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Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt greets Chairman of Kayah State Special Region 1 U Htay Ko and party. — MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives Chairman of Kayah State Special Region-1 and party

YANGON, 9 Jan—Chairman of the Work Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt received Chairman of Kayah State Special Region-1 U Htay Ko and party at the Zeyathiri Beikman on Konmyittha here at 4 pm today.

Also present together with Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt were Vice-Chief of Military Intelligence Maj-Gen Kyaw Win, Deputy Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Brig-Gen Than Tun, Director-General of the State Peace and Development Council Office Lt-Col Pe Nyein, Director-General of the Government Office U Soe Tint, Director-Gen-

eral of Department for Progress of Border Areas and National Races Col Than Swe, Director-General of Health Department Dr Wan Maung and senior military officers of the Office of Chief of Military Intelligence.

At the meeting, the national race leaders expressed their support for the seven-point future political programme of the State and pledged to take part in the tasks to successfully implement the programme under the leadership of the government.

The national race leaders also reported matters related to regional development, economy, education and health and construction of roads and bridges.

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

Gravel roads opened to hail Independence Day

YANGON, 9 Jan — To hail the 56th Anniversary of Independence Day, a gravel road, 1470 feet long and 12 feet wide, undertaken by Kantbalu Township Development Affairs Committee was opened on 2 January. Some 1500 People including local authorities, departmental staff and members of social organizations attended the opening of the road.

Similarly, No 3 gravel road in Paunglaung Ward-1 was opened on 4 January by Pinyinana Township Development Affairs Committee with 3,000 people in attendance including Col Win

Myint and Col Khin Maung Htu of Pinyinana Station. The road is 1302 feet long and 13 feet wide.

Likewise, 1400-ft long and 12-ft wide Nawaday gravel road, undertaken by Kalaw Township Development Affairs Committee, was inaugurated on 3 January. Kalaw Station Commander Brig-Gen Mya Win, officials and locals totalling 2500 attended the opening of the road. Nyaungdon Township Development Affairs Committee opened Sartaik tarred road, 1220 feet long and 12 feet wide, on 3 January.

MNA

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Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives Chairman of Kayah State Special Region 1 U Htay Ko and party. — MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 10 January, 2004

For emergence of highly qualified human resources

The world today is changing and advancing at a high speed, with knowledge as the base. Not only the sciences and technologies are advancing with a wide range of subjects, but also the developments in the respective fields of knowledge are benefiting the areas of development, based on common interest, without taking a recess.

To provide opportunity to attend master's degree and doctorate degree courses in multi-fields of knowledge, the Government has extended these courses in the whole nation. In addition, the whole nation is being covered by the programmes to install and run international level laboratories, electronic-based resource centres, e-libraries, Internet and Intranet that will provide assistance to research works.

A ceremony to honour the academics who got the doctorate degrees from the universities under the Education Ministry, Health Ministry and Science and Technology Ministry was held at the Diamond Jubilee Hall on 8 January, with an address by Chairman of the Myanmar Education Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt.

In his address the Prime Minister said that at a time when self-reliant efforts are being made with full confidence in the national forces, emergence of more academics in the respective fields of development amounts to reinforcing new strength to the national development drive.

The number of well-rounded doctorate holders, who are highly qualified resources produced in the country, has now reached 364. Moreover, over 2,600 persons are studying for their doctorates at universities under the Ministry of Education, some 180 persons at universities under the Ministry of Health, and about 470 persons at universities under the Ministry of Science and Technology, totalling more than 3,250. Therefore, the number of intellectuals with doctorates will rise in the not too distant future.

In this knowledge age, human resources with high qualification are invaluable for the State and they are the ones who will shape the future of the State.

Emergence of human resources with high calibre that are capable of developing the international-level science and technologies in the country and speeding up the development momentum of the State effectively indicates the success gained in the implementation of the national education promotion programmes.

Doctorate degree holders are urged to uplift their qualifications while making efforts for constantly turning out the outstanding human resources and to make efforts for development of the Union of Myanmar through their know-how.

The 57th Anniversary Union Day objectives

- for all national races to safeguard the national policy— non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty
- to keep the Union Spirit ever alive and dynamic among the national people
- for all national people to defend and safeguard the Union for its perpetual existence
- to prevent, through national solidarity, the danger of internal and external destructive elements undermining peace and stability of the State and national development, and
- for all national races to make concerted efforts for successful implementation of the seven-point future policy programme.

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

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.



Minister Maj-Gen Sein Htwa inspects the band of the Fire Service brigade. — MNA

SWRR Minister inspects fire brigade band

YANGON, 9 Jan — Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint, Officer on Special Duty Brig-Gen Thura Sein Thau and senior officials of the Fire Services. After viewing the demonstration of the band, he gave suggestions to officials.

MNA

Society of rehabilitation to tour Hinthada

YANGON, 9 Jan — A medical team led by President of the Society of Rehabilitation under Myanmar Medical Association Professor Dr Than Toe will give medical treatments to patients with pain syndromes, hemiplegia, paraplegia and

amputees and give educative talks in Hinthada, Ayeyawady Division, on 11 January. Patients can receive medical treatments at Hinthada People's Hospital from 9 am to 12 noon on that day. — MNA

Get-together of doctors to be held

YANGON, 9 Jan — A get-together of doctors who graduated from the Institute of Medicine-1 in 1966-67-68 academic years will be held in conjunction with the

ceremony to pay respects to faculty members at the Traders Hotel here at 4 pm on 17 January 2004, it is learnt.

MNA

Karatedo coach course to be conducted

YANGON, 9 Jan — Myanmar Karatedo Federation is gearing up for conducting a Karatedo coach course No 1/2004 at Aung San Gymnasium here from 20 through 24 January. Executive of MKF U Min Maw and wife Dr Mya Mya Win will sponsor two trainees each from the States and Divisions.

The Karatedo clubs that have joined the MKF and those from the Karatedo teams of ministries may attend the free course. Those wishing to attend the course are to enlist at the MKF (Aung San Gymnasium) by 17 January. Dial 01-379939 for further information. MNA

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now.

ကုသကာကွယ် မူးယစ်အန္တရာယ်

- ၁။ မူးယစ်ဆေးဝါးသုံးစွဲလျှင် အသည့်ရောင် အသားဝါရောင်၊ အသည့်ခြောက်ရောင်၊ အသည့်တင်ဆာရောင်၊ သွေးဆိပ်တက်ခြင်းနှင့် နှလုံးရောင်၊ အဆုတ်ရောင်များ၊ ခုခံအားကျဆင်းမှုရောင် (AIDS) နှင့် စိတ်ပိုင်းဆိုင်ရာရောင်များ စသည်တို့၊ ဖြစ်ပွားနိုင်သည့်အခြေ၊ စီးပွားရေးနှင့် လူမှုရေးများ ထိခိုက်ပျက်ပြားခြင်း၊ ဥပဒေအရ အရေးယူခံရခြင်းတို့ဖြစ်နိုင်သည်။
- ၂။ ထို့ကြောင့် အဆိုပါဒုက္ခများမှကင်းဝေးစေရန်၊ မူးယစ်ဆေးဝါးကို လုံးဝ ရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။
- ၃။ မူးယစ်ဆေးဝါးသုံးစွဲသူများသည် သတ်မှတ်ဆေးရုံများတွင်၊ မှတ်ပုံတင်၍ ဆေးကုသမှုခံယူပါ။

ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန

နိုင်ငံတော်အစိုးရဌာနပိုင် မော်တော်ယာဉ်များမသုံးစွဲရရေး

လစဉ်လ၏ ဒုတိယပတ်(တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့)နှင့် နောက်ဆုံးပတ်(တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့) တို့သည် ရုံးလုပ်ငန်းအတွက် မဖြစ်မနေသွားလာရန် လိုအပ်သည့်ကိစ္စရပ်များမှအပ မော်တော်ယာဉ်များ မသုံးစွဲရန်ဖြစ်သည်။

၂၀၀၄ ခုနှစ်၊ ဇန်နဝါရီလအတွက်

(၁၁-၁-၂၀၀၄) ရက်နေ့နှင့်

(၂၅-၁-၂၀၀၄) ရက်နေ့

Helicopter crash in Iraq kills nine US soldiers

ZOBAA (Iraq), 9 Jan—A U.S. Army helicopter crashed Thursday near this village in west-central Iraq, killing all nine soldiers on board, and a military transport plane carrying 63 people made an emergency landing in Baghdad after being hit by groundfire, according to US military officials.

Those officials declined to specify what caused the crash of the helicopter, a UH-60 Black Hawk used for medical evacuation, but witnesses said rocket fire brought it down.

"Two helicopters were flying together. We saw something shot at them, and then one was hit and there was black smoke from its body," said Majdi Mohammed Jumaili, a law student who resides in a house about 300 yards from the crash site. "It caught fire on the ground."

Mahmoud Saif Jumaili, a farmer who was watering his fields, said: "It looked like it was hit in the tail. It flew for a while, and then dropped down fast."

In Baghdad, a C-5 Galaxy transport plane made an emergency landing Thursday at the international airport shortly after takeoff because one of its engines exploded, a military spokesman said. No one on board the plane was hurt.

The US Air Mobility Command

from Scott Air Force Base in Illinois said in a statement that "initial reports indicate the incident is the result of hostile action from the ground, but the type of weapon and other details are unknown."

Meanwhile, military officials said Thursday that an American soldier had died of wounds sustained Wednesday night in a mortar attack on a US base west of Baghdad. The soldier was not identified.

In addition to the fatality, 33 soldiers and one civilian were reported wounded in the attack on Logistical Base Seitz, which housed the Army's 3rd Corps Support Command. Military officials said insurgents fired six 60mm mortar rounds at the base shortly after sunset.

If Thursday's Black Hawk helicopter crash was the result of ground fire, it would be the second US helicopter downed within a week near Fallujah, a town west of Baghdad that has been a flashpoint for anti-US violence since

June. Zobaa is about 10 miles south of Fallujah.

On 2 January, a rocket downed an OH-58 Kiowa observation helicopter near Fallujah, killing the pilot. On 2 November, 16 soldiers were killed when a shoulder-fired SA-7 surface-to-air missile struck an MH-47 Chinook transport helicopter near Fallujah.

Since the end of major combat in Iraq was declared on 1 May, 10 military helicopters have crashed or been shot down, killing a total of 56 soldiers. The deadliest such incident occurred in November, in the northern city of Mosul, when two Black Hawks collided, killing 17.

The site of Thursday's crash lies along a route frequently taken by US helicopters between Habaniyah air base west of Fallujah and Baghdad. Since on 2 November, when guerrillas downed a Chinook near Fallujah, US commanders said pilots would vary their routes and take other evasive action to reduce their vulnerability to ground fire.—Internet

ထုတ်တုန်းနစ်ဆ တိုးမြှင့်ခြင်း

485 US soldiers killed since beginning of military operations in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 8 Jan—As of Thursday, 8 January, 485 US service members have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq, according to the Defence Department. Of those, 333 died as a result of hostile action and 152 died of non-hostile causes, the department said.

The British military has reported 56 deaths; Italy, 17; Spain, eight; Bulgaria, five; others, two; Denmark, Ukraine and Poland have reported one each.

Since May 1, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 347 US soldiers have died — 218 as a result of hostile action and 129 of non-hostile causes, according to the Defence Department's figures.

Since the start of military operations, 2,445 US service members have been injured as a result of hostile action, according to the Defence Department. Non-hostile injured numbered 383. The latest deaths reported by the military:

— Nine soldiers died Thursday afternoon when a helicopter crashed south of Fallujah, Iraq.

— A 3rd Corps Support Command soldier died Wednesday of injuries suffered in a mortar attack west of Baghdad.—Internet



A US Army Kiowa scout helicopter searches the farm fields near the crash site after a Blackhawk helicopter crashed near the restive central Iraq town of Falluja, on 8 Jan, 2004. All nine US soldiers aboard were killed.

INTERNET

Troops in Iraq suffer huge risk of injury

WASHINGTON, 9 Jan—Nearly as many US soldiers were wounded in Iraq last month as during the entire six-week period of major combat operations, according to Defence Department statistics tracked by a leading research organization.

The figures illustrate the ongoing danger faced by US forces, even as the frequency of insurgent attacks appears to be declining and the number of soldiers killed has mostly held steady.

"That's a lot of pain," said John Pike, director of Global Security org, a defence-focused think tank that compiled the figures. "It suggests that the level of intensity of operations over there is a lot higher than would be suggested by the 'killed in action' numbers. ... The 'killed in action' numbers suggest that we're winning the war, and the wounded in action numbers suggest that we're losing."

Last night, in a more vivid reminder of the dangers facing US soldiers in Iraq, anti-American guerrillas fired mortar rounds at a

military camp, wounding 35, the US command said.

Six mortar rounds exploded about 6:45 pm at Logistical Base Seitz west of Baghdad, a US military spokesman said in a statement. The camp is in the so-called Sunni Muslim triangle that is a stronghold of resistance to the US occupation of Iraq.

"The wounded soldiers were given first aid and have been evacuated from the site for further medical treatment," the statement said. The Pentagon added the soldiers were from the Army's 541st Maintenance Battalion, based in Fort Riley, Kan, and part of the 3rd Corps Support Command.

The spokesman, Lt. Col James Cassella, said he did not know how many were seriously or slightly wounded.—Internet

Second round of India-China border talks later this month

BEIJING, 9 Jan—China Wednesday expressed confidence in resolving the vexed boundary issue with India under a new framework to be discussed at the second round of border talks at the political level later this month.

"The special representative of India will come to China this month," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Kong Quan told reporters and confirmed that the Indian national security advisor Brajesh Mishra would be visiting Beijing this month.

"The two countries will, proceeding from the consensus reached by the two leaders on the overall development of bilateral relations, seek to explore new ways to solve the border issue," Kong said.

While Kong did not announce the dates of the second round of meetings, he said the two special representatives — Mishra and his Chinese counterpart, Dai Bingguo — will be meeting in Beijing in January after the first round in New Delhi on 23-24 October last year.

"This is not only the second meeting of the special representatives of the two countries but a new meeting of the two special representatives in the New Year. As to the specific agenda of the meeting, the two sides are finalizing it," he said at a regular bi-weekly briefing.

Both India and China have described the first meeting between Mishra and Dai as "very constructive."

India and China appointed a special representative to discuss the boundary issue during Vajpayee's historic visit to China in June last year. A decision to appoint the special representatives was proposed by Vajpayee during his meeting with his Chinese counterpart Wen Jiabao.

MNA/PTI

British flight to Washington delayed for fifth day

LONDON, 9 Jan — British Airways' Flight BA223 from Heathrow to Washington has been delayed for the fifth consecutive day.

The plane should have taken off at 3:05 pm (local time) but passengers were left waiting on board. The same flight was cancelled on January 1 and 2 and delayed by more than three hours on each

of the next three days. Passengers had to wait one hour and 45 minutes before taking off Tuesday. The latest delay came as the airline waited for clearance from US authorities.

The fifth postponement

came after French authorities announced they were hunting an al-Qaeda suspect who had booked on an Air France flight to the US on Christmas Eve but failed to turn up.

MNA/Xinhua

RPGs hit Baghdad hotel

BAGHDAD, 9 Jan—A Baghdad hotel, popular with western companies has been attacked by the Iraqi resistance.

Two rocket-propelled grenades hit the Bourj al-Hayat in Central Baghdad early on Friday morning, but there were no casualties, said security guards with the foreign firms that use the hotel.

Staff working for the companies, contracted by the US-led occupation force in Iraq, are regular guests at the hotel. "The first and fourth floors were hit. No one was wounded," said one of the guards from the companies.

The attack happened at around 06:00 (03:00 GMT) on the hotel, which has cement barriers shielding it from the street. Offices of the Kurdistan Democratic Party, the ruling party in the northern Iraqi provinces of Arbil and Dohuk, are in a neighbouring hotel.—Internet



As unidentified family members react at left, US Army soldier guards the house of an Iraqi man arrested following one of a series of night raids, in Tikrit, Iraq on early Friday, on 9 Jan, 2004. US forces arrested 13 Iraqis wanted in connection with planning funding and conducting attacks on coalition forces.—INTERNET

UN has specific ideas about role in Iraq

UNITED NATIONS, 9 Jan—The United Nations has specific ideas about what role it might play in Iraq's transition to self-rule, but wants to hear from the US-led coalition and Iraqi leaders at a Jan. 19 meeting before deciding whether to return to the country, officials said Thursday.

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan was set to meet Friday with John Negroponte, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, to discuss Iraq and the Jan. 19 meeting, which will focus on the UN's future there.

A new UN mandate could vary widely. The United Nations could be limited to humanitarian and refugee work, or it could play a direct role in Iraq's political transition. It could, for example, help oversee a Nov. 15 agreement between the coalition and the Iraqi Governing Council that calls for a legislature elected through caucuses in each of Iraq's 18 provinces.

Annan pulled UN international staff out of Iraq after a deadly suicide bombing on its Baghdad headquarters in August and has said it's not safe enough to return. But he has suggested that the importance of the role the United Nations is given will help him decide on

the risks of a large UN presence are worth taking.

Annan met with Sen. Chuck Hagel, R-Neb., a senior member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, on Thursday. Hagel, a leading backer of the United Nations, said they discussed the Jan. 19 meeting, and said getting UN workers back into Iraq was crucial. "I believe that the secretary-general does have some very specific ideas about how the UN could participate," Hagel said.

A UN official speaking on condition of anonymity said Hagel's statement "would not be wrong" but the United Nations wants to hear from Iraqis and the coalition during the Jan. 19 meeting about what role they want U.N. staff to play.

A US official who spoke on condition of anonymity would not say what exactly Negroponte planned to discuss

with Annan on Friday or how specific they would be about the Jan. 19 meeting. Negroponte was to be joined by Kim Holmes, the assistant secretary of state for international organizations, and possibly other State Department officials.

Among the open questions is who the Coalition Provisional Authority will send to the meeting. Annan has said he expects the United States to participate, but US officials have made clear that the invitation was to the CPA, and not to the United States specifically. That raises the possibility that US officials may not attend at all, in what Annan would likely see as a major snub.

Annan said he hopes British Prime Minister Tony Blair's top envoy in Iraq, Sir Jeremy Greenstock, will also be there, but a council diplomat said that decision still had not been made.

Internet

ဝက်စပီးဒီးယား: နေဝက်ကျော်လွှား

Syria, Turkey find common ground on Iraqi Kurds

ANKARA, 9 Jan—Syrian President Bashar al-Assad met top Turkish officials on Wednesday on a landmark trip that has found common ground between the two former foes with both denouncing any move to create Kurdish autonomy in Iraq.

Assad and Turkish President Ahmet Necdet Sezer reacted sharply on Tuesday night to US comments that Washington was not prepared to step in to stop Iraqis taking the potentially divisive step of establishing Kurdish autonomy in the new Iraq.

"The territorial integrity of Iraq, the freedom and the unity of the Iraqis has to be preserved," Assad told reporters in Ankara late on Tuesday, on the first official visit to Turkey by a Syrian head of state.—MNA/Reuters

Arab lawyers plan Saddam defence

BAGHDAD, 9 Jan—A group of Arab lawyers are planning to defend Saddam Hussein when the former Iraqi president stands trial for alleged crimes committed in office.

The Union of Arab Lawyers invited legal experts from Egypt, Lebanon, and Jordan to Cairo on 4 January to discuss forming a defence committee.

At the end of the meeting, they concluded that Saddam should be treated as prisoner of war, and his whereabouts must be disclosed.

They demanded that the International Committee of the Red Cross be allowed to visit him to ensure proper imprisonment conditions.

And they agreed that as

he is still the constitutional president of Iraq, the US cannot legitimately incarcerate him.

The lawyers also accused the US of breaching international law by occupying Iraq and arresting Iraqi citizens without a warrant from an international body.

Hasan Umar, the Egyptian international law counsel told Aljazeera.net that according to international law, US forces had kidnapped the Iraqi president.

"In 1960 the UN criminalised occupation by

military force, and considered occupation as an anti-human rights act. Resolution 3013 of the General Assembly considers any foreign forces on another country's soil as mercenary units."

He added: "Accordingly, such units are not allowed to take prisoners of war, so what they are doing is actually kidnapping people."

Daniel Joyner, an international law expert at Britain's Warwick University, told Aljazeera.net that he agreed the Iraq war was illegal.—Internet



A man tries to rescue his cart from being swept away on a road flooded by heavy rains near the northern Iraqi city of Kirkuk, some 250 km (155 miles) northwest of Baghdad, on 8 Jan, 2004.—INTERNET

China, Japan join hands to train Chinese administrators

BEIJING, 9 Jan — China and Japan will jointly offer 166 million yen (about 13 million yuan) for a training programme for Chinese Government administrators.

Yi Xiaozhun, China's Assistant Minister of Commerce, and Koreshige Anami, Japanese Ambassador to China, exchanged official documents concerning the "Human Resources Development Scholarship" programme here Thursday.

The training targets of the programme are Chinese Government officials. Since the programme was first launched in September 2002, China has dispatched 40 officials to Japan for training.

On June 24, 2003, China and Japan jointly added 93 million yen to the programme, and under the new agreement both sides will put another 166 million yen into the programme.

The programme will play a positive role in raising the professional level of Chinese Government administrators, and promoting communication and understanding between the two countries, said an official from the Chinese Ministry of Commerce. —MNA/Xinhua

China announces new qualified tourism cities, scenic spots

ZHENGZHOU, 9 Jan — China National Tourism Administration announced here Thursday a new group of 45 qualified tourism cities and 57 top-grade scenic spots, including Langfang City in Hebei Province and Jieta Temple in Beijing.

The selection of these cities and scenic spots is

aimed at boosting the development of tourism for local economic growth, said He Guangwei, director of China National Tourism Administration.

The administration has named 138 qualified tourism cities and 439 top-grade scenic spots since 1998.

MNA/Xinhua

Indian Govt clears comprehensive legislation for SEZs

NEW DELHI, 9 Jan — Indian Government on Wednesday cleared a major Central legislation to provide duty free environment, single window clearance and more tax incentives to Special Economic Zones to make exports the engine of economic growth.

The SEZ legislation cleared by the Cabinet also aims at providing competitive fiscal package both at the Central and the State level with minimum regulatory regime and quality infrastructure, Commerce and Industry Minister Arun Jaitley told reporters here.

"Finance Ministry and Minister had extended to us a significant revenue regime which flows from within the law itself," he said.

Existing incentives and facilities like exemption from Customs and excise duty for development of SEZ and setting up of units, income tax,

sales tax and service tax exemption would be incorporated in the new legislation to impart stability to the fiscal regime. Under the new legislation, SEZs would be treated as deemed foreign territory and supplies from domestic industry would be treated as exports.—MNA/PTI



A US Army soldier checks an Iraqi blindfolded detainee, following one of a series of night raids, in Tikrit, Iraq, on early Friday, 9 Jan, 2004. US forces arrested 13 Iraqis wanted in connection with planning funding and conducting attacks on coalition forces.—INTERNET

Philippines to closely monitor new US visa rules

MANILA, 9 Jan — The Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs will closely monitor the implementation of the new US visa rules to ensure that the dignity and rights of Filipino travellers are not violated.

Although the Philippine Government understands why such rules are being implemented by the United States, the Philippines has to be vigilant to make sure that the rights of Filipino travellers are respected, Foreign Secretary Delia Albert said in a statement. "We will watch the implementation of this new procedure very closely and we will not hesitate to take the appropriate action if our travellers are subjected to arbitrary and inhumane treatment and if their rights and dignity are not respected," Albert said.

Albert said the department will be coordinating with the Filipino communities in US in monitoring this new procedures.

MNA/Xinhua

Independent probe urged into Iraq civilian deaths

LONDON, 9 Jan—An independent ombudsman should be appointed to oversee investigations into the deaths of Iraqi civilians allegedly killed by coalition forces, an MP argued today.

But Armed Forces Minister Adam Ingram insisted the current complaints procedure was sufficiently independent and robust.

He was responding to a raft of criticisms from Plaid Cymru's Adam Price, a consistent critic of the war in Iraq.

Opening a Westminster Hall debate, Mr Price said an estimated 200 Iraqi civilians had allegedly been killed by coalition forces since the end of major hostilities.

But no British or US soldier had so far been charged over civilian deaths, he said, adding: "We

even refuse to keep count of the civilians our forces have allegedly killed."

His comments came after it emerged that the Government has paid £8,125 to Iraqi families following alleged fatalities involving British troops since May 1 2003.

The figure was given in a parliamentary written answer to the Carmarthen E and Dinefwr MP from Armed Forces Minister Adam Ingram.

Mr Price called for accurate records of civilian casualties in areas under coalition control and an agreement to pay adequate

compensation to victims of unlawful killing.

A proper mechanism must be introduced to ensure prompt, impartial and independent investigations into non-combatant deaths.

"The last point necessitates a civilian rather than a military internal investigation, possibly the appointment of an independent ombudsman in the coalition (provisional) authority that could oversee all complaints."

In a vigorous defence of British troops, Mr Ingram insisted they were operating in Iraq under the rule of law.

He strongly denied that records of civilian casualties were not being kept, stressing: "All incidents of alleged or possible fatalities of which are people are aware, are recorded by the unit involved."

These records were not exhaustive because it was not always possible to ascertain the number of casualties from incidents such as ambushes or firefights.

He continued: "When a confirmed civilian casualty has allegedly been caused by UK forces, and we are aware of it, we endeavour to inform relatives through the International Committee of the Red Cross."

Internet

Mobile phones to arrive in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 9 Jan — Iraqis in Baghdad, where much of the landline network was destroyed during the US-led invasion, should be able to communicate with one another by mobile phone within a couple of weeks, the licensee said on Thursday.

"The service will probably be opened in one or two weeks — certainly before the end of the month," said Ali al-Dahwi from Iraqna, a branch of Egypt's Orascom Telecommunications, newly licensed to run central Iraq's mobile network.

The network is already up and running - some businessmen, journalists and officials have been using mobile phones during a "trial" period since Iraqna signed the licence agreement with the Ministry of Communications on December 23. Large numbers of people have registered for the service, but dealers doubt ordinary Iraqis will be able to pay the 70 US dollars activation charge and 10 US dollars monthly charge for line rental, on top of the cost of the GSM handset. — MNA/Reuters

US soldier dies of wounds sustained in mortar attack

BAGHDAD, 9 Jan— One US soldier was announced dead early Thursday due to his wounds sustained in a fierce mortar attack west of Baghdad late Wednesday, according to a US military source.

Iraqi resistance fighters rocked a US logistical base west of Baghdad after sunset Wednesday with six mortar rounds, wounding 35 US soldiers, one of which was later announced dead of his wounds.

Mortars were frequently used by resistance fighters in Iraq, especially in the so-called Sunni Triangle north and west of Baghdad.

Wednesday night's fresh assault appeared to be one of the most deadly in a series of unabated anti-US attacks following the capture of Saddam Hussein on De-

cember 13. A total of 331 US soldiers have been killed by hostile fire in Iraq since the US-led coalition forces launched the war on Iraq last March.

Also on Wednesday a British soldier was killed in an accident on a training range near Basra in southern Iraq, the British Ministry of Defence said. The ministry said the incident was under investigation.

Before the death of the Scottish soldier, the British military had reported 52 soldiers killed in Iraq

MNA/Xinhua



A man looks out of a window of Baghdad's Burj al-Hayat hotel near the entry hole left by a rocket propelled grenade on 9 Jan, 2004. Guerillas fired rocket-propelled grenades early Friday at the Burj al-Hayat hotel in central Baghdad, used mainly by foreign businessmen, but there were no casualties, witnesses said.—INTERNET

Blair under new pressure over dead scientist probe

LONDON, 9 Jan— Prime Minister Tony Blair was grilled on Wednesday over a late submission by his government to a potentially explosive inquiry into the death of a British scientist, which is due to report shortly.

Blair's official spokesman admitted the government had sent information to senior judge Lord Hutton after he had concluded his investigation last autumn but denied it included any new evidence.

Opposition Conservatives demanded its publication and accused Blair of trying to preempt Hutton's find-

ings. Weapons expert David Kelly slashed his wrist last July after being outed as the source behind a BBC reporter's claim that Blair and his team inflated the threat posed by Iraq to justify a war which most Britons opposed.

Speculation is rife that the Prime Minister's team wanted to put their slant on

evidence given by Sir Kevin Tebbit, top civil servant at the Ministry of Defence.

At the last day of the inquiry, Tebbit said Blair's office was the driving force behind a decision to publicly clarify the government's position—a move which led to Kelly's exposure.

MNA/Reuters



A US Army soldier guards Iraqi detainees, following one of a series of night raids, in Tikrit, Iraq, on early on Friday, 9 Jan, 2004. US forces arrested 13 Iraqis wanted in connection with planning funding and conducting attacks on coalition forces.

INTERNET

Man pulled alive but in coma from Iran quake rubble

BAM (Iran), 9 Jan— A 56-year-old man has been rescued alive, but in very poor health, after spending 13 days beneath the rubble of Bam, which was razed by an earthquake on December 26, medics and aid workers said on Thursday.

The man was found by rescue workers on Wednesday afternoon trapped beneath a wardrobe which had apparently saved his life.

"When he arrived at the hospital his signs of life were very weak. He was frozen and now he is in a coma," said medic Mehdi

Shadnough, part of a Ukrainian-Iranian medical team treating the man at a field hospital in the quake-ravaged city.

Experts say it is very rare for people to survive for more than 72 hours in such conditions. Aid workers said the rescued man, whose first

name is thought to be Jalil, had travelled from a nearby village to stay with his sister in Bam the night before the earthquake struck.

"We have sent people to his village to bring his wife to the hospital," said Iranian aid worker Mohammad Reza Tahmasbi. — MNA/Reuters

HK constitutional development to follow "One Country, Two Systems"

HONG KONG, 9 Jan— Hong Kong's constitutional development will need to safeguard the "One Country, Two Systems" and follow the Basic Law requirements, said Chief Secretary of Administration Donald Tsang on Wednesday.

Chief Executive of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR) Tung Chee Hwa has in his policy address Wednesday outlined the government's considerations in dealing with constitutional development after 2007.

He also asked Tsang to set up and chair a task force to examine in an in-depth manner the relevant principles and legislative process of the Ba-

sic Law relating to constitutional development, and to consult the relevant departments of the central government.

Tsang told a news briefing later on that the task force will make preparation as soon as possible to start work with the relevant departments of the central government.

He said that Hong Kong's future constitutional develop-

ment affects every member of the society.

"This issue is not just about the running of the government, it is also intricately linked to our economic and social development," he said. At the same time, he noted, Hong Kong's future constitutional development also involves the relationship between the SAR and the central government. —MNA/Xinhua

Questions about Iraq weapons haunt US election year

WASHINGTON, 9 Jan—The failure to find Iraqi weapons of mass destruction looks set to dog the Bush administration in an election year amid persistent accusations it exaggerated evidence in making a case for war.

The Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, a liberal-leaning U.S. think tank, issued a report on Thursday that compared public and declassified intelligence information with statements made by administration officials.

It concluded that the administration made the threat from Iraq sound more dire than the underlying information.

"We have found and have gone to some length to define and lay out serious misrepresentation of the facts over and above what was in the intelligence findings," Jessica Mathews, president of the think tank and one of the authors, said.

In one example, she said U.N. weapons inspectors said the amount of biological growth medium that Iraq had

could produce three times as much anthrax as it had declared if it used all that growth medium to produce anthrax.

President Bush in an Oct. 7, 2002, speech in Ohio, said: "The inspectors, however, concluded that Iraq had likely produced two to four times that amount. This is a massive stockpile of biological weapons that has never been accounted for and is capable of killing millions."

Mathews said this was an example of how a possibility cited by the inspectors became a likelihood and then a stockpile in Bush's speech.

"And finally, biological agent is transformed into weapons" which would require highly sophisticated delivery systems if they were capable of killing millions, she said. —Internet



A US Army soldier takes his position during a night raid, in Tikrit, Iraq on early Friday, 9 Jan, 2004.—INTERNET

Missile may have hit US jet over Baghdad

WASHINGTON, 9 Jan—A big U.S. military cargo jet may have been hit by a missile before it made an emergency safe return to Baghdad airport with 63 passengers and crew on Thursday, a US military official said.

"We have reason to believe that it may have been hit by a missile. But the investigation is continuing," the official, who asked not to be identified, told Reuters hours after the four-engine Air Force C-5 jet landed at Baghdad International Airport.

The US Air Mobility command said earlier that the crew of the jet landed the plane safely after declaring an emergency because of excessive vibrations in one of its engines.

There were 63 passengers and crew members on board the aircraft. No injuries were reported.

Also Thursday, a US

Black Hawk helicopter crashed in Iraq, killing all nine aboard, but it was not clear if it had been shot down.

News of that crash near the town of Falluja, west of Baghdad, came as US authorities released about 60 Iraqis from prison the day after a new amnesty program was announced.

Guerrillas have brought down several helicopters in Iraq. Thursday's was the deadliest helicopter incident for the US occupation forces since Nov. 15, when two Black Hawks collided under fire in Mosul, killing 17 soldiers.

Internet



Iraqi women react while they wait outside Baghdad's Abu Ghraib prison for loved ones to be released on 8 Jan, 2004.—INTERNET

Iran urges Japan not to let US influence policy

TEHRAN, 9 Jan—Iran urged Japan on Tuesday not to let "third parties" influence its foreign policy, a reference to Washington which has urged Tokyo not to deal with Tehran because of US concern about Iranian nuclear ambitions.

At a meeting with visiting Japanese Foreign Minister Yoriko Kawaguchi, Iran's Supreme National Security chief Hassan Rohani said Tehran was interested in expanding its ties with Japan.

But he said Tehran first needed assurances that Tokyo would "not be influenced by third parties in its bilateral ties with Iran," the official IRNA news agency reported.

Under pressure from Washington, a government-backed Japanese consortium earlier this year stalled on

completing a two-billion-US-dollar deal to develop Iran's giant Azadegan oilfield.

Washington had urged Tokyo not to sign the deal because it believed Iran was developing nuclear arms.

Tehran denies it has plans to develop such weapons and signed an agreement last month under which international inspectors can carry out snap inspections of its nuclear facilities.

Japanese Foreign Ministry spokesman Hatsuhsa Takashima told a news con-

ference in Tehran that resolving misunderstandings was one of the goals of Kawaguchi's one-day trip to Tehran.

He welcomed Iran's signing of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty's additional protocol, but said Tokyo would not lift its ban on exports of dual-purpose equipment to Iran until the International Atomic Energy Agency had released its next report, due next month.

Kawaguchi also met President Mohammad

Khatami, Parliament Speaker Mehdi Karubi and Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi.

Japan imports almost all its oil needs and Iran is its third largest supplier of crude oil.

Takashima denied rumours in some Iranian media that the minister was carrying a message for Tehran from US officials but said "Any rapprochement between Iran and the US will be very good for peace and stability in the world."

MNA/Reuters

530 US troops in Iraq wounded in December 2003

WASHINGTON, 9 Jan—According to the Defense Department figures that Pike's group compiled, 530 U.S. troops were wounded in December, only slightly fewer than the 550 wounded during combat operations last spring.

It was impossible to track month-by-month wounded statistics before December. John Pike, director of GlobalSecurity.org, a defense-focused think tank, said, because the Pentagon only started releasing daily tabulations of them in late November.

But he said that according to previous news reports of Pentagon figures, 570 U.S. troops were wounded in combat from May through Au-

gust, while from September through November, 1,052 soldiers were wounded.

The number of U.S. troops killed in action has held fairly steady each month since the end of major combat was declared on May 1, varying from 29 to 46.

The exception came in November when successful attacks on U.S. forces, especially on helicopters, resulted in 81 deaths.

U.S. military officials and

national security specialists said the high number of injuries could reflect December's stepped-up anti-guerrilla activities.

Military specialists said that explanation seemed plausible given the lack of a corresponding rise in the number of troops killed, as insurgents would be more deadly in ambushes prepared against U.S. troops than if they were caught by surprise

Internet

British soldier dies in training incident in Iraq

LONDON, 9 Jan—A British soldier died on Wednesday in an incident at a training range in Iraq, Britain's Ministry of Defence said, giving no further details.

"We regret to confirm that a British serviceman died following a tragic incident on a training range near Basra on January 7," a spokesman said. "His family are being informed and no further details will be published until this is complete."

The spokesman said the incident was under investigation.

At the height of last year's war in Iraq Britain deployed some 45,000 troops in the Gulf, its largest deployment since the Korean War 50 years ago. It currently has about 9,500 troops in the Gulf. —MNA/Reuters

Number of road deaths down in S Africa

JOHANNESBURG, 9 Jan—Initial data indicate that 36 fewer people died on South African roads last month than in December 2002, the transport department said on Wednesday.

This represented a decrease of 3 per cent, Deputy Director-General Sipho Khumalo said in Pretoria.

MNA/Xinhua

Ugandan youth urged to avoid attracting HIV/AIDS

KAMPALA, 9 Jan—Ugandan youth have been urged to take measures to avoid contracting HIV/AIDS. The call was made by Mrs. Janet Museveni, wife of President.

Yoweri Museveni, on Wednesday when opening this year annual Uganda Youth Conference under the theme "the Hidden Pearl" at the International Conference Centre in Kampala.

She said that the cheapest and safety way for the youth to avoid contracting HIV/AIDS is abstinence from premarital sex and faithfulness in marriage. She called upon all stakeholders in the fight against the HIV/AIDS scourge to package correct information that will empower the youth to remain pure and avoid the dangers of engaging in premarital sex that could result into loss of their lives. Mrs. Museveni urged the youth, especially the vulnerable girls, to resist cheap gifts from men that can ruin their future upon contracting HIV/AIDS, saying that "stand up and say no to premarital sex or say yes and die" —MNA/Xinhua

To harmoniously drive out the danger of narcotic drugs

Maung Waing

(Continued from yesterday)

In the field of international cooperation, Myanmar has become a signatory to the 1961 Convention on Narcotic Drugs on 29 July 1963; the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances on 20 December 1955; and the 1988 Convention on Elimination of Trafficking of Illicit Drugs and Psychotropic Substances on 9 September 1991. The country has also signed the international narcotic drugs control agreements, held senior officials meetings and anti-transnational trafficking meetings, and launched alternative crops cultivation and development projects, drug elimination campaigns and anti-transnational crime programmes in cooperation with other nations and international bodies, and attended international conferences and training courses on narcotic drugs.

Under the Myanmar-Thai anti-narcotic and border areas development project, a 16-bed hospital, built by the Yaungkha Village Project of Monghsat District, eastern Shan State, was opened on 26 December 2003. Building of the hospital together with staff quarters began in February 2003. Chairman of Shan State (East) Peace and Development Council Commander of Triangle Region Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw and officials, Commander of No 3 Military Area of Thailand Lt-Gen Pichammeth Muangmanee, local national race leader U Pauk Yuchan, and local people totalling over 2,000 attended the ceremony. A doctor of the Health Ministry and four nurses were running the hospital. The Yaungkha Village Project is a result of the meeting between the Prime Ministers of the two nations. It is an all-round development project jointly implemented by the two countries, and Thailand contributed 20 million baht to it. The all-round project began in January 2003. A 500-student capacity basic education primary school was built in May 2003. The Ministry of Education of Myanmar opened the school with 10 teachers and 222 students in June.

In the agricultural sector, the alternative crop cultivation project has been implemented, and paddy is being cultivated on 2,200 acres of land including 1,300 acres of highland cultivation. Small scale dams have also been built to conduct mixed-cropping and double-

cropping. At present, six mini dams and 20 kilometres of feeder canals have been built with the help of the local villagers. As water can be supplied to over 840 acres of crops round the year, the region can produce over 2,000 tons of surplus rice annually.

In addition to a model farm, annual and perennial crops are being cultivated to disseminate agricultural knowledge to the local people, who are now growing corn, soybean, bamboo shoot, and macadamia. Plans are being made to export the produce of the alternative crop cultivation project to Thailand. The model farm will distribute chicken, fish and pig pedigree strains to the villagers to engage in farming.

At a meeting of the Government of the Union of Myanmar, Head of State Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance on launching a 15-year narcotics elimination plan beginning fiscal 1999-2000 for the effectiveness of the drug eradication project. The meeting was held on 7 October 1998. In accord with the guidance, the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control of Myanmar has laid down and implemented the 15-year plan. The following 51 townships have been designated as the priority towns of the plan:

- (a) A total of 22 townships for the first five-year period from 1999-2000 to 2003-2004.
 - (1) Fifteen townships — Moneko, Kongyan, Laukkai, Kunlon, Hopang (not including the Special Region-2), Mongyai, Tangyan, Lashio, Namtu, Manton, Hsenwi, Kutkai, Namhkam, Muse and Kyugok — in northern Shan State.
 - (2) Kengtung Township (including Mongla region) in eastern Shan State.
 - (3) Six townships — Kunhing, Mongpan, Langhko, Hsihseng, Phekon and Mongkai — in southern Shan State.
- (b) A total of 20 townships for the second five-year period from 2004-2005 to 2008-2009.
 - (1) Four townships — Kamaing, Waingmaw, Momauk, Mohnyin in Kachin State.
 - (2) Six townships — Manwaing, Manphan, Naphan, Mongmao, Panyang (Pansan) and Weintaung (Panban) — in northern Shan State.
 - (3) Seven townships — Mongyan, Kengtung (not

including Mongla region), Mongmuang, Monghsat, Mongton, Mongping, and Mongkhat — in eastern Shan State.

- (4) Three townships — Hopong, Mongnai, Pinlaung — in southern Shan State.
- (c) A total of nine townships in the third five-year period from 2009-2010 to 2013-2014.
 - (1) Five townships — Keshi, Monghsu, Namhsan, Nyaungshwe and Laikha — in southern Shan State.
 - (2) Two townships — Loikaw and Dimawhso — in Kayah State.
 - (3) Two townships — Tonzang and Falam — in Chin State.

The Government is employing the work programme — supply elimination, demand elimination and public organization during the period of the plan.

Drug supply can be gradually eliminated only if the economic and social conditions of the opium producing areas can be improved, rather than solely relying on the task to curb the flow of drugs. In this regard, efforts are being made with might and main for the development of multi-sectors including agricultural, livestock breeding, transport, communication, trade, health, education, rehabilitation, elimination, and international cooperation sectors to root out the problem of drugs. In addition, the Myanmar Anti-Narcotics Association is conducting education courses for high school and middle school teachers, in forming the students on the menace of the drugs, holding anti-drug talks, distributing pamphlets and wall posters, holding essay and poem contests on the danger of drugs, erecting billboards in public places, organizing anti-drug exhibitions, and distributing calanders in all the states and divisions of the entire nation. Myanmar will continue to make utmost efforts to wipe out the drugs with her own strength. In this regard, I would like to urge the entire people to collectively take part in the drug elimination drive of the nation.

(Concluded)

(Translation: TMT)

Kyemon+Myanma Alin: 8 January 2004.

Angolan Government approves \$500m water plan

LUANDA, 9 Jan — The Angolan Government has approved a 500-million-US-dollar national water plan, according to a Press release from Cabinet Council available here on Thursday.

The release, from the Cabinet Council in its first extraordinary session of this year chaired by President Jose Eduardo dos Santos, said that one of the programmes is a "long term" one lasting until 2016, while another one is a "short term" one that is to go fill 2007.

The whole investment included the establishment of a Hydric Resources Institute, as an organ of technical support for the National Council of Waters, that will be tasked to promote the efficient development of the hydric resources.

The government is seeking to reach international targets set by the

United Nations Millennium on the sustainable development held in New York in 2000.

The programme is part of the Government's Global Development and Poverty Reduction effort.

The release said that the government acknowledges that despite the country's great hydric potential, there are localized problems of water shortage in some regions, associated with other related to the supply of water and with sanitation that result from scarce appropriate infrastructures and services, with impact on the current infant death rates and on the high costs to the populations in their search for water. — MNA/Xinhua

70,000 police to guard railways in Spring Festival operation

BEIJING, 9 Jan — China has mobilized over 70,000 police officers to ensure the safe operation of railways during the crowded Spring Festival period, which began on Wednesday.

Millions of students, transient workers and tourists are expected to travel by railway during the traditional Chinese Lunar New Year holidays.

Spring Festival is also one of the best times for thieves and robbers as well as illegal ticket vendors.

On 2 January, the Ministry of Railways' Public Security Bureau held a teleconference on the issue. Since then, 2,575 police squads have been sent to grassroots units and so far, they have handled 1,800 criminal cases.

MNA/Xinhua

UN, Red Cross set \$73 m appeal for Iran quake

UNITED NATIONS, 9 Jan — The United Nations and the Red Cross on Thursday launched a 73-million US dollars appeal for victims of the earthquake that razed the Iranian city of Bam, killing some 30,000 people.

UN agencies are trying to raise 31.3 million US dollars and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies is hoping for 42 million US dollars.

The money will be used over the next three months to provide medical care, revive agricultural production, restore water and sanitation services, and educate children, among other efforts, UN humanitarian coordinator January Egeland said.

The December 26 earthquake, which measured 6.8 on the Richter Scale, destroyed 90 per cent of the city's buildings, including hospitals and schools. Egeland went to Bam for the appeal and issued a statement in his New York office.

The United Nations said earlier this week it had raised nearly 74 million US dollars in aid for the earthquake victims but needs more funds or goods in kind. — MNA/Reuters

Chirac urges rapid power transfer in Iraq in New Year message

PARIS, 9 Jan — French President Jacques Chirac on Thursday reiterated the necessity of a rapid transfer of sovereignty to the Iraqis and warned the US-led coalition forces of the "feeling of occupation" that the Iraqis have towards them.

In a New Year message to the French diplomatic corps, Chirac also reaffirmed that "a strong presence of the international community,

realized through the United Nations, is indispensable" for the reconstruction of Iraq.

"Now, let's look at the future. Our common objective is the establishment of a sovereign, stable, prosperous and democratic Iraq living in peace with its neighbours," he said. "The realization of this objective demands, from all sides, much lucidity, courage and determination. All together, we will win, other-

wise we lose," he noted.

"There will be no solution without a transfer of sovereignty to the Iraqis themselves as early as possible, because the feeling of occupation arouses the same reactions everywhere and at any time," said Chirac. Only the United Nations has the full legitimacy in the political and economic reconstruction of Iraq, said Chirac.

MNA/Xinhua

Diploma students discuss role of private sector

YANGON, 9 Jan — After studying the industrial zones and socio-economy of the locals, a group of students from advanced diploma courses read papers on their finds at the institutions of higher learning in Meiktila and Monywa.

Led by Professor Daw Aye Aye Myint of Yangon Institute of Economics, and accompanied by their supervisor teachers, the students of applied economics diploma course and applied accounting course of the YIE conducted their study tour in Meiktila, Monywa and Mandalay from 29 December 2003 to 1 January 2004.

On 30 December, Tutor Daw Mya Mya Thet of YIE of the group read the paper — The role of Myanmar economic sector — at Meiktila Institute of Economic, in which Pro-Rector U Than Swe of the host institution, faculties and students were the active participants discussing the paper from different points of view.

Ma Khin Nyein Soe, a student of the applied economics diploma course, presented the paper — The economics of the public sector — at Monywa Institute of Economics the next day. Her paper was discussed by Rector of U Aung Myint, teachers and students of the host university. During their tour of Mandalay, Monywa and Meiktila, they also studied the private enterprises in addition to the industries. — MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party views booths of the Myanmar Rice Milling Industry Fair-2004. (News on page 16) — MNA



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe accepts cash donations from wellwishers for cleft lip and palate patients. (News on page 16) — MNA

Mayor inspects water supply tasks for Yangon City

YANGON, 9 Jan — Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, together with committee member Col Tin Soe and officials, this morning inspected arrangements for water supply for Hlawga Dam through Ngamoyeik Dam, construction progress of the control tower and intake

structure and flow of water through the inflow channel. Col Tin Soe and engineers reported on daily supply of water for Yangon City and storage of water. The minister gave necessary instructions. He also looked into the recreation camp in Uto Region in Taikkyi Township.

MNA

Yangon Trade Fair 2004 on 30 Jan

YANGON, 9 Jan — Sponsored by the Ministry of Commerce and organized by Quartz International Co Ltd, Yangon Trade Fair 2004 will be held on a grand scale at Yangon Trade Centre on Pazundaung Road here from 30 January to 2 February.

On display at the fair will be local and foreign cosmetics and consumer goods, textiles, plastic wares, food-stuff, electronics and electrical appliances, construction materials, household utensils, stationery, small machines, traditional medicines and medicines. — MNA



As Myanmar literature is of high standard with substance and good style of writing, those in literary world are to strive to penetrate the world with Myanmar literature

Minister for Information addresses Seminar on Publishing

YANGON, 9 Jan—A ceremony to open the seminar on publishing sponsored by the Ministry of Information was held at the hall of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association at Sarpay Beikman Building in Kyauktada Township here this afternoon with an address by Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein, heads of department under the ministry, Chairman of MJWA U Hla Myaing (Ko Hsaung), and CEC members, Chairman of the Work Committee for Organizing the Seminar U Myo Thant (Maung Hsu Shin) and committee members, Chairman of Myanmar Artists and Commisants Asiayon (Central) U Thuang Han, Vice-Chairman of Myanmar Publishers Association U Khin Maung Lay (Po Thaukkyia) and resource persons and guests.

In his address, Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan said that the Ministry of Information has been holding the paper reading sessions and literary seminars since 1965 for literary development and the present seminar being the 25th. The seminar was held to exchange views among compilers, graphic designers and publishers, he added.

In the course of Myanmar literary history, he said, quality books full of knowledge for the people emerged owing to concerted efforts of the literati and publishers, uplifting the national prestige and integrity. There were literary works worthy of praise in Myanmar literature in the course of history. Therefore, modern printing techniques are needed to be applied for continued development of Myanmar literature.

As Myanmar literature is of high standard with substance and good style of writing, those in the literary world are to make efforts to penetrate the world with Myanmar literary works. At the same time, efforts are also to be made to translate Myanmar literature of high standard into the international languages. The literature of high standard will emerge if publishers, illustrators and graphic designers strive together, applying advanced tech-



Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan speaks at the seminar on publishing. — MNA

niques, he stressed.

For systematic development of publishing industry, he said, efforts are to be made to acquire new ideas and new business partners from seminars, workshops and book fairs held in Asia and other nations to modernize the literary world.

Literature has been able to safeguard the national culture and influence the way of thinking and behaviour of readers. Therefore, efforts are to be made for constantly producing new generation writers.

To be able to keep pace with changes in the world, it is required to recognize and respect intellectual property rights being practised in the world. It is encouraging to see introduction of e-books, he said. He called for efficient use of the new process. These are enough materials for Myanmar literature to penetrate the world, he added.

He expressed his belief that the seminar would create new ideas to contribute to development of publishing work and urged those in the literary and publishing world to serve the interests of the State and the people out of

goodwill, making Myanmar literature to penetrate the world.

The MWJA chairman extended greetings.

The chairman of the work committee for the seminar U Myo Thant (Maung Hsu Shin) delivered an introductory speech. Dr Kyaw Sein chaired the seminar together with Daw Khin Khin (Kalya Weikza/Theikpan) and Daw Khin Khin Sein (Yuwady Khin Sein Hlaing).

The chairman introduced those present to the novels and papers included in the writers' sector. Daw Khin Swe Oo and U Myint Kywe (Maung Myint Kywe) read their papers and assessed the discussions of those present.

The seminar continues until 13 January from 1 to 4 pm daily. U Maung Maung Aye (Alingar Wutyi) (poet Maung Haymar) presented K 250,000 for the seminar; Daw Cho Cho Tin (Ma Sandar) and member of Mingala Taungnyunt Township WJA U Kyaw Nyunt (Kyaw Nyunt Yi), K 50,000 each; and U Chit San (Chit San Win)-Daw Maw Maw (Lamin Ein) and Dr Tha Tun Oo (Today Publishing Centre), K 40,000. — MNA

Donate blood

Minister meets members of work committee for all-round renovation of Shwephonepawint Pagoda

YANGON, 9 Jan — Chairman of the central committee for all-round renovation of the Shwephonepawint Pagoda in Pazundaung Township Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan met with committee members and discussed the construction of Phayagyi Koesu Stairway this morning.

Engineers and Chairman U Ko Ko Gyi of the pagoda board of trustees and members also attended the meeting.

First, the minister paid homage to the pagoda and looked into construction

tasks. After paying obeisance and offering lights and water to the Buddha images, the minister inspected the site chosen for construction of the stairway and scale models. He then left necessary instructions there.

MNA

Resource persons find means to develop rice milling technology

YANGON, 9 Jan — Resource persons presented suggestions to develop the rice milling methods in Myanmar at the paper reading session of the Myanmar Rice Milling Industry Fair 2004 at Yangon Trade Centre here today.

With the help of audio-visual aids, two Myanmar, a doctorate degree holder from Malaysian and a Japa-

nese from Satake Corporation read papers — Different patterns of rice use in Myanmar; Supply Chain Management; New Concepts in Rice Milling; and Quality promotion of rice mills in Myanmar.

Afterwards, a question and answer session followed.

The paper reading session was opened with the

speech delivered by Chairman of the Fair Organizing Leading Committee Deputy Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Aung Tun.

All interested persons may attend the paper reading session that is being held at the same venue daily from 8:30 am to noon till 11 January.

MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan holds discussions with members of the work committee for all-round renovation of the Shwephonepawint Pagoda. — MNA

Guatemala, UN sign unprecedented crime probe pact

UNITED NATIONS, 9 Jan — Guatemala and the United Nations signed an unprecedented agreement on Wednesday that would allow a UN-appointed commission to prosecute perpetrators of organized crime.

The pact, still to be approved by Guatemala's Parliament, was signed by Edgar Gutierrez, Guatemala's Foreign Minister and Kieran Prendergast, the UN undersecretary-general for political affairs. It has a two-year life span.

The new commission establishes an investigative body that could arrest and prosecute "illegal groups and clandestine security organizations".

Its chief would be appointed by UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan and would choose a team experienced in organized crime, the agreement says.

"This agreement is a courageous effort on the part of Guatemala to deal effectively with organized criminal organizations that have undermined the rights of the Guatemalan people to a free and democratic society," State Department Spokesman Richard Boucher said in Washington.

Assassinations, assaults and kidnappings for ransom increased more than 150 per cent last year in Guatemala, according to local Press reports. The nation of less than four mil-

lion adults has 1.5 million guns in circulation.

Drug trafficking is a major problem, with Guatemala a prime conduit for cocaine from Colombia.

Military officers have been implicated in drug sales, and in Miami a grand jury was investigating government officials on suspicion of money laundering but made no charges.

Guatemala's 36-year old civil war ended some seven years ago, with an estimated 200,000 people, most of them Indians killed or kidnapped. A UN "truth commission" blamed the Army and paramilitary groups for 93 per cent of massacres, tortures and disappearances.

MNA/Reuters



Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut inspects Paunglaung Hydropower Project on 8-1-2004. (News reported) — ELECTRIC POWER

Cuba learns from Chinese farmers

HAVANA, 9 Jan — Cuba is making use of Chinese experience in the cultivation of vegetables to raise the yield of its agricultural production, a senior Cuban official said on Wednesday.

The President of the National Institute of the State Reserve of Cuba, Moises Sio Wong, praised the techniques used by Chinese farmers, saying they are useful and fit for Cuba.

In a statement to the local Press, Sio described the Chinese ability to feed nearly 1.3 billion people by only 22 per cent of the world's arable land as a feat.

Chinese producers

make full use of agricultural harvests, he said. Besides consuming agricultural products, they also feed them to animals and use them for industrial production.

He referred to studies by the Research Institute for Yams, in Shanghai, China.

Sio said that cultivation of short-cycled yam vegetables would be of interest to Cuba, as shown by the nearly 100-ton-per-hectare output secured by Chinese agricultural producers in three consecutive years.

The Chinese research institute was collaborating with the Cuban Food Research Institute, in the central province of Villa Clara, exchanging experiences and expertise in agricultural production.

MNA/Xinhua

Quake hits national forest in Wyoming

WASHINGTON, 9 Jan — An earthquake with a magnitude of 4.7 rattled Jackson, Wyoming early on Wednesday, according to a report from the US Geological Survey.

The tremor, which occurred at 12:51 am MST (0751 GMT) was centred 20 miles northeast of Jackson in the Bridger-Teton National Forest, said Butch Kinerney, a spokesman for the USGS.

"It was felt in Jackson," said Kinerney. "A 4.7 is enough to wake people up, but we don't expect any damage. There may be some dishes rattling, that kind of stuff, but it's not enough to do any structural damage."

"It's a resort area, mostly used for skiing," he said, adding that seismic activity was not unusual in the area of Yellowstone National Park, also in Wyoming.

MNA/Reuters

US scientists assemble honeybee Genome

WASHINGTON, 9 Jan — The honeybee has joined the growing collection of animals whose gene maps are available for anyone to see, US researchers said on Wednesday.

The sequence of the bee, known scientifically as *Apis mellifera*, is published on the Internet for researchers in biology and agriculture to use, the National Human Genome Research Institute reported.

The sequence shows the bee genome is about one-tenth the size of the human genome, containing about 300 million DNA base pairs, or matching rungs on the ladderlike double helix that makes up DNA.

Now scientists have to decide where the genes lie in all this information, and what they do. Among the many databases where the sequence can be found is GenBank at Genbank.

Richard Gibbs of the Baylor College of Medicine in Houston led the effort.

The honey bee, used not only to produce honey but to pollinate, is studied by biologists keen on finding out about human health issues such as allergies.

MNA/Reuters

ကျန်းမာပျော်ရွှင် ဘဝတစ်ခွင်

ကျန်းမာခြင်းဆိုသည်မှာ - ရောဂါဘယကင်းရှင်းစွာ သာမက၊ ကိုယ်၏ကျန်းမာကြံ့ခိုင်ခြင်း၊ စိတ်ချမ်းသာခြင်းနှင့် လူမှုရေးသမ္မတ ဖြစ်ခြင်း ကိုဆိုသည်။

ဘဝတစ်ခွင် ကျန်းမာပျော်ရွှင်စေရန် အောက်ပါအတိုင်း လိုက်နာဆောင်ရွက်ပါ။

- (၁) တစ်ကိုယ်ရည်သန့်ရှင်းမှုကိုဆောင်ရွက်ပါ။
- (၂) အန္တရာယ်ကင်း၍ အာဟာရပြည့်ဝသော အစားအသောက်များကိုစားသုံးပါ။
- (၃) ပိုမိုနားထောင်စဉ် သန့်ရှင်းသောရေကို သောက်သုံးပါ။
- (၄) ရာသီဥတုနှင့် လိုက်လျောညီထွေစွာဝတ်စားဆင်ယင်နေထိုင်ပါ။
- (၅) အသက်အရွယ်နှင့်လိုက်လျောညီထွေရှိသည့် သင့်တော်မှုတသော ကိုယ်လက်လှုပ်ရှားမှုကို မှန်မှန်ဆောင်ရွက်ပါ။
- (၆) နေ့စဉ်လုပ်ငန်းဆောင်တာများ ဆောင်ရွက်ခြင်းကြောင့် ပင်ပန်းနွမ်းနယ်မှုကိုပြေပျောက်စေရန် အနားယူပါ။
- (၇) ခြင်္သေ့ရယ်မှကာကွယ်ရန် ခြင်္သေ့အဖြစ်ဖြင့်အိပ်ပါ။
- (၈) ကျန်းမာရေးနှင့်ညီညွတ်သော ယဉ်လုံအိမ်သက်သုံးစွဲပါ။
- (၉) အရက်သောက်ခြင်း၊ ဆေးလိပ်ဆေးရွက် သောက်သုံးခြင်း၊ ကွမ်းစားခြင်းတို့ကိုရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။
- (၁၀) မူးယစ်ဆေးဝါးနှင့် စိတ်ကိုင်ပြောင်းလဲစေသည့် ဆေးဝါးများ သုံးစွဲခြင်းကို ရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။
- (၁၁) အပျော်အပါးလိုက်စားခြင်းကို ရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။
- (၁၂) ရေ၊ မြေ၊ လေ သဘာဝပတ်ဝန်းကျင်နှင့် နေထိုင်မှု၊ အသက်မွေးမှုပတ်ဝန်းကျင်တို့အား ညစ်ညမ်းစေသည့် အပြုအမူများကို ရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။

ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန

WHO experts visit Guangdong again

GUANGZHOU, 9 Jan— The World Health Organization (WHO) and the Chinese Health Ministry (MOH) dispatched another joint team of experts to south China's Guangdong Province Thursday to assist the local health authorities in their probe for the origin of the SARS virus.

Five of the 10-member joint team arrived in the capital of Guangdong Thursday night, including two WHO epidemiologists, WHO China office spokesman Roy Wadia, an MOH official and an interpreter.

Robert Breiman, who is heading the WHO team, told *Xinhua* at the

Guangzhou Airport that the joint mission will look into the recent occurrence of the diagnosed SARS case in Guangdong, and their major concerns will centre on the potential human, animal and environmental sources of the SARS infection.

Sources at the Guangdong provincial health bureau told *Xinhua* that three Chinese experts and one WHO expert of the joint team were already in Guangdong, and another WHO environmental expert from Canada will join the team Friday. The team is scheduled to stay in Guangdong for one week. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Matsushita to cut S-E Asian units by 40%

TOKYO, 9 Jan— Matsushita Electric Industrial Co will reduce the number of production and sales subsidiaries in Southeast Asia by 40 per cent by the year to March 2007, a major Japanese newspaper said Thursday.

The move is part of the Japanese consumer electronics giant's efforts to reorganize its overseas subsidiaries in the Asian region, said the *Nihon Keizai Shimbun*.

The reorganization is aimed at making Matsushita's Southeast Asian operations specialize in producing value-added products for the US and European markets and at bolstering the output of inexpensive products in China, the newspaper said.

Matsushita will integrate two electronic component makers in Malaysia by the end of this year at the earliest after shutting down a Malaysian plant that produces motors for home appliances at the end of 2003.

In the Philippines, Matsushita plans to consolidate a copier plant and a facility turning out memory modules for personal computers, the newspaper said.

Matsushita Electric China Co., which oversees Matsushita's Chinese operations, will establish 14 firms according to business segments and realign the 58 production and sales subsidiaries in China by the end of March 2005, it said.

— *MNA/Xinhua*

Official urges to make China a big "IT" power

BEIJING, 9 Jan— A senior official has called for making China a major power in the IT industry, as it is a fundamental, guiding and pillar industry, and plays a decisive role in the country's reform, opening and modernization drive.

Huang Ju, a vice-premier and member of the Standing Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee Political Bureau, made this call at a meeting with representatives from the Ministry of Information Industry.

Huang praised the country's IT sector for its outstanding achievements over the past few decades, and urged it to make new breakthroughs in terms of technology and services.

According to the ministry, by 2003 China had 532 million telephone users, ranking first in the world, with 41.3 telephones for every 100 people. Last year, the industry generated 1.88 trillion yuan (about 226.5 billion US dollars) in sales, and 141 billion US dollars in exports. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Summer English Courses at MRA

YANGON, 9 Jan — Myanmar Royal Academy English Language Centre opens intermediate level English grammar, spoken English, writing and reading, GCE English and medical English courses including special English 3-month and 6-month courses for summer.

Post-Intermediate English, English in business studies, TOEFL English and Chinese speaking courses will be opened in the second week of January.

English grammar, speaking, writing and reading courses at 10 varying levels for basic education

students, undergraduates and post-graduates will also be opened at the end of February. Interested persons may contact the language centre at No 57, Ground Floor, 9th Street (Middle), Lanmadaw Township (Ph: 222121).

— *MNA*



Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Thein views a booth of the 56th Anniversary Independence Day Commemorative Exhibition. — *MNA*

Independence Day Exhibition continues

YANGON, 9 Jan— The 56th Anniversary Independence Day Commemorative Exhibition continued for the seventh day at the Tatmadaw Convention Centre on U Wisara Road today.

Chairman of the Committee for Organizing the 56th Anniversary Independence Day Commemorative Exhibition Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein and departmental heads of departments and enterprises under the Ministry of Information visited the exhibition today.

Pictures and photos depicting the tours of border areas by the Head of State, tasks for development of

border areas and national races, international cooperation in elimination of narcotic drugs, six objectives of the development of border areas and opium-substitute agriculture and livestock breeding tasks in border areas were on display at the booth of the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs.

At the booth of Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation of the Ministry Health, pictures and photos depicting the objectives of the Ministry of Health, three strategies for success of the objectives, 15-point national health policy, development of hospitals and dispensaries,

guidance of the Chairman of the National Health Committee, health development projects for rural regions, development of traditional medicine, treatments for cleft lip and palate patients were demonstrated.

Students took great interest in Computer quiz. Book shop of News and Periodicals Enterprise of the Ministry of Information and Sarpay Beikman Book shop are opened at the exhibition.

A total of 4715 people including monks, students and teachers visited the exhibition today.

The exhibition will be kept open from 9 am to 5 pm till 11 January. Admission is free. — *MNA*



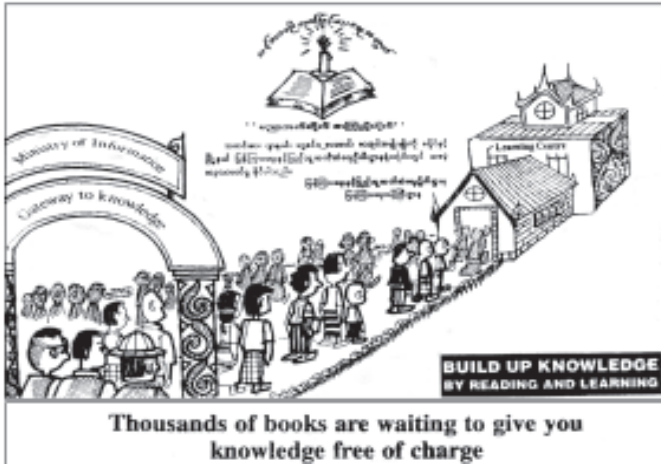
Students visit the 56th Anniversary Independence Day Commemorative Exhibition. — *MNA*

142.7 acres of poppy plantations destroyed

YANGON, 9 Jan — A combined team comprising members of local Tatmadawmen, members of local intelligence unit, Myanmar Police Force, departmental personnel and local people destroyed 142.7 acres of poppy plantations in the valleys near Bawran Village in Gaungbi Village-tract, Peking Village in Yene Village-tract and Lapinlon Village in Yilonyikan Village-tract from 24 to 29 December 2003. Up to 29 December 2003, a total of 4765.37 acres of poppy plantations have been destroyed. — *MNA*



The combined team destroying poppy plantation in Pekhon Township. — *MNA*



ADVERTISEMENT

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV SEA MERCHANT VOY NO (489)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SEA MERCHANT Voy No (489) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 11-1-04 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**
AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER LINE
Phone : 256908/378316/376797

ARRIVAL/CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV "MANDALAY" VOY NO 116/N

Consignees of cargo carried on MV "MANDALAY" Voy No 116/N are hereby notified that the vessel has arrived at Yangon port on 10-1-04 and will be berthing on about 11-1-04 and cargoes will be discharged into the premises of Myanma Port Authority where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the bye-laws and conditions of the port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily between 8 am to 11:30 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

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"Beagle 2" Mars probe still lost in space

LONDON, 9 Jan — Latest efforts to contact a British-led mission to Mars from its orbiting mothership failed on Wednesday, compounding fears the *Beagle 2* probe crashed during a Christmas Day touchdown.

Gloom surrounding the first all-European mission to Mars contrasts with the joy at NASA, whose robot explorer *Spirit* safely landed on the Red Planet at the weekend and has transmitted high-definition pictures in the last few days.

"We did not get a signal from the surface of Mars but this is not the end of the story — we have more shots to play," the European Space Agency's David Southwood said. "It is a setback and it makes me feel very sad," he added.

Engineers and scientists at the *Beagle* HQ in London hung their heads after the announcement. "We hope we'll get the dog to come back to the kennel," said a defeated-looking Colin Pillinger who heads the project.

"We must play until the final whistle." Although nothing has been heard from the 34 kilos (75lb) probe since its attempted

landing, scientists say they have not given up and will make further attempts to talk to it.

Project scientists have pinned their hopes on contacting the lander, designed to hunt for evidence of life on Mars, on its orbiting mothership, the *Mars Express*.

But the *Express's* first pass just 350 kilometres above the probe's landing site, near the planet's equator, resulted only in a worrying silence. The *Express* will pass over the landing site again on January 8, 9 and 10 for about five to eight minutes each time. If those attempts fail it passes again on the 12th and 14th. Pillinger said the absolute last attempt would be made in February.

Earlier attempts by radio telescopes and NASA's *Mars Odyssey Orbiter* to contact *Beagle 2*, a saucer-shaped probe about the size of an open umbrella, also failed.

MNA/Reuters

မြန်မာ့ပြန်ကြားရေး

South China reports another suspected SARS case

GUANGZHOU, 9 Jan — A waitress was confirmed Thursday to be China's Mainland's another suspected SARS (severe acute respiratory syndrome) case since July in Guangzhou, capital of southern China's Guangdong Province, local health authorities said.

The newly found suspected SARS patient, a 20-year-old restaurant waitress, was now under quarantine and receiving treatment in the Guangzhou No. 8 People's Hospital.

The waitress from central Henan Province reported symptoms of fever on 26 December, 2003 and she went to the doctors at the Yuexiu District Bone Setting Hospital on 31 December. She was transferred to Yuexiu No 1 People's Hospital after blood

testing and X-ray scanning.

She was confirmed to be the suspected SARS case by the province's joint SARS medical team according to the SARS diagnosis programme defined by the Ministry of Health.

The temperature of the suspected SARS patient have remained normal for seven consecutive days and authorities have stepped up protective measures for the medical staff, local health officials said. —MNA/Xinhua

Study says demand for herbal remedies threatens plants

LONDON, 9 Jan — World-wide demand for herbal remedies is threatening natural habitats and endangering up to a fifth of wild medicinal plant species which are being harvested to extinction, a leading science magazine said on Wednesday.

A study to be published later this year by the conservation organization WWF warns that between 4,000 and 10,000 plants may be at risk.

"It's an extremely serious problem," study author Alan Hamilton told *New Scientist* magazine.

According to the re-

search, the market for herbal remedies has risen by 10 per cent a year for the past decade in North America and Europe and is now thought to be worth at least 11 billion pounds (20 billion US dollars).

The findings are based on an analysis of the number of species at risk on the World Conservation Union (IUCN) Red List of threatened plants. Two-thirds of the 50,000 medicinal plants being used are harvested from the wild.

Hamilton, a member of the IUCN's Medicinal Plant Specialist Group, also con-

tributed to a report which will be unveiled by the conservation organization Plantlife International next week.

Among the threatened plants are tetu lakha, a tree found in south India and Sri Lanka and used for anti-cancer drugs in Europe; an Indian root called saw-wort which is used for skin disorders and tendril-like fritillary, a Chinese plant used to treat respiratory infections.

"With demand and commercialization growing fast, the future of the wild plants which have helped most of humanity for centuries is now

more uncertain than it has ever been," Martin Harper, of Plantlife, told *New Scientist*. The group, which says the problem has been looming for years, blames the herbal medicinal industry for not guaranteeing the sustainability of supplies.

"It is time for the industry to join forces with environmental organizations to ensure that herbal harvests have a sustainable future," Harper added. —MNA/Reuters

Indonesian airplane makes emergency landing

JAKARTA, 9 Jan — A passenger plane belonging to Indonesia's Merpati Airlines made an emergency landing at Juanda Airport in the city of Surabaya one hour after taking off Wednesday morning, Metro TV reported.

The *Fokker* plane carrying 46 passengers had trouble in its hydraulic system on the way to Makassar, South Sulawesi Province, and the pilot decided to return to Surabaya.

MNA/Xinhua

Study says screen parents of attention-deficit children

WASHINGTON, 9 Jan — The parents of children with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder may also be at risk of learning or mental disorders and should be screened too, US researchers said on Wednesday.

The University of Maryland study found that parents of children diagnosed with ADHD were 24 times more likely to suffer from the disorder themselves than parents of children without the disorders.

ADHD is genetic, although not all parents of children with the problem suffer from the disorder, said researcher Andrea Chronis, who led the study. "All of the treatments are less effective when parents have their own problems," Chronis said in a telephone interview. "Unfortunately, when the parents have

a psychological problem, they are less able to modify the environment in a way that is effective for the child," she added.

"For that we reason we need to look beyond the child to identify and treat parental problems that may influence treatment for the child." Her team followed 200 children with ADHD, recruited at clinics at the Universities of Chicago and Pittsburgh. The researchers, who had been watching the children since 1995, also checked their parents for depression. —MNA/Reuters

US scientists study comet data from spacecraft

PASADENA (California), 9 Jan — A first look at photos and data collected during a US spacecraft's encounter with a comet last week suggests that astronomy textbooks may have to be rewritten to reflect new discoveries about the streaking masses of rock and ice, scientists said on Tuesday.

The *Stardust* spacecraft now begins its two-year, 708 million mile trek back to Earth, where it will drop off a capsule containing particles that could hold clues to how the solar system, and even life on Earth, began.

Scientists at NASA's Jet

Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California, spent the weekend poring over telemetry data and 72 photos snapped by *Stardust's* camera during its buffeting ride inside a plume of space dust in the wake of the Wild 2 comet.

"These are the best images ever taken of a comet and there is a remarkable amount of information in those 72 pictures," Ray Newburn, the spacecraft's imaging team leader, said.

"Not only did we image jets of material spewing out from the comet but for the first time in history we can actually see the location of

their origin on the surface of the comet."

The photos of the comet's 3.1-mile wide nucleus also showed an unexpected variety of formations — from craters to flat-bottomed depressions lined by sheer cliffs to mountains — that scientists will study to learn how comets are formed, Don Brownlee, *Stardust's* principal investigator, said.

"Scientists all over the world are desperately waiting for these samples to arrive," Brownlee said, adding that tests to analyze the composition of the particles were still being developed.

MNA/Reuters

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UN warns world missing lower child mortality targets

GENEVA, 9 Jan — Fewer than one-in-five developing countries are on track to meet UN targets for sharply reducing child and maternal mortality by 2015, the World Health Organization and the World Bank warned on Thursday.

The targets are part of the "Millennium Development Goals" set by the United Nations in 2000, which call for the death rate for under-fives to be cut by two-thirds and for a 75-per-cent drop in maternal deaths.

But according to the World Bank, progress on cutting child mortality has been so slow that no sub-Saharan country will reach the goal. For developing countries as a whole the success rate is likely to be only 16 per cent.

One in 11 children in low income countries dies before reaching five, most from preventable diseases and health problems, compared with one in 143 in rich states. Some 500,000 women die from complications in pregnancy and childbirth.

"When these kinds of targets are set, it seems too soon to

take urgent action, and then, after a few short years, it seems too late," said WHO Director-General Dr Lee Jong-wook.

The World Bank and the UN health agency issued their statement ahead of a two-day meeting of government and development agency officials on how to remedy the situation. "It is going to be a question of money, political commitment and human resources, they are all intertwined," said WHO spokesman Gregory Hartl.

The slow progress on health, which accounts for half the eight targets the UN set for development in the world's poorest states, was particularly distressing because many of the means for improving the situation — drugs and health techniques — were both available and affordable.

MNA/Reuters

Malaysian PM to pay short visit to Philippines

MANILA, 9 Jan — Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Badawi will arrive in Manila for a short official visit on 20 January, officials said Wednesday.

Badawi's five-hour visit is part of his traditional call to Southeast Asian heads of state since he replaced Mahathir Mohammad as prime minister in October last year, the Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs said.

Badawi is expected to meet with Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo during his visit to Manila.

During their meeting, Arroyo is also expected to seek Malaysia's support in the Philippines' bid for an observer status in the Organization of Islamic Conference and discuss anti-terrorism cooperation and the issue of thousands of Filipino undocumented migrants in Sabah, Malaysia, officials added. — MNA/Xinhua



A model shows Sony Corp's new mini disc Walkman Hi-MD, left, and a new 1-gigabyte mini disc during a news conference in Tokyo on 8 Jan, 2004. The revamped mini-disc Walkman doubles the recording capacity of current discs and the new 1-gigabyte mini disc records up to 45 hours of music, up from the current 80 minutes.—INTERNET

Britain's Queen names cruise liner "Queen Mary 2"

LONDON, 9 Jan — Britain's Queen Elizabeth II formally named the one-billion-dollar *Queen Mary 2* cruise ship, the world's biggest ocean liner ever built, on Thursday in Southampton, England, ahead of its maiden transatlantic voyage to the United States.

"I name this ship *Queen Mary 2*. May God bless her and all who sail in her," the British monarch said, before a hefty jero-boam of Veuve Cliquot champagne smashed against the spotlight starboard side of its black bow.

Some 2,000 invited guests were present at the naming ceremony for the ship which was built in France for Cunard, the venerable British shipping line now owned by Carnival Corporation of the United States.

This is the first time the Queen has named a Cunard ship since the launch in 1967 of the *Queen Elizabeth II*, whose

Southampton to New York service will be taken over by the *Queen Mary 2* in April.

The *Queen Mary 2*, the first transatlantic liner to be built in over 30 years, arrived at Southampton on December 26.

The liner is longer than the largest US aircraft carrier, at 1,132 feet and over 236 feet high with 14 decks and it will be able to carry 2,620 passengers with 1,250 crew to pamper them.

The mammoth 150,000-ton vessel is scheduled to begin its 14-day maiden voyage, to Fort Lauderdale, Florida on Monday. Cunard said the trip had sold out months ago.—MNA/Xinhua

Experts say shipping vulnerable to pirates, terror

SINGAPORE, 9 Jan — Piracy is increasing, particularly in the busy, narrow waterways of Southeast Asia, and international shipping presents a vulnerable target for terror groups bent on mass damage, maritime experts said recently.

Pirate attacks in the first nine months of last year hit a record high, underscoring the need for more action to protect shipping amid signs militants want to launch attacks from the high seas, the experts told the *Regional Outlook Forum 2004* organized by Singapore's Institute of Southeast Asian Studies.

"Given the vast scale and vulnerability of the global shipping and cargo container industry, better security is vital when the

risk of weapons of mass destruction reaching international terrorists is rising," said Michael Richardson of the ISEAS.

Over a quarter of the world's trade, half of its oil and much of its liquefied natural gas pass through the Straits of Malacca that divides Indonesia, Singapore and Malaysia and scene of operations for the most dangerous and numerous pirates in the world.

In the first nine months of last year, the International Maritime Board (IMB) recorded an all-time high of 344 attacks, of which the highest number — 87 — were in Indonesia, IMB director Captain Poggengal Mukundan told the conference.

MNA/Reuters

Cambodian CPP hails government's achievements in 2003

PHNOM PENH, 9 Jan — Chea Sim, president of the Cambodian People's Party (CPP), Wednesday spoke highly of the achievements made by the royal government headed by Prime Minister Hun Sen in 2003.

Chea Sim said that during the 1998 and 2003, the royal government achieved remarkable successes in its second term on various fields, such as the implementation of the policy of sustainable development, reforms on state structure, poverty reduction and steadily improvement of social stability and security.

In the economic field, Chea Sim said, Cambodia managed to ensure a stable economy and an annual steady growth. Between 1999 and 2001, the annual GDP growth increased by 7 per cent on average.

Another great success, Chea Sim men-

tioned in his long speech, is the July 27 national election which he said was "viewed by the international community as better than the previous ones since it was held in a free fair, transparent, non-violent and acceptable manner."

Chea Sim expressed his belief that "we will obtain still new more successes in this new year". Although the National Assembly has not been fully functioning and the new royal government has not been formed, "this is just a temporary complicated problem that absolutely cannot hamper our march forward," stressed Chea Sim. — MNA/Xinhua

Singapore's middle-aged bachelors on the rise

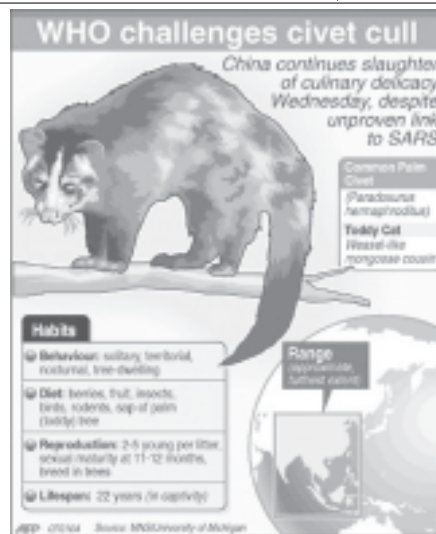
SINGAPORE, 9 Jan — The number of middle-aged bachelors in Singapore is on the rise, especially in the 35-39 age group, and the figure is catching up with the number of single women in the same cohort, said local Press on Wednesday. Channelnewsasia, a local English-language TV station, reported on its website, quoting the Social Development Unit (SDU), a marriage promoting organization, that of the SDU's 30,000-odd members who are single, about a quarter are between 35 and 39 years old.

SDU Director Tan Shuo Mei was quoted

by Channelnewsasia as saying that unlike a few years ago, it is the men who form half the singles in this age group now.

She said that high standards and unrealistic expectations are hindering men in their mid to late thirties from tying the knot.

Demographics show that Singapore's total fertility rate (TFR, the average number of children born to each woman aged 15 to 44) last year was 1.37, a far cry from the 2.1 needed to replace the population. It is also the same as that for 2002, which was a historic low for the city-state.—MNA/Xinhua



Graphic showing a profile of the civet cat, being mass-slaughtered in China due to suspicions it spreads the SARS virus.—INTERNET

Australia saw record motor sale in 2003

CANBERRA, 9 Jan — Australia saw a record sale of new motor vehicles last year, according to the Federal Chamber of Automotive Industries (FCAI) Wednesday.

A total of 909,811 cars, trucks and buses were sold last year, 10.4 per cent more than the previous record set in 2002.

It was the first time Australian automotive sales have ever passed the 900,000 mark in a calendar year.

"The automotive industry has clearly shifted into a higher gear and we expect it to remain there for the immediately foreseeable future," said the chief executive of the Federal Chamber of Automotive Industries, Peter Sturrock, in a statement. — MNA/Xinhua

Drive safely

SPORTS

Brazil goalie Marcos injured in motorcycle accident

RIO DE JANEIRO, 9 Jan—Brazilian World Cup goalkeeper Marcos suffered cuts and bruises in a motorcycle accident and might miss the start of the new season, according to his club Palmeiras on Wednesday.

Team doctor Mauricio Bezerra spoke of Marcos' injury as nothing serious on the Sao Paulo-based club's official web site.

"They are superficial injuries but do not heal overnight. He suffered cuts and bruises to his back, right leg and right foot and they will take seven to 10 days to heal," he said.

The accident was said to have happened on December 24 during the close season, but no further details were released.

Marcos, who has lost his place in the Brazil team to AC Milan's Dida but is still a regular in the squad, played in all seven matches for Brazil at the 2002 World Cup as the South Americans won the tournament for the fifth time.

He helped Palmeiras win promotion to the Brazilian championship first division at the first attempt last year.

Brazil's 2004 season starts next week with regional championships such as the Paulista and Carioca. The Brazilian championship does not begin until April.—MNA/Xinhua



Brazilian soccer star Rivaldo of Cruzeiro FC waves to supporters after at his presentation to the press at the Toca da Raposa II in Belo Horizonte, on 8 Jan, 2004. Rivaldo has signed to play with Cruzeiro FC after he was released by Italy side AC Milan.—INTERNET

Ranieri not worried by Chelsea slump

LONDON, 9 Jan—Chelsea coach Claudio Ranieri is not worried about the slump in form that has threatened to derail the big-spending London club's Premier League challenge.

Chelsea suffered a surprise 1-0 defeat at home to Liverpool on Wednesday to slip seven points off the title pace set by champions Manchester United.

They have lost three and drawn one of their last six league games and were held to a 2-2 draw by First Division Watford in the third round of the FA Cup.

However, Ranieri is refusing to panic despite continued speculation linking England coach Sven Goran Eriksson with a move to

Stamford Bridge.

"I am not worried about this run. Of course, I am not happy but there isn't a team who can stay at the high level for 11 months," Ranieri told the club's web site.

"When we were at the top of the league, I said it's not important now. We must continue to build. It's easy for me to say that I want to fight for the title but it's not true. I am fighting to build a team." Ranieri met with Chelsea's billionaire owner Roman Abramovich immediately after Wednesday's match but the Italian said this was "normal" procedure.

"Don't worry, you will see me for a long time yet. You will see me also tomorrow (Thursday)," he said after emerging to speak to the media long after the final whistle.

"After every match, we have a meeting."

Injuries to key midfielders Damien Duff and Juan Sebastian Veron have hindered Ranieri's bid to halt Chelsea's slump but the coach said he was unlikely to add to the 111 million pounds (199.6 million US dollars) spent on players in pre-season. "No. We need only to go through this bad period," Ranieri said when asked about any purchases in the transfer window. Chelsea's form contrasts sharply with that of Manchester United who have won their last six League games since a 1-0 defeat by Ranieri's side on November 30.

United's 2-1 win at Bolton Wanderers on Wednesday opened up a three-point gap on second-placed Arsenal, who are still unbeaten after 20 games but were held to a 1-1 draw at Everton.

MNA/Reuters

Spectre of relegation haunts former English giants

LONDON, 9 Jan—Leeds United, Tottenham Hotspur, and Wolverhampton Wanderers were once among England's elite clubs but a dismal run of form has left them battling for survival in the increasingly competitive Premier League.

Each club has enjoyed a golden age with Leeds hoovering up trophies during Don Revie's reign in the 1970s, Bill Nicholson's Spurs winning the "double" in the early 1960s and Wolves taking the title three times in the 1950s under Stan Cullis. But they no longer have the status their proud histories once conferred and, with money tight and a host of signings failing to perform at the highest level, their current measure of success is merely to survive in the top flight.

Wolves are bottom of the standings with 15 points after winning only three of their 19 league matches this season. Leeds are just one position and two points above them with Tottenham in 16th place after taking 21 points from 20 games.

Spurs have moved out of the relegation zone after breaking a run of four Premier League defeats with a 4-1 win at home to Birmingham City on Wednesday but they remain in trouble and face a difficult trip to Leeds on Saturday. Leeds' fall from grace has been as controversial as it has been dramatic after overspending left the club with debts of about 80 million pounds (145.5 million US dollars) despite the sales of top players including Harry Kewell and Jonathan Woodgate.

Leeds won the old First Division title in 1992, just before the launch of the Premier League, and reached the Champions League semifinals as recently as 2001 but after "living the dream" under former chairman Peter Ridsdale times are now hard.

Transfer speculation continues to swirl around international strikers Mark Viduka and Alan Smith and keeper Paul Robinson, who are constantly linked with moves away from Elland Road as the club tries to avoid going into administration.

They could sell players in the transfer window to help pay off debts but would likely lose their top flight status for the first time since 1990. If they do not find a buyer for the club by January 19 events will be out of their hands.

Tottenham's deepening troubles cannot be blamed on a lack of resources. On the contrary, the club has spent millions of pounds in recent years on players, many of them internationals, who have simply failed to live up to expectations.

Milenko Acimovic, Goran Bunjevcevic, Kazuyuki Toda, Mbulelo Mabizela and Jonathan Blondel have remained stuck on the fringes of the first team while Ben Thatcher,

Chris Perry, Les Ferdinand and Teddy Sheringham have all left the club.

Long-term injuries to Jamie Redknapp, Christian Ziege and Simon Davies plus the inexperience of young strikers Helder Postiga and Bobby Zamora, who joined Spurs in the close season, have also hindered the club's progress this season.

Tottenham's share of honours has slowed to a trickle in recent seasons with the 1999 League Cup triumph standing as their only success in 13 years. Acting manager David Pleat, who led them to the 1987 FA Cup final, faces a tough job.

Wolves are in a different situation as they bid to hang on to the Premier League status they secured through the playoffs last season. Manager Dave Jones has cobbled together a squad of youngsters and seasoned professionals but they are struggling.

Players such as 36-year-old Paul Ince and 38-year-old Denis Irwin, who both played for Manchester United in their prime, are feeling the pace of the Premier League and close season signings like Oleg Luzhny from Arsenal have only just settled into the team.

After their dismal start Wolves already have one eye on a return to the First Division and carry the burden of having been bottom of the league at Christmas—a statistic that has always been followed by relegation since the Premier League began.

The 80-year-old Jack Hayward, who has invested 70 million pounds in the club, stepped down last month to be replaced by his elder son Rick having realized his dream of promotion after 19 years outside the top flight. It is a hard act to follow. MNA/Reuters

Crespo out due to injury

LONDON, 9 Jan—Chelsea's Hernan Crespo will be sidelined for at least a week after being forced out of Wednesday's Premiership clash with Liverpool due to a calf strain. The 28-year-old Argentine striker had been doubt in fitness before the match and was on the field for only 11 minutes.

Crespo, who was replaced

by Iceland's Eidur Gudjohnsen, is now certain to miss Chelsea's away match at Leicester on Sunday.

The Argentine has scored eight for Chelsea since he moved from Milan giants Internazionale with a fee of 16.8 million pound (26.28 million US dollars) last summer.

MNA/Xinhua

Marco Simone ready for swansong at Nice

PARIS, 9 Jan—Former Italy striker Marco Simone has agreed to join Nice on a six-month contract, the French Ligue 1 club said on their website on Thursday.

The 35-year-old, who won four league titles with AC Milan before moving to France in 1997, has been without a club since he left Monaco in November 2002.

He has played 133 matches and scored 50 goals in the French First Division with Paris St. Germain and Monaco. "I'm delighted to have a player of such quality in my team. We can only congratulate ourselves on his signing and hope he will boost the team," said Nice coach Gernot Rohr.—MNA/Reuters

Liverpool loan defender Vignal to struggling Espanyol

MADRID, 9 Jan—French defender Gregory Vignal has joined Espanyol on loan from Liverpool until the end of the season, the struggling Primera Liga club said on Thursday. "I know that I am now in the best league in the world and will have to show what I am worth," the 22-year-old was quoted as saying on the Espanyol website.

"I will have to adapt quickly to make sure I can do my bit to help out the team." Vignal joined Liverpool in 2000, but was loaned out to Corsican club Bastia last January and spent the first half of this season on loan at Rennes.

He is the second reinforcement to join the Primera Liga basement club during the winter transfer window.

Argentine defender Mauricio Pochettino, who played for Espanyol for seven years up until 2001, rejoined the Catalan club on loan from Girondins Bordeaux at the end of last month.

Espanyol, who are coached by former Paris St. Germain boss Luis Fernandez, are rooted to the bottom of the table with just 11 points from 18 matches.—MNA/Reuters



Barcelona's Carles Pujol, left, leaps to connect with a high ball watched by 2nd division Levante's Diego Aganzo during a third-round first leg King's Cup soccer match in Valencia, Spain, on 8 Jan, 2004. Levante won the game, 1-0.—INTERNET

MRTV-3



**10-1-2004 (Saturday)
(Programme Schedule)
Morning Transmission
(9:00 - 10:00)**

- 9:00 Signature Tune Greeting
- 9:02 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Mingalabar"
- 9:06 Kachin State
- 9:10** **Headline News**
- 9:12 Easily Cooked Tasty Dishes (Catfish Curry)
- 9:15** **National News**
- 9:20 The Interesting Places of Kachin State
- 9:25 Kachin Dance
- 9:28 Paper Toys
- 9:30** **National News**
- 9:35 A Gift to Mark a visit to Myitkyina (Kachin-Snack)
- 9:40 Song "Sumprabum"
- 9:42 Art of Carving on Fruits
- 9:45** **National News**
- 9:50 Panwa with its Tourist Attractions
- 9:58 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"

**Evening Transmission
(15:30 - 17:30)**

- 15:30 Signature Tune Greeting
- 15:32 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Myanma Panorama & Myanma Sentiment"
- 15:36 Kachin State
- 15:40** **Headline News**
- 15:42 Easily Cooked Tasty Dishes (Catfish Curry)
- 15:45** **National News**
- 15:50 The Interesting Places of Kachin State
- 15:55 Kachin Dance
- 15:58 Paper Toys
- 16:00** **National News**
- 16:05 A Gift to Mark a visit to Myitkyina (Kachin-Snack)

- 16:10 Song "Sumprabum"
- 16:12 Art of Carving on Fruits
- 16:15** **National News**
- 16:20 Panwa with its Tourist Attractions
- 16:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Mingalabar"
- 16:30** **National News**
- 16:35 Three Dimensional Gems Studded Painting
- 16:40 Myanmar Cuisine "Pineapple Salad"
- 16:45** **National News**
- 16:50 Glimpses at Myanmar Movies
- 17:00** **Weekly News Highlights**
- 17:05 View Point Amusement Park
- 17:10 Myanmar Modern Song "Flowers in Profusion"
- 17:15** **Weekly News Highlights**
- 17:20 Glimpses at Myanmar Movies
- 17:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"

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

- 19:30 Signature Tune Greeting
- 19:32 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Mingalabar"
- 19:36 Myeik, a Town in the southern part of Myanmar
- 19:40** **Headline News**
- 19:42 Easily Cooked Tasty Dishes (Brace Snakehead Fish with Mango)
- 19:45** **National News**
- 19:50 Travelogue (Kalaw)
- 19:55 H m a n - N y a u n g - Thinzar Royal group Dance
- 20:00** **National News**
- 20:05 Prospective Ostrich Farming
- 20:10 Myanmar Modern Song "Treasure Land"
- 20:15** **National News**
- 20:20 Traditional Folk Weaving Works
- 20:25 Song "Land of Beauty"

- 20:30** **National News**
- 20:35 Talent Show on a Maze of Xylophones
- 20:40 Myanmar Cuisine "Banana Pudding"
- 20:45** **National News**
- 20:50 Moingyi Wildlife Sanctuary
- 20:55 Scenic Beauty of Falam and Cultural Dance
- 20:58 Village of Palaung
- 21:00** **National News**
- 21:05 Mogok, The Ruby Land
- 21:10 Song "Shadow of Love"
- 21:12 Wall - hung Giant Lobsters
- 21:15** **Weekly News Highlights**
- 21:20 Fabulous Bagan (V)
- 21:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Myanma Panorama & Myanma Sentiment"
- 21:35 Kachin Dance
- 21:40** **Headline News**
- 21:42 Easily Cooked Tasty Dishes (Catfish Curry)
- 21:45** **National News**
- 21:50 The Interesting Places of Kachin State
- 21:55 Kachin Dance
- 21:58 Paper Toys
- 22:00** **National News**
- 22:05 A Gift to Mark a visit to Myitkyina (Kachin-Snack)
- 22:10 Song "Sumprabum"
- 22:12 Art of Carving on Fruits
- 22:15** **National News**
- 22:20 Panwa with its Tourist Attractions
- 22:25 Song on screen "Past Merit"
- 22:30** **National News**
- 22:35 Three Dimensional Gems Studded Painting
- 22:40 Myanmar Cuisine "Pineapple Salad"
- 22:45** **National News**
- 22:50 Glimpses at Myanmar Movies
- 23:00** **National News**
- 23:05 View Point Amusement Park
- 23:10 Myanmar Modern Song "Flowers in Profusion"

- 23:35** **Weekly News Highlights**
- Glimpses at Myanmar Movies
- 23:28 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See"

**Evening Transmission
(23:30 - 1:30)**

- 23:30 Signature Tune
- 23:32 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Myanma Panorama & Myanma Sentiment"
- 23:36 Kachin State
- 23:40** **Headline News**
- 23:42 Easily Cooked Tasty Dishes (Catfish Curry)
- 23:45** **National News**
- 23:50 The Interesting Places of Kachin State
- 23:55 Kachin Dance
- 23:58 Paper Toys
- 24:00** **National News**
- 00:05 A Gift to Mark a visit to Myitkyina (Kachin-Snack)
- 00:10 Song "Sumprabum"
- 00:12 Art of Carving on Fruits
- 00:15** **National News**
- 00:20 Panwa with its Tourist Attractions
- 00:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Mingalabar"
- 00:30** **National News**
- 00:35 Three Dimensional Gems Studded Painting
- 00:40 Myanmar Cuisine "Pineapple Salad"
- 00:45** **National News**
- 00:50 Glimpses at Myanmar Movies
- 01:00** **Weekly News Highlights**
- 01:05 View Point Amusement Park
- 01:10 Myanmar Modern Song "Flowers in Profusion"
- 01:15** **Weekly News Highlights**
- 01:20 Glimpses at Myanmar Movies
- 01:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"

အဝယ်တန်းသတင်းထောက်များ အလိုရှိသည်

ပြန်ကြားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန သတင်းနှင့်စာနယ်ဇင်းလုပ်ငန်း The New Light of Myanmar သတင်းစာတိုက်တွင် အဝယ်တန်း သတင်းထောက် (လစာနန်း ကျပ် ၅၄၀၀-၁၀၀-၅၄၀၀) နေရာ လေးနေရာ လစ်လပ်လျက်ရှိပါသည်။ အောက်ဖော်ပြပါ အရည် အချင်းနှင့် ပြည့်စုံသူများ လျှောက်ထားနိုင်ပါသည်။

၁။ တက္ကသိုလ်တစ်ခုခုမှ ဘွဲ့တစ်ခုရရှိရမည်။

၂။ အသက်(၃၅)နှစ်အောက် ဖြစ်ရမည်။

(သတင်းနှင့်စာနယ်ဇင်းလုပ်ငန်းမှ ဝန်ထမ်းများအတွက် အသက် တန်သတ်ချက်ကို လျှော့ပေါ့စဉ်းစားမည်။)

၃။ နေ့ညမရွေး တာဝန်ထမ်းဆောင်နိုင်သူ ဖြစ်ရမည်။

(အမျိုးသားများသာ လျှောက်ထားသင့်ပါသည်။)

၄။ အင်္ဂလိပ်စာ အခြေခံရှိပြီး အင်္ဂလိပ်စာကို အထူးဝါသနာပါသူ ဖြစ်ရမည်။

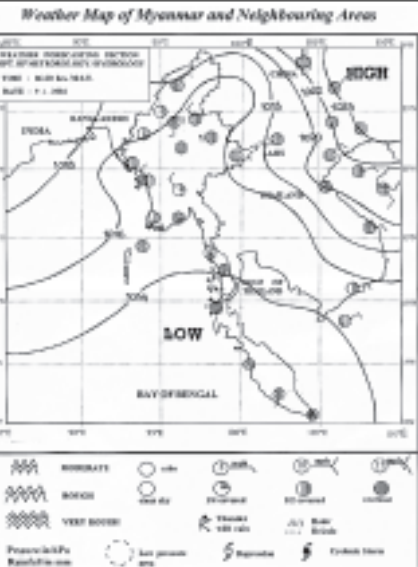
၅။ ပညာအရည်အချင်းအတွက် ဘွဲ့လက်မှတ်မိတ္တူ တင်ပြရမည်။

၆။ အသက်အထောက်အထားအတွက် အခြေခံပညာအထက်တန်း အောင်လက်မှတ် မိတ္တူတင်ပြရမည်။

၇။ သက်ဆိုင်ရာမြို့နယ် အလုပ်သမားညွှန်ကြားရေး ဦးစီးဌာနတွင် အလုပ်သမား မှတ်ပုံတင်ထားသူ ဖြစ်ရမည်။

၈။ လျှောက်လွှာများကို ၃၀-၁-၂၀၀၄ (သောကြာနေ့) ညနေ ၄ နာရီနေ့တစ်ဆင့် ထား၍ သတင်းနှင့်စာနယ်ဇင်းလုပ်ငန်း ရုံးချုပ်၊ အမှတ် (၂၁၂)၊ သိမ်ဖြူလမ်း သတင်းဌာန မနံနေရာထဲ ပေးပို့ကြရမည်။

အရည်အချင်းစစ်ဆေးရေးအဖွဲ့
သတင်းနှင့်စာနယ်ဇင်းလုပ်ငန်း။



WEATHER

Friday, 9 January, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been scattered in Kachin and Shan States, isolated in Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Kachin, Rakhine and Chin States, Sagaing, Ayeyawady, Bago and Taninthayi Divisions, (5°C) to (6°C) above normal in Shan State and Mandalay Division and about normal in the remaining areas.

Maximum temperature on 8-1-2004 was 34.5°C (94°F). Minimum temperature on 9-1-2004 was 16.6°C (62°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 9-1-2004 was 78%. Total sunshine hours on 8-1-2004 was (8.8) hours approx. Rainfall on 9-1-2004 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 7 mph from Northeast at (10:45) hours MST on 8-1-2004.

Bay inference: Weather is cloudy in Southwest Bay and partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 10-1-2004: Isolated rain (or) thundershowers are likely in Kachin, Shan, Kayah and Mon States, Bago and Taninthayi Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Increase of night temperatures in the whole country.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 10-1-2004: Partly cloudy. **Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 10-1-2004:** Partly cloudy.



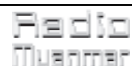
Saturday, January 10

View today:

- 7:00 am** Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayadaw U Ottamathara
- 7:15 am** ၁။ ဟိရ်ဇာရေဓမ္မာတ္တကံ ဂိတအပ္ပမဟာ ပဏ္ဍိတဘဒ္ဒန္တသိရိန္ဒာဝံသ (ဟောဆရာတော်) ဟောကြားတော်မူ အပ်မာဥပါတသမ္ဘိတိတော်
- 7:25 am** ၂။ To be healthy exercise
- 7:30 am** ၃။ Morning news
- 7:40 am** ၄။ Nice and sweet song
- 7:55 am** ၅။ Delicacies
- 8:05 am** ၆။ အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 8:15 am** ၇။ ဆင်ပန်းရေလှေထဲတစ်
- 8:30 am** ၈။ International news
- 8:45 am** ၉။ Grammer made easy

- 11:00 am** ၁။ Martial song
- 11:10 am** ၂။ Musical programme
- 11:30 am** ၃။ News
- 11:40 pm** ၄။ Games for children
- 12:00 noon** ၅။ Round-up of the week's TV local news
- 1:20 pm** ၆။ နိုင်ငံခြားစာတစ်လုံးတွဲ "နဂါးရဲမေတ္တာ" (အပိုင်း-၅)
- 1:50 pm** ၇။ ရုဂါးလေးကလပ်တစ်
- 2:05 pm** ၈။ "အမေ့ကလေးမင်းမြင်းအင်္ကျီ" စစ်ဦးစီးချုပ် အောင်မြင်မြတ်
- 2:35 pm** ၉။ Dance of national races
- 2:45 pm** ၁၀။ International news
- 4:00 pm** ၁၁။ Martial song
- 4:15 pm** ၁၂။ Song to uphold National Spirit
- 4:30 pm** ၁၃။ English for Everyday Use
- 4:45 pm** ၁၄။ Musical programme

- 5:00 pm** ၁။ အဝေးသင်ကြားသည့်လုပ်ငန်းစဉ်အရပ်ရပ် (အထူးပြုအားလုံး) (အင်္ဂလိပ်စာ)
- 5:15 pm** ၂။ Dance variety
- 5:30 pm** ၃။ နာထီပီယလွယ်ကူသံ
- 5:45 pm** ၄။ Musical programme
- 5:55 pm** ၅။ Games for children
- 6:20 pm** ၆။ Delicacies
- 6:30 pm** ၇။ Evening news
- 7:00 pm** ၈။ Weather report
- 7:05 pm** ၉။ Discovery
- 7:15 pm** ၁၀။ နိုင်ငံခြားစာတစ်လုံးတွဲ "မိုးရွာရသောနေ့ကွယ်" (အပိုင်း-၃)
- 8:00 pm** ၁၁။ News
- 8:15 pm** ၁၂။ International news
- 8:30 pm** ၁၃။ Weather report
- 8:45 pm** ၁၄။ Myanmar movie "တောင်တန်းတစ်လမ်းတစ်ဖျား" အပိုင်း (၂)
- 8:55 pm** ၁၅။ လူမင်းသက်တန်းမြှင့်တင်ရေး (ဒါရိုက်တာ-ညွှန်ကြားမှုဦးစီးဌာန)
- 9:00 pm** ၁၆။ The next day's programme



Saturday, January 10

Tune in today:

- 8.30 am** Brief news
- 8.35 am** Music
- 8.40 am** Perspectives
- 8.45 am** Music
- 8.50 am** National news/Slogan
- 9:05 am** Music
- 9:10 am** International news
- 9:15 am** Music (Spotlight on the star)
- Aaron Carter
- 1.30 pm** News/Slogan
- 1.40 pm** Music at your request
- To be with you
- Mr. Big
- Words- Bee Gees
- Woman in love
- Babra Streisand
- 9.00 pm** ASEAN review
- Exchanged news
- 9.10 pm** Article/Music
- 9.20 pm** Myanmar culture by Dr Khin Maung Nyunt
- 9.30 pm** Souvenirs
- If we are only friends
- Tracy Haung
- Send me the pillow that you dream on
- Cynthia Schbss
- 9.45 pm** News/Slogan
- 10.00 pm** PEL



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt views a booth staged at the Myanmar Rice Milling Industry Fair-2004. — MNA

Prime Minister visits Myanmar Rice Milling Industry Fair-2004

YANGON, 9 Jan — Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, accompanied by officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, viewed the booths of the Myanmar Rice Milling Industry Fair-2004 organized by the Ministry of Commerce and the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce

and Industry at Yangon Trade Centre on Upper Pazundaung Road, Mingala Taungnyunt Township, this afternoon.

They were welcomed there by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, ministers, deputy ministers,

the vice-mayor, departmental heads, members of the leading committee for organizing the fair, the president of the UMFCFI, the chairman of Myanmar Rice Millers Association and executives, experts from the nation and abroad, and entrepreneurs.

The Prime Minister and party inspected the 10-ton

rice mill of Myanmar Agricultural Produce Trading, 10-ton rice mill of Mandalay Industrial Zone, rice reprocessing plant of the Nexus Agricultural Resources Sdn Bhd of Malaysia, 25-ton rice reprocessing plant of Thuang Win Industry, rice milling process booth and rice mill parts

production booth of Myanmar Rice Millers Association, quality rollers produced by local and foreign companies, sieves, rice reprocessing machines, paddy threshers, paddy cleaning machines, rice mills, rice mill parts, quality electronic apparatus booth, rice mill spare parts booth and paddy/rice weighing machines booth of

Trust & Development Co Ltd, and the booth of the UMFCFI.

Patron of the Leading Committee for Organizing the fair Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone presented a gift to mark the fair to the Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister left the fair later in the afternoon. — MNA

Rural road opened

YANGON, 9 Jan — A rural road was opened in Meiktila Township on 4 January hailing the 56th Anniversary Independence

Day. The earth road linking Galon village and Kyaukphyugon village was built by the Township De-

velopment Affairs Committee. Officials formally opened the road.

MNA

Invitation and Accommodation Subcommittee for organizing Fourth World Buddhist Summit meets

YANGON, 9 Jan — A coordination meeting of the Invitation and Accommodation Subcommittee for organizing the Fourth World Buddhist Summit took place at the Ministry of Religious Affairs on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road here at noon today, with an address by Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Minister for Religious Affairs.

Those present at the meeting were Secretary of the work committee for organizing the Fourth World Buddhist Summit Deputy Minister for Religious Af-

fairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko, Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu, department heads, members of the subcommittee, officials and guests.

First Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung addressed the meeting. Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko reported on matters related to invitations and accommodation; Director-General of the Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana U Sann Lwin on arrangements being made to send

out invitations to attend the summit; Director General of the Religious Affairs Department Dr Myo Myint on discussions with the Japanese group for holding the summit; and Managing Director of Myanmar Hotels and Tourism U Htay Aung and Chairman of Myanmar Hotliers' Association Dr Khin Shwe on invitations, reception and accommodation.

Those present also took part in the discussions.

Later, the minister made concluding remarks and the meeting ended. — MNA

Cash donated to medical funds for cleft lip and palate patients

YANGON, 9 Jan — A ceremony to donate cash to the medical funds for treatment of innate cleft lip and palate patients organized by Yangon Division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee was held at Sanpya Hospital in Thingangyun Township here this morning, attended by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and wife Daw Khin Thet Htay, patroness of the supervisory committee.

Also present on the occasion were Commander of No 2 Military Region Brig-Gen Myo Myint, Director-General Dr Wan Maung of the Health Department, local authorities, departmental

intendents, member of social organizations and wellwishers.

First, the commander made a speech. Next, the chairperson of the supervisory committee explained the efforts for providing medical treatments free of charge to cleft lip and palate patients.

The commander, the patroness of the supervisory committee, the commander of No 2 military region, the director-general, and the chairman of Yangon Division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee accepted K 4,887,500 donated by wellwishers including K 1 million by Central Development Co, K 647,500 by U Zeya Thura Mon and Daw Khine Khine Myint of Gungul Engineering and Fresh Aircon, K 350,000 by

U Zaw Zaw Naing of May Khala Co, K 200,000 by Yangon West District Peace and Development Council and Nyeinchayye Bus Line Supervisory Committee, and K 100,000 each by Annawa Marine Product Co, U Annawa of Trade Park Co Ltd, U Hla Thein and group of Kyedaw Ward, North Okkalapa Township Peace and Development Council, U Tin Win of 45th Street, U Aung Aung of Shwe Family, Daw Sein of South Okkalapa Industrial Zone, Dr Zaw Tun of Olympic Construction, Top Star Co, Shwe Gaba Maung Maung Co Ltd, Daw Khin Ohn Myint of Pwintphyu Restaurant, Chairman U Kyaw Tint of Thakayta Industrial Zone Supervisory Committee, U Aung Kyiof (GFG), U Thein Tun of Unicolour Exercise Book, U Sein Hla Win of Thingangyun, Propalties Fish and Prawn Trading, U Nyein and Daw Ohn Kyin of OK Rice Broker House, U Myo Lwin and Daw San San Win and presented certificates of honour to the wellwishers.

Next, Daw Khin Thet Htay handed over operation expenses for cleft lip and palate patients and K 300,000 medical funds for hospital to specialists, medical superintendents and officials.

Afterwards, the commander and wife viewed round the cleft lip and palate patients who had undergone surgery and comforted them. — MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung delivers a speech at the coordination meeting of the Invitation and Reception Subcommittee for Holding the Fourth World Buddhist Summit. — MNA