities. Myanmar is giving a top priority to cultivation of poppy substitute crops as it is assumed as an important step. Japan could make constructive activities by opening of market for poppy substitute crops. In the past, heads of Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Thai governments met in Bagan and laid down the strategy for cooperation. He hoped that other ASEAN nations and Japan will provide assistance to the project.

In response to Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, the Japanese Prime Minister said that the discussion had been a constructive one. He added that Japan accepted poppy substitute undertakings as most important ones and will cooperate in the tasks.

The summit was attended by His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Muizzaddin Waddaulah of Brunei Darussalam, Prime Minister of Cambodia Mr Sandech Hun Sen, President

of Indonesia Madame Megawati Soekarnoputri, Prime Minister of Laos Mr Buongnang Vorachith, Prime Minister of Malaysia Dato Sri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt, President of the Philippines Madame Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, Prime Minister of Singapore Mr Goh Chok Tong, Prime Minister of Thailand Dr Thaksin Shinawatra, Prime Minister of Vietnam Mr Phan Van Khai, Prime Minister of Japan Mr Junichiro Koizumi and the ASEAN Secretary-General.

Next, the ceremony to

sign the Tokyo Declaration of heads of State/Government of ASEAN nations and Japan was held at the Asahi Hall of Geihinkan State House. Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt, heads of ASEAN nations and governments and the Japanese Prime Minister signed the declaration.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan signed the Declaration on Accession to the Treaty of Amity and Co-operation in Southeast Asia by Japan while the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia signed the ASEAN Declaration of Consent to the

Government of Japan to accede to the TAC in Southeast Asia in the presence of heads of State/Government

of ASEAN nations and the Japanese Prime Minister, and the ceremony came to an end. MNA

Commander, Mayor inspect sanitation tasks, dredging of drains

YANGON, 13 Dec—Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin inspected carrying out of sanitation tasks and dredging of drains

in Tamway, Thingangyun, South Okkalapa, Mayangon, Dagon Myothit (East), Dagon Myothit (South) and Yankin townships today.

Service personnel, members of social organizations and local people participated in carrying out sanitation tasks and dredging of drains. MNA



ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit in progress at Geihinkan State Guest House on 11-12-2003.—MNA



Heads of State/Government of Japan and ASEAN nations sign the Tokyo Declaration.(News on page 16)— MNA



The heads of State/Government of Japan and ASEAN nations pose at the ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit. (News on page 16) — MNA



The Japanese foreign minister and the Indonesian counterpart sign the declarations. (News on page 16) — MNA

Myanmar Oil Dealers' Association meets

YANGON, 13 Dec — The 11th annual preliminary meeting of Myanmar Oil Dealers' Association was held at Golden Dragon Hall of Lion City Restaurant on Bayintnaung Road here this morning.

It was attended by Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaug, Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw

Hsan, Deputy Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Aung Tun, departmental heads, the president of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and CEC members, members of panel of patrons of MODA, CEC members and officials.

MODA Chairman U Thein Han made an opening

speech. Minister U Aung Thaug and Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Tun made speeches. Next, the annual report (2002) and financial statement of the CEC were read out and approved, and UMFCFI General Secretary U Sein Win Hlaing announced the new members of the CEC.

MNA



Minister U Aung Thaug delivers a speech at the 11th plenary meeting of Myanmar Oil Dealers' Association. — INDUSTRY-1

Sixth Meeting of ASEAN-BAC opens

YANGON, 13 Dec — The opening ceremony of the Sixth Meeting of the ASEAN Business Advisory Council-ASEAN BAC was held at the Sedona Hotel here this morning.

It was attended by Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, Deputy Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Aung Tun, departmental heads of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism and the Ministry of Commerce, Ambassadors and officials of the Embassies of the ASEAN member countries in Yangon, President of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Win Myint and executives, President U Pyone Maung Maung and Secretary-General U Myo Nyunt of the ASEAN-CCI, members of the ASEAN BAC and officials of the ASEAN Secretariat.

First, President U Win Myint of the UMFCFI made a welcoming speech. Next, Director-General U Nyunt Aye of Directorate of Trade explained the salient points of the meeting.

The first day session of the meeting commenced at 9.45 am. Chairman of the ASEAN BAC Mr Rudy J Pesik of Indonesia chaired the meeting. Those present discussed matters related to implementation of the results of the meeting between the leaders of the ASEAN countries held in Bali on 7 November 2003 and members of the ASEAN BAC and tasks to be undertaken in 2004.

Next, Director-General U Khin Maung Latt of Directorate of Hotels and Tourism explained matters related

to the tourism industry on Myanmar.

Afterwards, those present engaged in detailed discussions over ASEAN Pioneer Scheme. Members of the ASEAN BAC and President of the ASEAN-CCI U Pyone Maung Maung discussed matters related to implementation of major economic cooperation tasks in the ASEAN region. The meeting was adjourned in the evening.

The second day session of the meeting will continue at the same venue tomorrow.

President of UMFCFI U Win Myint hosted a dinner in honour of the members of the ASEAN BAC and officials of the ASEAN Secretariat at the Dusit Inya Lake Hotel in the evening.

MNA

Objectives of the 56th Anniversary of Independence Day

- All the national people to collectively safeguard the national independence and ensure perpetuation of sovereignty
- All the national people to be united to ensure non-disintegration of national solidarity
- All the national people to strive for the emergence of enduring State Constitution and for the building of a new modern and developed nation
- All the national people to participate with full sense of Union Spirit and Patriotism in the successful implementation of the seven-point roadmap of the State.

Special features in commemoration of Independence Day

Independence was regained 56 years ago only after the united struggles of the entire mass of the people of Myanmar sacrificing a large number of lives and much blood and sweat. The 4th of January 2004 is a day of national significance. In honour of the 56th Anniversary Independence Day, The New Light of Myanmar will feature articles, poems, documentary photographs, excerpts from the speeches of the Head of State, etc as of 15th December 2003.

Development tasks in Budalin inspected

YANGON, 13 Dec — Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye heard reports on rural development tasks by departmental officials at Affiliated BEHS in Yonhlaygon Village, Budalin Township, on 9 December and met local people in Tayawtaw village.

The commander inspected rural development tasks in Budalin.— MNA

NO SMOKING

Implementation of four-country tourism cooperation coordinated

YANGON, 13 Dec — The work coordination meeting on implementation of tourism cooperation among Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand was held at the Karaweik Palace here this morning. Chairman of the Work Committee for Tourism Cooperation Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Thein Zaw spoke on the occasion.

Also present were Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing, Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe, Vice-chief of Military Intelligence Maj-Gen Kyaw Win, Deputy Minister for Immigration and Population U Maung Aung, chairmen and members of Myanmar Hoteliers Association and Myanmar Travel Association and member of the work committee.

Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw said ministries related to tourism industry are making their utmost efforts for the development of the industry in Myanmar by making arrangements for easy visa access and new tour destinations and taking security measures for foreign tourists. Moreover, arrangements are under way to issue e-Visas, he added.

Ministries concerned are undertaking the tasks for the rapid economic growth of the country and showing peace and stability of the country through tourism. In conclusion, he urged the hoteliers and tour operators to make arrangements for attracting tourists as many as possible in conformity with the utmost efforts of the ministries concerned.

Next, Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe explained the arrangements for smooth transport services to tour destinations and extension of airlines and airports. He advised the tour operators to attract more tourists in co-operating with foreign tour agencies.

Afterwards, Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing explained matters related to formation of safety units for foreign tourists, Vice-chief of Military Intelligence Maj-Gen Kyaw Win assistance rendered for tourists who entered through borders and Deputy Minister U Maung Aung arrangements for easy visa access.

Later, the chairmen of the two associations reported on arrangements for tourism promotion.

MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attends dinner in honour of Heads of State/Government of ASEAN nations hosted by Japanese Prime Minister Mr Junichiro Koizumi on 11-12-2003.— MNA



Japanese Prime Minister Mr Junichiro Koizumi addresses ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit on 11-12-2003.— MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt being welcomed by Japanese Prime Minister Mr Junichiro Koizumi at ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit on 11-12-2003.— MNA



Indonesian President Madame Megawati Soekarnoputri addresses ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit on 11-12-2003.— MNA

Myanmar team takes away three more gold, six silver, six bronze

YANGON, 13 Dec — Three gold, six silver and six bronze went to Myanmar sports contingent today.

Three gold medalists were:

Ha Hone in the men's 56-kilo sanshou event of wushu contest; Khine Khine Maw in the women's taijiquan event; and Swe Swe Thant in the women's tauklu event.

Six silver medalists were:

Thinza Soe in the women's 48-kilo sanshou event of wushu contest; Yan Win Kyi in the men's 52-kilo sanshou event; Aung Khaing Min in the men's

70-75 kilo pencak silat event; Zaw Zaw Moe in the men's tauklu-nangun event of wushu contest; the men's 22-oar 500-m rowing contest and the women's 22-oar 500-m rowing contest.

Six bronze medalists were:

Zaw Zaw Moe in the men's tauklu-nangun event; Thet Min Tun in the men's 80-86 kilo pencak silat event; Nwe Ni Zaw Win in the women's 55-60 kilo pencak silat event; Chaw Su Khin in the women's 70-75 kilo pencak silat event; Saw Khine in the men's 65-kilo sanshou event and Their Htaik Oo in the men's 48-kilo sanshou event. — MNA



Two-gold medalist Khine Khine Maw.— MNA

Motor Transport and Workshop Department of YCDC

*Reporter Than
Swe (Pabedan)*

With the aim of promoting the economy of the nation, the State Peace and Development Council is implementing the four economic objectives.

Myanma Auto Exhibition-2003 was held from 15 to 19 May 2003 in

Win, on 14 and 15 November this year, inspected import-substitute items innovated by factories under the Ministry of Industry-2 in Padaung Township of Bago Division and Minhla Township of Magway Division.

With the encouragement of the State, automobiles are assembled in the 18 industrial zones using mainly the spare parts made at home except the

frame is important for a car. The frame of a car must be flexible and not to be stiff. Only when there is a flexible frame will the car be able to move freely. If a frame of a car is so stiff and not able to move flexibly, it can easily be broken down when the car is overweight. We have to make designs for the frame of a car to be flexible. The iron to be used for making the frames must be moulded without using heat.

YCDC
Chairman
Brig-Gen Aung
Thein Lin
hearing reports
presented by
officials on
progress in
assembling of
garbage truck.



Kyaikkasan Grounds in Yangon with the following objectives:

- The development of the industrial sector to become the driving force of the four economic objectives of the State;
- To promote the development of Myanmar industry in all aspects based on market

ones that are to be imported.

Prior to the establishment of the 18 industrial zones, there has existed a department that assembled vehicles to be used in its own department. It is the Motor Transport and Workshop Department under Yangon City Development Committee.

According to the news that the department is

Q: May I know the differences between the used-car imported and the ones that are assembled by the department.

A: Yes, there are many differences between the two kinds of car. When we assemble a car we use enough iron with high quality. As a result, the iron frame will be thick and endure in the long run. The

A: Garbage trucks and trucks for carrying stones made in foreign countries are worth about K 50 million each and the maximum cost for changing TE-21 into garbage trucks is only 16 or 17 million per car.

Q: Please tell me about the process in assembling a car using hydraulic system?

A: First, we have to make a design that keeps the balance of the car and choose the best way.

Q: There are two cylinders in a car that is being built. What is the difference between using one big cylinder and two small cylinders?

A: The big cylinder is very expensive but effect on the car is not very different. Using two small cylinders can balance the load and keep the car more stable. Moreover, it is cheaper than the big one. In building the hydraulic system, we have to calculate the length of the cylinders. Based on the result, we have to decide the length of the body. Injection pump and governor speed are to be changed in the engine that is used together with the hydraulic system.

Q: It can be seen that the frame of the car is attached to the frame of the hydraulic cylinder. Can the two parts be separated?

A: Generally, the body of TE-21 has to be removed from the car. Then, a frame that will be attached to the hydraulic system must be installed on the original car. After installing the frame, the hydraulic system is to be installed.

The power for hydraulic system is supplied by the engine. Then the pump for hydraulic system has to be installed. These are the finishing touches in assembling the car.

Q: Are there enough machines and tools at the department to assemble the cars?

A: Yes, there are. Lathe machines, machines for moulding crankshaft, nozzle adjusting machine, machines for cutting iron rod are the modern ones. In addition, other machines that can precisely handle the number up to one by thousand inch.

And there are also technicians and skilled mechanics.

In conclusion, the officials explained that they are carrying out engineering works thoroughly with skilled labours.

(Translation: BG)

Myanma Alin: 26-11-2003

People's Desire

- * Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views
- * Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of the State and progress of the nation
- * Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State
- * Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy

Efficient use of electricity

- * Use daylight as the main source of light
- * Use the least possible amount of electricity only if there is not enough natural light
- * Use the least possible amount of electricity required in production and service enterprises
- * Preventing waste of electricity benefits the user and others

There are about 500,000 households using electricity in Yangon. Thus, saving a four-foot fluorescent lamp every day by each household amounts to saving power that is equal to the capacity a 20-megawatt power station can supply.

Efficient use of fuel

- * Saving one gallon of fuel per car per month will save the nation one US dollar
- * Thus, a total of 455,822 cars in Myanmar can save US\$ 5.5 million in a year
- * The amount, US \$ 5.5 million, can build a major bridge across Ayeyawady River

All this needs to be known

- * Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
- * Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
- * Do not be softened whenever appeased

ဓမ္မစာအုပ်

တိုင်းရင်းဆေးနှင့်ဆေးပညာပြပွဲ

တပ်မတော်ခန်းမ

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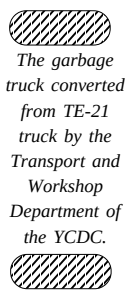


27th Blood Donors' Day

Generosity and respectable characters of yours
You make the difference between life and death.

On behalf of those whose lives have been saved by yours.

National Blood Centre
Department of Health
Ministry of Health



oriented economic system;

- To promote export and produce import-substitute items;
- To develop technologies in manufacturing auto-mobile;
- To manufacture multi-purpose automobiles with high quality; and
- To contribute towards the industrial development of Myanmar by acquiring knowledge and technical know-how from inside the country and abroad.

On one occasion, the Head of State has given guidance that only when there is industrial development will there be progress in the industrial sector of the State.

Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe

assembling garbage truck and trucks used for carrying boulders and pebble, I went there to interview with Head of the department U Min Lwin and Assistant Head of Department Engineer U Aung Khin Zan who is in-charge in assembling the vehicles. The following is the interview with the officials:

Q: It is learnt that the department has the capacity to assemble the whole car. May I know salient points on that?

A: Yes, at present, we are carrying out the tasks to renovate the old garbage truck to be a new one. We have changed the old frame, engine, hydraulic system and body of a car into a new one.

Q: Do you mould a new frame.

A: Yes, we do. We are moulding the frames as the

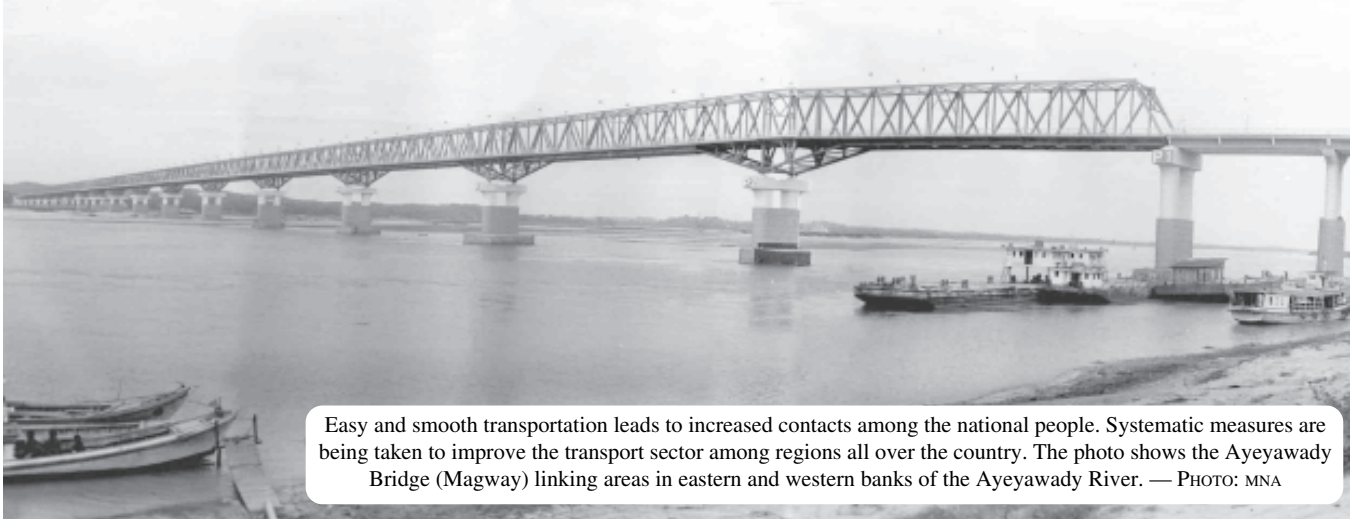
rubbish collected by garbage truck destroy the iron frame of the vehicle. Therefore, we have to use high quality iron. The cars we are now using have been designed to use in its own country and thus there are a great difference between the car imported and the one that is assembled here and I dare say that the one that is assembled here will be more durable.

Q: Do you use parts of old cars in building garbage trucks and trucks for carrying stones being assembled here?

A: No, they are not the used-cars but are the new ones. We bought TE-21 assembled by the Ministry of Industry-2 and changed it into the ones that use hydraulic systems.

Q: May I know the cost of assembling the garbage trucks and the process in assembling the cars?

Transport and communication infrastructure is of great importance for modernization of a nation



The development of economic, social, education and health sectors of a region depends on how easy it is to reach. With this end in view, the Government gives priority to construction of new railroads and motor roads are built all over the country. The photo shows progress of the approach railroad to Ponnya Hill Mountain seen at Phyetmyaung Valley. — PHOTO: MNA



Communication is as important as transportation for national development. The photo shows the posh office of the Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs, and the Hanthawady Exchange compound in Sangyoung Township, Yangon Division. — PHOTO: MNA



Homalin airport was opened on 3 August 2003 in Homalin, Khamti District, Sagaing Division. The photo shows the runway of Homalin Airport. PHOTO: MNA

မညာရေးဖြင့် ခေတ်မီပို့ပြီးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့

Kasyanov positive on Kyoto protocol

TOKYO, 13 Dec— Russia, whose support is vital for the future of the Kyoto protocol on global warming, is preparing “special action plan” to ratify the pact, Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov told Japanese media in an interview published on Friday.

Kasyanov, adding to a string of seemingly contradictory comments from Moscow on the issue, gave no deadline for signing the treaty, saying only “it will take longer than expected.”

“The Russian Government has a special action plan aiming at preparatory steps for the ratification and we’re about to realize that plan,” the English-language Daily Yomiuri quoted him as saying in Moscow ahead of a trip to Japan next week.

Kyoto cannot enter into force without backing by nations accounting for 55 per cent of emissions by developed nations. So far, it has reached 44 per cent and hinges on Russia’s 17 per cent in the absence of a US stake of 36 per cent.

In September, Russian President Vladimir Putin retreated from his promises to ratify the protocol soon and Moscow, which has a casting vote over the treaty after Washington pulled out in 2001, has since given contradictory signals about what it

plans to do.

A Japanese official said earlier that Tokyo still hoped Russia would ratify the treaty, which was agreed in the Japanese city of Kyoto in 1997 and aims to cut rich countries’ emissions of carbon dioxide by 5.2 per cent below 1990 levels by 2008-12.

Kasyanov also said Russia would ask Japan to take part in an exploration survey to help Moscow decide on rival Japanese and Chinese plans for a pipeline from East Siberia.

“We need to conduct a thorough geological survey but the Russian Government can’t afford it,” he was quoted as saying.

Moscow has been keeping China and Japan guessing about the destination of the pipeline.

Both Japan and China, the world’s second and third biggest oil consumers, want to secure supplies as early as possible.

MNA/Reuters

Half of China’s oil consumption will depend on imports

BEIJING, 13 Dec— China will see an increasing dependency on crude oil imports, with the amount of crude oil imported rising from 31 per cent in 2002 to 50 per cent four years later in 2007, according to official research released here recently.

Research by China’s Ministry of Communications on marine oil transportation predicted that the country would import 100 million tons of crude oil in 2005, 150 million tons in 2010 and in 2020 the number would soar to 250 to 300 million. China would become the world’s second biggest oil consumer following the United States and third oil importer after the United States and Japan, said the research report.

The more than 6 per cent annual growth of China’s national economy and the readjustment of the economic structure are behind the country’s higher demand for crude

oil, but the oil production failed to keep pace with the economic growth and only registered 1.7-per-cent growth annually, the research report pointed out.

The shortage of oil supply forced China to become a net oil importer since 1993. Official statistics showed that the volume of imported oil has increased from over 20 million tons to 70 million tons from 1996 to 2002.

China imported approximately 1.4 million barrels of crude oil per day in the international market during the time, the report added.

The experiences of foreign developed countries

proved that the oil consumption would increase at a low speed in an economy backed by industrial sectors, and during the industrializing process before the tertiary industry becomes the backbone of the national economy, the domestic oil consumption would undergo a rocketing growth, the report further explained.

China would be in a vital period of industrialization from now until 2020, stressed the report, predicting that China’s average annual consumption of crude oil would secure an increase by 4 per cent in the coming five to ten years. — MNA/Xinhua

China to get more involved in UN peacekeeping operations

BEIJING, 13 Dec— China is ready to get more involved in the peacekeeping operations of the United Nations to make its efforts to safeguard the peace and stability of the region and world, said Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao.

Liu told a regular Press conference that China in April this year dispatched a force to the Democratic Republic of Congo to participate in the peacekeeping operations of the United Nations. The force includes a 175-person sapper company and a 43-person medical team, he added.

Liu noted that the Chinese peacekeeping force has overcome difficulties and completed its tasks over the past months, and has been highly praised by all sides.

According to the UN

regulations and the needs of the reality, Liu said, the Chinese peacekeeping force will complete its first shift and come back to Beijing on December 15, and the substitute force will take their position on December 13. Liu said that as a permanent member of the UN Security Council, China has always supported the UN’s peacekeeping operation and its efforts to settle the conflict in Africa, and has actively participated in the peacekeeping operations in the region.

MNA/Reuters



Chinese men ski past a snow making machine after the opening ceremony of a ski resort at Huairou, northeast of Beijing, on 12 Dec, 2003. A number of ski fields have opened in the areas around Beijing in recent years as members of China’s rising middle class

look for new forms of entertainment. — INTERNET

Uruguayan magazine forecasts worldwide rice shortage

MONTEVIDEO, 13 Dec —

The world will experience a rice shortage of 21.68 million tons in the coming harvest season, reported the Uruguayan magazine *Arroz* published on Thursday.

The rice shortage over the last three years totals 63.87 million tons, according to the December issue of the magazine, published by the Association of Rice Growers of Uruguay.

The world rice stock will drop 43 per cent to 83 million tons by July 2004 from the 145.4 million tons of the 2000-2001 harvest, he report said.

MNA/Xinhua

WTO Chief urges more flexibility in negotiations

BRASILIA, 13 Dec— WTO Director-General Supachai Panitchpakdi urged flexibility Thursday in trade negotiations to prevent the intransigence that thwarted the Cancun meeting in Mexico.

Supachai asked the countries of the Group of 20 (G-20) to adopt more flexible positions on agricultural issues to prevent an impasse in the World Trade Organization (WTO) trade negotiations to be held next Monday at the WTO Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.

“We all need signs of flexibility, otherwise, there will be no advances in Geneva,” Supachai told reporters after a meeting here.

The WTO chief arrived here to participate in the G-20 ministerial meeting on Thursday and Friday, searching for new approaches to the problems left unresolved at the fifth WTO ministerial conference in Cancun in September, mainly concerning agriculture, before the Geneva meeting.

He said the Cancun meeting failed because of the stubbornness of “each bloc” in the negotiations.

The Cancun meeting was marked by friction between the WTO’s industrialized nations and the G-20 countries led by Brazil.

Farm subsidies were the principal problem that prevented the reaching of agreements in Cancun. The developing countries insisted on the elimination of the subsidies while the developed nations defended them.

Cloaldo Huguency, undersecretary for economic affairs of the Brazilian Foreign Ministry, said the G-20 is always prepared to negotiate.

“We have flexibility in our positions, but that depends on the important actors showing the same type of flexibility,” Huguency said after a meeting with senior officials from 18 countries working out a draft agenda for the ministerial meeting.

The G-20 representatives are also set to meet with European Union Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy on Friday.

Attending the G-20 meeting were ministers from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, China, Colombia, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Paraguay, Philippines, South Africa, Tanzania, Venezuela and Zimbabwe. — MNA/Xinhua

US mortgage giant to pay \$125m in fine over accounting

WASHINGTON, 13 Dec — Freddie Mac, the second-largest US mortgage giant, is paying a civil fine of 125 million US dollars for the company’s understatement of earnings over recent years.

In a statement released on Wednesday, the company said it had agreed to resolve matters with the Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight relating to its restatement of prior financial results.

Freddie Mac will also undertake remedial reform actions to change its governance, corporate culture, internal controls, accounting practices, disclosure and oversight.

“This settlement and the resulting reforms represent an important step toward the goal of restoring the full confidence of our

investors and the public,” said Shaun F O’Malley, chairman of Freddie Mac.

“The reforms to be implemented as part of today’s settlement build upon and enhance the company’s ongoing remediation programme to address its accounting and disclosure weaknesses,” he added. Freddie Mac, a government-sponsored, publicly traded company with a revenue of 40 billion dollars a year, has been criticized for using structured financial transactions in some cases to smooth out volatility in profits. — MNA/Xinhua

Snow calls meeting with Chinese delegation “very productive”

WASHINGTON, 13 Dec— US Treasury Secretary John Snow on Wednesday hailed the meetings with the Chinese delegation headed by Premier Wen Jiabao.

In an interview with the CNBC TV channel on Wednesday, Snow said US officials had “very produc-

tive” meetings in the last couple of days with Premier Wen and his economic policy team, adding that the discussions were “excellent”.

He said US officials had laid out their views on a variety of issues during the meetings, adding that Chinese officials had reaffirmed

their commitment to living up to the obligations of the World Trade Organization.

Snow said the two sides also talked about the US trade deficit issue.

“I was very much encouraged by those conversations,” he said.

MNA/Xinhua

SPORTS



PSV Eindhoven's Mateja Kezman, left, and Deportivo la Coruna's Jorge Andrade, right, battle for the ball during their UEFA Champions League Group C soccer match in Eindhoven, The Netherlands, on 10 Dec, 2003.—INTERNET

Valencia cruise past Maccabi in UEFA Cup

ROTTERDAM, 13 Dec—Valencia eased into the third round of the UEFA Cup on Thursday with a 4-0 thrashing of Israel's Maccabi Haifa at a neutral venue in the Netherlands.

First half goals by Miguel Mista and Ruben Baraja and two in injury time by David Albelda and Miguel Angulo completed the 4-0 aggregate win following the surprise 0-0 first leg draw at

the Mestalla Stadium last month. The second leg had originally been switched to Izmir, Turkey, because of the unstable security situation in Israel but the game was moved again, to the Sparta Stadium in Rotterdam, following the bomb attacks in Istanbul last month.

Maccabi had performed well to hold the Spanish side in the first leg but fell behind after 11 minutes on Thurs-

day when Pablo Aimar set up Mista and he gave goalkeeper Nir Davidovitch no chance. Thirteen minutes later Baraja doubled the Spaniards' lead as he eased a Vicente cross in from close range.

Maccabi pressed in the second half but rarely threatened and were caught out at the end when Albelda and Angulo doubled the margin.

MNA/Reuters

Vietnamese women retains SEA Games soccer title

HAI PHONG CITY (Vietnam), 13 Dec—Defending champions Vietnam beat Myanmar 2-1 to retain the women's soccer title at the South-East Asian Games here on Thursday.

The home side created a lot of scoring opportunities in the first half but failed to materialize.

The Vietnamese broke the deadlock in the 57th minute

when Van Thi Thanh fired a shot into the left upper hand of the goal after a slick team-work.

Substitute My Nilar Htwe hit an equalizer for Myanmar in the 70th minute with a header from a left-wing pass.

Vietnam could have grabbed the winner in the 85th minute when Doan Thi Kim Chi forced an excellent save from goalkeeper May

Khin Ya Min.

The Vietnamese sealed the victory only two minutes later when Nguyen Thi Mai Lan's shot from outside the box deflected off Myanmar defender San San Thein before rolling over the line.

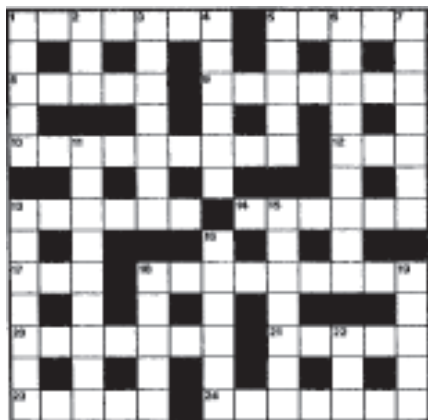
"It's a wonderful match. My players made no mistakes," said Vietnamese coach Mai Duc Chung.

Goalkeeper Nguyen Thi Kim Hong, who was moved to tears, said: "This victory is for the whole country, Vietnam, and for my dad's birthday (on Wednesday)."

Vietnam were also given the Fair Play award of the tournament. Earlier, Chownee Phanlet scored four goals and Narumon Piamsin added a double as Thailand crushed Malaysia 6-1 to win the bronze medal.

MNA/Xinhua

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

- 1 Thrift
- 5 Audible yearnings
- 8 Friendship
- 9 Falling behind
- 10 Ecstasy
- 12 Sailor
- 13 Attempts
- 14 Guard
- 17 Before
- 18 Putting together
- 20 Disgusting
- 21 Silly
- 23 True
- 24 Deviate

DOWN

- 1 Precise
- 2 Japanese sash
- 3 Greek epic
- 4 Cowardly
- 5 Vision
- 6 Innocent
- 7 Sweetened
- 11 Asceticism
- 13 Timeless
- 15 Resounding
- 16 Relax
- 18 Plunder
- 19 Appears
- 22 Mimic

Chinese Tung drives into history books in formula one

LONDON, 13 Dec — Ho-Pin Tung made history on Thursday by becoming the first Chinese to drive a Formula One car when the 21-year-old tested with the Williams team in Spain.

Tung, who earned the test-drive chance by winning this season's Formula BMW Asia series, drove 42 laps of the 4.428 kilometres Jerez de la Frontera circuit, posting a fastest lap of one minute, 22.982 seconds on lap 33.

MNA/Xinhua

Real only credible candidates in Spanish quartet

MADRID, 13 Dec—Spain will have four teams in the second round of the Champions League but only Real Madrid will inspire any fear from potential rivals in Friday's draw after ramshackle campaigns from the other three.

Real, bidding for a 10th European title, are justifiable favourites for the competition after cruising through the opening phase with four wins and two draws giving them first place in Group E.

Deportivo Coruna, Celta Vigo and Real Sociedad all joined them in the last 16 this week but only after nerve-jangling final group games that might easily have seen them eliminated.

Deportivo were heading for an early exit when they fell 2-0 behind to PSV Eindhoven on Wednesday, leaving them in provisional third place in Group C.

Goals from substitutes Albert Luque and Walter Pandiani brought them back level in the second half and they ended up clinching second place behind Monaco despite a late strike from John de Jong that consigned them to a 3-2 defeat.

Deportivo have enjoyed excellent wins over the likes of Bayern Munich and Manchester United in recent seasons but they have been a long way short of top form this term, as shown in an abject 8-3 defeat by Monaco earlier in the campaign.

"We had to find everything we had within us to turn the game around and get through," said relieved Deportivo coach Javier Irureta.

Real Sociedad and Celta Vigo, both playing in the Champions League for the first time, also rode their luck to get through to the last 16.

Celta were fortunate to be up against what was virtually an AC Milan reserve

side in their all-important final game.

The Spaniards were far from convincing but they managed to snatch a 2-1 win that, combined with defeat for Ajax Amsterdam, proved enough to take them through in second place behind the Italians in Group H.

Sociedad also cut it fine, coming from behind to clinch a 1-1 draw at home to Galatasaray on Wednesday to claim second spot in Group D behind Juventus.

Celta and Sociedad could both provide awkward opposition for anyone in the second round but neither side are serious candidates for the title.

Celta are currently in 17th place in the Primera Liga, while Sociedad are in even greater trouble a place further back in the third relegation spot.

For both sides, reaching the last 16 in Europe will come as a lucrative bonus but they will soon have to concentrate on climbing away from the danger zone at home.

"I get the feeling that the fans are happy to have reached the last 16," Celta coach Miguel Angel Lotina said.

"This competition is a nice one and it gives prestige to the club but what worries me is the day to day situation in the league."

As usual, Real Madrid will provide Spain's best hope of a European title and, unlike the country's other three representatives, they can look forward to a second-round tie against one of the group runners-up. "All the teams in the draw will be scared of meeting Real Madrid," said midfielder Oscar Minambres. — MNA/Reuters

Champions League final staying in Gelsenkirchen

NYON (Switzerland), 13 Dec—This season's Champions League final will be played in Gelsenkirchen, Germany even if one or two English teams contest the match in an area with a high Turkish population.

European soccer's governing body UEFA confirmed on Thursday that it was not seeking to change the venue for the match on May 26.

What it will do is review arrangements for the final in the wake of trouble at the Champions League Group G game between Besiktas and Chelsea played there on Tuesday.

That match was staged at neutral Gelsenkirchen on UEFA's orders following the spate of recent bombings in Turkey which left 61 people dead.

UEFA chose Gelsenkirchen, in the middle of a region where an estimated 1.5 million Turkish people live, as Besiktas were the home side for the game.

Turkish fans in the crowd hurled missiles and tons of paper on to the pitch in protest at UEFA's decision to move the match from Istanbul and the ruling body has now launched an investigation. The start of the second

half was delayed by some six minutes as a result of the protest. Less than 400 Chelsea fans travelled for the match but security for May's final will be reviewed because if two English clubs reached the final, more than 50,000 fans would probably travel to the area.

Former European champions Manchester United and fellow Premier League sides Arsenal and Chelsea have qualified for the next stage of the competition by winning their groups. All three teams are among the favourites to reach the final.

MNA/Reuters



AEK of Athens Konstantinos Katsouranis, right, and AS Monaco's Lucas Bernardi challenge for the ball during a Group C Champions League soccer match in Athens on 10 Dec, 2003. — INTERNET

9:00	Signature Tune
	Greetings
9:02	Song of Myanmar
	Beauty & Scenic
	Sights "Myanma Pano-
	rama & Myanma Sen-
	timent"
9:06	Towards Potaung
	Ponnya Yaw Region
	(Part-I)
9:10	Headline News
9:12	Easily Cooked Tasty
	Dishes (Fish with
	Drumstick Sour Soup)
9:15	National News
9:20	Blood For Life
9:30	National News
9:35	Unique Biodiversity of
	Indawgyi Lake
9:40	Song "Every Child
	Counts" (A Polio Free
	World)
9:45	National News
9:50	Central National Blood
	Bank (Yangon)
9:58	Song of Myanmar
	Beauty & Scenic
	Sights
	"Come and See
	Myanmar"

14-12-2003*(Sunday)
Regular Programmes for
Viewers from Abroad
Evening Transmission
(15:30 - 17:30)

15:30	Signature Tune Greetings
15:32	Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Mingalabar"
15:36	Towards Pontauang Ponnya Yaw Region (Part-I)
15:40	Headline News
15:42	Easily Cooked Tasty Dishes (Fish with Drumstick Sour Soup)
15:45	National News
15:50	Blood For Life
15:55	Kontala-Aingnan
16:00	National News



Sunday, December 14

View today:

- 7:00 am
1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayardaw U Ottamathara
- 7:15 am
2. ဟိမဝန္တရေ မြေဘူတာခါနီးက၊
အရပ်ကွက်တို့က၊ ဘုရားသီရိဗ္ဗာ၊
အိပ်သံ (ယောသရာဇာတိ)
ဟောကြားတော်မူသော
ဥပုသ်တရားပြောတော်
- 7:25 am
3. To be healthy exercise
- 7:30 am
4. Morning news
- 7:40 am
5. Nice and sweet song
- 7:50 am
6. ယဉ်ကျေးလွန်း(၃၀)ပြာမင်လာ
- 8:05 am
7. အစီရိခံပြော
- 8:15 am
8. ပုလင်းရေလောင်းကန်
- 8:30 am
9. International news
- 8:45 am
10. Say it in English

16:05	Unique Biodiversity of Indawgyi Lake (Part-VI)
16:10	Song "Every Child Counts" (A Polio Free World)
16:15	National News
16:20	Central National Blood Bank (Yangon)
16:25	Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Myanma Panorama & Myanma Sentiment"
16:30	National News
16:35	SA-LE Monastery Decorated with Handicrafts
16:40	Myanmar Cuisine "Cucumber salad"
16:45	National News
16:50	The Splendour of Mt. Victoria (Natmataung)
16:55	Tasty Fried Nga-Poe from Padu village
17:00	National News
17:05	Myanmar Traditional Tayaw Kinbun Shampoo
17:10	Song "Where does love begin?"
17:15	National News
17:20	Thameehla Island Home to Fascinating Turtles
17:25	Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"

**Evening Transmission
(19:30 - 23:30)**

19:30 Signature Tune
Greetings

19:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights “Myanma Pano-
rama & Myanma Sen-
timent”

19:36 Mann Mayway

19:40 Headline News

19:42 Easily Cooked Tasty
Dishes (Curry of
Hilsa)

19:45 National News

19:50 A Journey to research
Taron Race

19:55 Sound of the harp at-
tracting love

20:00 National News

20:05 The Mountain with
Antique Stone Sculp-
tures

20:10 Song “To a silvery

11:00 am
1. Martial Song

11:10 am
2. Musical programme

11:25 am
3. Round-up of the week's
International News

11:40 am
4. ရှိခိုးခြားအတိတ်သို့ “အချစ်သံသရာ”
(အပိုင်း-၂၄)

12:15 am
5. Milo success in Soccer

12:30 am
6. “မောင့်၊ ခုနစ်နှစ်မှမောသွား”
ရောကင်းကောင်းထူးသည့်ချော့ညီညီ
မေ့ရိုင်းရိုင်းသိမ်းဆွပ်ခွံထွားပုဂ္ဂလိပ်
(ခါးကတော-စနေ)

2:40 am
7. ရွှေလင်းတံတား

2:45 am
8. International News

4:00 pm
1. Martial Song

4:15 pm
2. Songs to Uphold National
Spirit

4:30 pm
3. English for Everyday Use

4:45 pm
4. အဆင်သင့်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး
ရုပ်ရှင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ-ပထမနှစ်
(သိပ္ပံအထူးပြုအားလုံး) (ခါကတော)

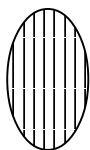
5:00 pm
5. Song of National Races

20:12	seagull" Mogok (or) The Ruby Land of Myanmar
20:15	National News
20:20	Myanmar Ramayana "Seeta and Hanumaan" (Part-XIII) (Scene-II)
20:25	Song "To Golden Mandalay"
20:30	National News
20:35	Oil Painting Model Demonstration
20:40	Myanmar Cuisine "Monhinga"
20:45	National News
20:50	Glimpses At Myanmar Movies
21:00	National News
21:05	Myanmar Traditional Gold Leaf works
21:10	Myanmar Modern Song "Peace Be with you"
21:15	National News
21:20	Glimpses At Myanmar Movies
21:30	Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Mingalabar"
21:35	Towards Pountang Ponnya Region (Part-I)
21:40	Headline News
21:42	Easily Cooked Tasty Dishes (Fish with Drumstick Sour Soup)
21:45	National News



Gold
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Ha Hone.

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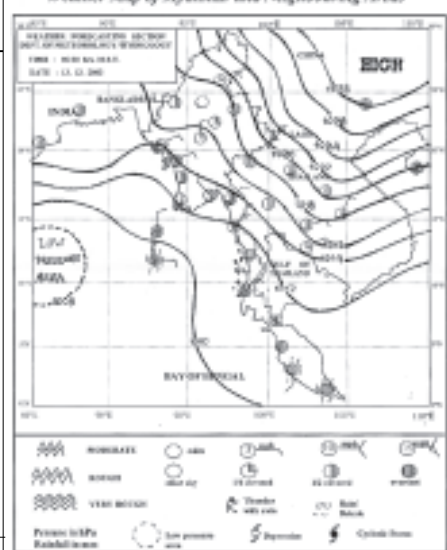


21:50	Blood For Life
21:55	Kontala-Aingnan
22:00	National News
22:05	Unique Biodiversity of Indawgyi Lake
22:10	Song "Every Child Counts" (A Polio Free World)
22:15	National News
22:20	Central National Blood Bank (Yangon)
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23:10	Song On Screen "Where does love be- gin?"
23:15	National News
23:20	Thameehla Island Home to Fascinating Turtles
23:25	Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"



Two gold and one silver medalist Swe Swe Thant.—MNA

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Saturday, 13 December, 2003

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been isolated light rain in Taninthayi Division and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Night temperatures were 3°C above normal in Mon State and Taninthayi Division, 3°C to 4°C below normal in Chin and Rakhine States, Mandalay and Yangon Divisions, 5°C to 6°C below normal in Shan State and Sagaing Division and normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperature was 2°C in Hakha.

Maximum temperature on 12-12-2003 was 34.5°C (94°F). Minimum temperature on 13-12-2003 was 16.5°C (62°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 13-12-2003 was 67%. Total sunshine hours on 12-12-2003 was (8.5) hours approx. Rainfall on 13-12-2003 was nil at Yangan Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangan. Total rainfall since 1-1-2003 was 2211 mm (87.05 inches) at Yangan Airport, 2315 mm (91.14 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 2394 mm (94.25 inches) at central Yangan. Maximum wind speed at Yangan (Kaba-Aye) was 10 mph from Northeast at (08:40) hours MST on 13-12-2003.

Bay inference: According to the observations at (06.30)hr M.S.T today, a low pressure area has formed in Southwest Bay and adjoining with Westcentral Bay and weather is partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 14-12-2003: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in Rakhine and Chin States, Upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

State of the sea: Strong easterly wind with moderate to rough sea are likely at times off and along Mon-Taninthayi Division Coast. Surface wind speed in strong wind may reach (35)m.p.h. Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of isolated rain in Southern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 14-12-2003: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 14-12-2003:Partly cloudy.

Radio Myanmar

Sunday, December 14

Tune in today:

8.30 am	Brief news
8.35 am	Music
8.40 am	Perspectives
8.45 am	Music
8.55am	National news/ Slogan
9.05 am	Music
9.10 am	International news
9.15 am	Music
1.30 pm	News/Slogan
1.40 pm	Story of Children “Mai Htwe& Big Tortoises”
1:50 pm	Songs for children
9.00 pm	Weekly news review
9.10 pm	Music
9.15 pm	Article
9.25 pm	Myanma Culture by Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt - The festivals of Nadaw
9.45 pm	News/Slogan
10.00 pm	PEL

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, Heads of State/Government of ASEAN countries pay courtesy call on Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko of Japan

YANGON, 13 Dec — Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and Heads of State/Government of ASEAN countries paid a courtesy call on Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko of Japan at Rensui Hall of Imperial Palace in Tokyo at 4.30 pm on 11 December.

Also present on the occasion were the Crown Prince and Their Imperial Highnesses Prince and Princess Akishinomiya, distinguished guests including His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Muizzaddin Waddaulah of Brunei Darussalam, Prime Minister of Cambodia Mr Sandech Hun Sen, President of the Republic of Indonesia Madame Megawati Soekarnoputri, Prime Minister of Lao People's Democratic Republic Mr Boungnang Vorachith, Prime Minister of Malaysia Dato Sri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt, President of the Republic of Philippines Madame Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, Prime Minister of Singapore Mr Goh Chok Tong, Prime Minister of Thailand Dr Thaksin Shinawatra and Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Mr Phan Van Khai. — MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt signs in Tokyo Declaration at Geihinkan State Guest House on 11-12-2003. — MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attends ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit

YANGON, 13 Dec — The opening of ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit and the first session of the summit were held at the Geihinkan State Guest House in Tokyo on 11 December afternoon, attended by Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt.

First, on arrival at the

Geihinkan State House where the summit is going to be held, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and heads of ASEAN nations and governments were welcomed by Prime Minister of Japan His Excellency Mr Junichiro Koizumi.

Next, heads of ASEAN nations and governments had a documentary photo taken

together with the Japanese Prime Minister. Afterwards, the first session of the summit was held at the Geihinkan State Guest House at 2 pm.

Prime Minister of Japan Mr Junichiro Koizumi made an opening speech. He said that the summit will have to be put on historic record as it was the first of its kind held outside the ASEAN region.

He added that Japan welcomed the ASEAN leaders and had the wishes to further strengthen Japan-ASEAN relations.

Next, the Alternate Chairperson of ASEAN nations President of Indonesia Madame Megawati Soekarnoputri spoke. She said that the ASEAN-Japan relation strengthened during the past

30 years and the ASEAN was grateful to the Japanese government for its assistance to ensure development of ASEAN region.

Next, leaders of ASEAN nations and governments expressed their opinions of ASEAN-Japan relations.

Dealing with the discussion, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt said that it was

encouraging to witness the development of ASEAN-Japan relations during the past 30 years. Japan remained as a main trade partner of ASEAN and ASEAN was also a main trade partner of Japan, he noted. In addition, Japan was the biggest investor of the ASEAN region, he said and he hoped that Japan will further widen its cooperation in economic alliance and development with ASEAN in the years to come.

Japan has been giving aid in implementing Hanoi Action Plan. The pledge to provide assistance for development of basic infrastructures and information (See page 7)



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attends ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit at Geihinkan State Guest House on 11-12-2003. — MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attends dinner hosted by Japanese PM

YANGON, 13 Dec — Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt attended a dinner hosted by Japanese Prime Minister His Excellency Junichiro Koizumi in honour of the heads of State/Government of ASEAN nations at the Imperial Hotel in Tokyo, Japan, on 11 December evening.

On arrival at the hotel, the heads of State/Government of ASEAN nations were welcomed by the Japanese Prime Minister.

Present at the dinner were Bruneian King His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Muizzaddin Waddaulah, Cambodian Prime Minister Mr Sandech Hun Sen, Indonesian President Madame Megawati Soekarnoputri, Laotian Prime Minister Mr Boungnang Vorachith, Malaysian Prime Minister Dato Sri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, Myanmar Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, Philippine President Madame Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, Singaporean Prime Minister Mr Goh Chok Tong, Thai Prime Minister Dr Thaksin Shinawatra, Vietnamese Prime Minister Mr Phan Van Khai, ministers, deputy ministers, ambassadors of ASEAN nations to Japan, the ASEAN Secretary-General and distinguished guests.

MNA



Heads of State/Government of ASEAN countries in Japanese costumes at the opening ceremony of ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit in progress at Geihinkan State Guest House on 11-12-2003. — MNA

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